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Port Hedland 25th February 1964.

The Senior Inspector of Mines,
Mines Department,
FALGOURTIE, T.A.

cc:- Dust nuisance - Colonial Mill - Wittenoom.

Attached please find Inspector Hunt's copy of his recent entry in the Mine Record Book at Wittenoom.

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, the mine is experiencing difficulty in maintaining their target production of 250 tons of fibre per week, which is considered to be the minimum output to pay operating expenses. Their own internal policies connected with the reduction of mining costs has led to an exodus of many miners, and replacement miners are proving most difficult to obtain.

Because the mine is lacking in slope preparation the management have embarked on a policy of retreating tailings from Eastern Creek, and are also treating crude ore which was previously stockpiled on account of its oxidised, and therefore doubtful, quality.

This work has been commenced since my previous inspection and the details are as supplied by Inspector Hunt who claimed that the Mill was in a shocking condition as a result of the introduction of bone dry rejects and tailings upon which no attempt had been made to dampen the material selected. Inspector Hunt is of the opinion that his directive towards the use of sprays may help to overcome the nuisance, nevertheless, I consider that I must make another inspection very soon.

Inspector Hunt did mention that the undertaking may not prove to be anything more than an unsuccessful experiment, but before I do decide on such a visit I want to draw the matter to your attention in case you wish to have Inspector Murphy visit the mine also, in which case I would arrange my inspection at the same time. Flights to Wittenoom may be more difficult to obtain, than flights to Port Hedland so my transport could be required in any case. Please advise by telegram if a Ventilation Officer will be sent in investigate.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF MINES, PORT HEDLAND.