

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

10131.00

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WV-03877

PRODUCED IN MATTER OF
BARROW V. MIDALCO
NO 1148 OF 1987

PRODUCED IN MATTER OF
HEYS V. DALCO
NO 1161 OF 1987

MT
91

December, 1944.

Letter to Mr. Hancox, the probably
less - See problem - doing

YAMPIRE GORGE

1003. Reg. P. H. - 11/1/44
written to
visited the 7 days later

The visit in
MIDDLE OF
VHS 104
27/11 - 5/12

I visited Yampire Gorge on 30th November with Mr. Broadhurst and Mr. Hancock and met the Manager, Mr. Kennedy, and the Engineer, Mr. Wittingham. I understand an engineer from Comet Mine, Mr. Stubbs, also visits the plant at Yampire Gorge about once per week to give engineering direction and advice.

Mr. Kennedy offered to show us over the plant and mine and we had quite a thorough look.

The hill which they are mining appears to have three main fibre bands within a total height of, say, 10 feet and the total length of fibre in the 3 bands is about 5 1/2" to 6", thus offering a possible yield of approximately 4 1/2% to 5%. The top seam has the best grade with a fibre length of about 1 1/2", the other two bands consisting of a number of smaller width veins each.

At present there is a drive approximately 8'-0" wide into the hill for a distance of about 120 feet and the roof of the drive is just below the top seam. At

present, the floor is just below the bottom band. The floor rises quite sharply so that for most of the distance the floor of the drive is above the lowest band. The idea is that shortly they will retrace their steps and take out the lower band but will still

leave the top band, as if this is taken, the roof may be insecure.

Once out of the main workings, the idea is to mine the total height to obtain the three ore bands as it will not matter then if cave-ins occur. I think they will experience a lot of roof trouble when they attempt to take the top band. At present they are blowing the barren rock first, leaving the ore on the floor (the middle band) and then the ore body is blown out.

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FROM
200

Barren rock is trucked to the side of the cliff and tipped over. Ore is trucked across a bridge and tipped onto the ground in front of a 12" wide jaw crusher and shovelled into the crusher by hand.

A flow sheet of the mill is attached but it is as follows:- From the jaw crusher a belt conveyer elevates the ore to a Jaques gyratory crusher (about size 4), then another belt elevates to a Rotex screen. The overs from the screen are No. 1 grade ore mixed with rock and these are discharged into, and stored in, a small hopper below the Rotex and are later treated separately through the plant. The throughs from the Rotex go through a pair of rolls similar to those we have installed and are then elevated by belt conveyer to a second Rotex. The overs from this Rotex are called 2nd grade fibre and rock and are stored in a hopper for subsequent treatment. The

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There are 3 product throughs go to a small pair of rolls and are elevated on 2A
Distr. tunnel waste, a belt elevator with slats attached, to a vibrating screen. Dust and fine grit is eliminated here, the remainder going on to a large Kubit Mill. *Doesn't necessarily mean cover could just be barricaded.*

This is waste tailings

From the Kubit, the material is elevated to a vibrating screen where dust and tailings are eliminated and the fibre is sucked off the screen by the standard type air hood and taken to a cyclone collector above.

Under diagram refer to fine waste pit

This cyclone discharges on to a further vibrating screen which again screens out dust and again the fibre is sucked off into a separator overhead. This separator discharges into a hexagonal enclosed trommel with three take-offs, first a dust take off; second, inferior fibre mixed with grit and thirdly, No. 3 grade fibre of good clean quality. All tailings are dumped in the valley in front of the mill. *with stat*

③
Unlike W. this is at entirely continuous run kind of process, efflu. in process

④
Ch. Wilkinson

Where the hoppers with No. 1 and No. 2 fibre are full, the ore feed to the mill is stopped and then No. 1

-3-

and No. 2 grades are treated separately. The No. 1 discharges on to the belt after the first rolls and then goes through the remainder of the plant. The No. 2 fibre discharges on to the elevator leading to the Kubit Mill and goes through the rest of the plant.

atw.
The capacity of the plant is very much below that of our mill partly because of the small jaw crusher and also because 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades must be treated separately. The plant is strong in cleaning equipment, however, and very clean fibre should be obtained.

The plant was running quite smoothly at the time of my visit although from reports they have had a lot of trouble. The Rotex screens give no trouble but I understand these are imported, not Australian screens.

Mr. Kennedy said the reason why he was running the mill was because he had had a telegram asking him to endeavour by all possible means to run and obtain 5 tons of each grade. He said this was not possible with the limited ore at his disposal, as to produce 5 tons first grade he would have to make 50 tons third grade with his present ore. He had just about obtained his 5 tons No. 3 grade which was all he intended to get but had just received a further wire instructing him to continue operating at maximum production.

He cannot continue because the only ore he has coming from the mine is from one 8 ft. face. In addition the mill is not in a condition to run. Much of it is unroofed and this is serious as the place abounds with pits which will flood with rain. The power house roof is not completed and it would not be possible to operate the power house in heavy rain.

The power house contains one large engine and dynamo and a stand-by oil engine and dynamo. A D23 Broomwade air compressor is just being put in and at present a

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⑤ Hardly
sophisticated
- very
primitive

portable air compressor of about 180 cubic feet capacity is the only source of air. A second portable compressor is also in the yard. With all three compressors working they could only keep three drifters going.

There are no houses or barracks yet and all men are living under canvas but quite a good mess complete with cooling room is just being completed and about four two-man huts are just finished.

At present thirty men are employed and whilst cleaning up the accumulated ore the mill has been working two shifts. I understand that 5/- per day has been paid extra to the men to compensate for dirty conditions when the mill is working. This is a very bad precedent, of course, and is deplored by Mr. Kennedy but was granted by his predecessor. The mill is very ^{AGA} dusty when operating but no more so than ^{AGA} cufs is at present.

I believe Mr. Kennedy is a mining engineer who in recent years has been associated mainly with the mining and processing of Tantalite. He is a very decent type, about 55 years of age and should be a fairly sound Manager.

*Only thing mine
can would be
that the enclosed
tunnel was of
a effect at all.*

AGB

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