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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS:

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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY & SHIPPING.

MINERAL RESOURCES SURVEY BRANCH.

FELSPAR DEPOSIT - QUEBRACHA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Report No. 1948/61.

The felspar deposit which is owned and operated by South Australian Silicates Co. Pty. Limited was visited on the 18th September, 1948, in company with Mr. Sampson, Secretary, of the Company and Mr. S.B. Dickinson, Deputy Government Geologist of South Australia.

The deposit is a large mass consisting dominantly of soda felspar with subordinate quartz, white mica, and sporadically distributed crystals of beryl and tourmaline. The quartz occurs as stringers and the mica chiefly in irregular bounded patches, some of which are rejected in quarrying. The general impression is that the deposit is remarkably even in composition.

The felspar occurs on a cleared hillside with a slope of about 8°.

Only limited amount of development has been done so far, but it is evident that a large quantity of felspar is available. Development consists of an open cut near the top of the hill about 100 feet long 30 feet deep and 80 feet wide. On the slope of the hill extending down from the open cut a roughly circular area of about 300 feet diameter has been stripped of overburden. The overburden nowhere appears to have exceeded two feet in depth. A new quarry is being commenced at about the level of the bottom of the old open cut and about 300 feet from it.

The boundaries of the deposit are not apparent but from the foregoing data it will be evident that at least 70,000 tons of felspar should be available from the area stripped. Total reserves must be very large but in the absence of a survey of the surrounding area cannot be computed. The large reserves give ample scope for development and the even grade should simplify the planning of milling and treatment.

Only a very limited amount of hand picking is required and this only at times to remove iron stained rock, larger pieces of quartz, crystals of tourmaline and beryl, and patches of mica. The crude rock is taken by road to the Company's works at Kilkenny whence it is milled and distributed.

Samples have been taken representative of grades of product obtained from the milling process and are being analysed by the South Australian Department of Mines.

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(H.G. Raggatt)
Director.