

It is, pure and simple, a poor man's field, and companies will never pay; but many a poor man, if he get a chance and work hard, will not be poor any longer, as these deposits are some of the easiest to work that have ever been found, and the fine rainfall—33 inches—and the moderate depth of water from the surface, all help to make work here as easy as possible.

HARRY PAGE WOODWARD,
Government Geologist.

25-5-91.

THE DARLING RANGE.

This range presents a bold escarpment to the coastal plains, and is composed of very hard crystalline and granitic rocks, striking North and South. At their base, on the Western side, here and there, softer rocks—such as clay-slate and sandstone—out-crop; and wherever they are met with, they contain quartz and other mineral veins.

The quartz, as a rule, contains iron pyrites in larger or less quantities, and on assay these have all proved to carry gold, but in no case rich enough to pay to work; but as only a few samples were taken, this is no test—only proving that the stone here does carry gold; and, where gold is, there is no saying when very rich “patches” may be found.

The samples collected and assayed were taken from different points between Kelmscott and the Harvey River. There are also several old lead mines along this line of country, but the galena was too “patchy” and too poor in silver to pay to work. On some of these old mines a great deal of work has been done.

The galena is associated with zinc blend and a little copper, and would require a great deal of dressing before it could be shipped.

MICA.

For many years a great deal has been said about mica being found near Bunbury. This, at last, has taken the definite form of several claims being taken up and prospected.

They are situated on a small branch of the Collie called Bussell's Brook, on the old Albany Road. These areas are taken up by Messrs. Caporn and Timperley, who have sunk several holes a few feet, but although some fairly large mica was found at the surface this was not found in depth. This is due to the fact that the mica is contained in a granite dyke which does not go down vertically, and this must carefully be traced if this mica is to be worked.

These dykes run in a North and South direction, and are about in the same line as those on the tinfield. Near the surface, as a rule, they are much decomposed, the mica being valueless; but, in one or two places, hard masses outcrop where the mica is of a very good quality, but the rock would be too hard to work. This is probably what will be met with in depth.

As a whole this discovery is of no value without something much better is found, as the quality and quantity are not sufficiently good; but mica is so patchy that a few feet from one of the existing holes some of a very good size and quality might be found, but it is a very risky thing to put money into without there is a much better surface show.

All the country between here and the tinfield is nice looking mineral country, and tin will be probably found in many places; also between the tinfield and Jayes and Scott's, after which there is a belt of country very similar to the Collie coal and Fly Brook country, and it probably connects the two. On the Franklin River, by Yeriminup, there is another nice belt of mineral country for a few miles, after which is another belt of coal country, extending nearly to Kendenup.

25th May, 1891.

HARRY PAGE WOODWARD,

Government Geologist.

*From the Government Geologist to the Honorable the Commissioner of
Crown Lands.*

SIR,—

I have the honor, herewith, to forward you my Report on the country examined since I last reported from Albany.

And have much pleasure in stating that I had no idea that we had either such an extent of first-class agricultural land, or that such promising mineral country existed between Albany and Perth.

The main rivers crossed deserve more attention, therefore I would suggest for your consideration that at no very distant date I be instructed to traverse these streams, both up and down, as far as I consider necessary, as there is not the least doubt in my mind that there is a large extent of tin-bearing country; and whilst upon this I might map in, roughly, the extent of the coal-bearing country which is now being tested on the Collie.

I have, &c.,

HARRY PAGE WOODWARD,

22nd July, 1891.

Government Geologist.

*Report on the Country passed over between Albany and
Perth, including the Stirling Range, Jerramungup, the
Gordon and Pallinup Rivers, by Harry Page Wood-
ward, Government Geologist.*

THE ROAD FROM ALBANY TO PERTH.

On leaving Albany, with its bold granite hills, a belt of sandy and swampy country has to be crossed, between 20 to 30 miles wide. In this belt in several places poor brown coals have been met with, but as these are of no value, and no indication of true coal, they are not worth further consideration.