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REPORT ON A WOLFRAM VEIN NORTH OF BROKEN HILL.

by

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MINERAL RESOURCES SURVEY BRANCH.

REPORT ON A WOLFRAM VEIN NORTH OF BROKEN HILL.

Report No. 1943/41.

An examination was made of a wolfram vein seven miles north of Broken Hill, on Thursday, July 8th, in company with Mr. B. Hadley, New South Wales Inspector of Mines stationed at Broken Hill. A rough road leads to within two hundred yards of the vein, which is being developed by a miner named Clarke with aid from the State Prospecting Vote. The outcrop is on a ridge on the south side of the road.

The country rock is steeply dipping schist and the vein, which is pegmatitic in character, is more or less conformable with the country, striking north-northeast and dipping to the west at about 80°. The vein is usually less than eight inches wide and can be traced on the surface for about 100 feet. A small cut has been put in near the north end of the vein on a shoot which seems to be pitching to the south, and about two hundredweight of wolfram has been sent away.

The walls of the vein roll slightly and are strongly slickensided, the striations pitching south at 30°. A little wolfram was also seen farther along the outcrop but in general the grade is low and production is likely to be very small.

The wolfram occurs in small clusters in the pegmatitic matrix, which consists mainly of quartz with some garnet and a little fine mica and probably felspar. The mineral itself is black in colour, with a dark brownish-black streak, and has a peculiar finely striated appearance. It is commonly interleaved with the matrix. Specimens examined under ultraviolet light show a bluish-white fluorescence similar to scheelite, but it was not possible to identify scheelite definitely.

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