32,200 c.f.m. along No. 5 level. This air upcasts through ri[se] and millholes into stopes to No.3 level. Then through old worked out stopes to No.2 level and thence to the old main shaft.

The sinking of the main shaft has been restarted and this was reported as being satisfactorily ventilated.

WEST PILBARA GOLDFIELD

Australian Blue Asbestos

The workings of this company at Wittenoom Gorge were inspected in August.

Wittenoom Mine - 48,600 c.f.m. was the measured exhaust from this mine past the fan. This air flows in through the New Portal and along the main drive. Crosscuts at intervals of 400 feet diverge from the drive and although fitted with ventilation doors some air leaks through to old stopes. At the last crosscut 14,000 c.f.m. was measured. This air flows through working places in stopes and joins with the other air, the whole flowing through old open stopes etc., to the fan. The only development proceeding is in a crosscut further along the main drive. About one third of the ore treated is obtained from this mine.

Colonial Mine: - The other two thirds of the ore treated is from this mine where the fibre is of greater width. Natural ventilation prevails at this mine. Two openings to the gorge provide the intake whilst the exhaust air returns to the gorge through three break throughs from stopes to the gorge. The air currents around the face of the gorge cause fluctuations to the airflow. The measured intake was 11,800 c.f.m. Further connections to the cliff face are proposed. A connection through to the top of the hill is envisaged in the future ventilation of this mine.

PILBARA GOLDFIELD

Blue Spec Mine:

Practically no mining was done at this mine during the year. I have been advised that the suggestion to install a No.4 centrifugal fan on the ventilation shaft at the surface was not adopted.

NORTHAMPTON MINERAL FIELD

Peringa Wheal Fortune Pty.Ltd.:

No mining operations were undertaken during the year.

Prothero Lead Mine:

The main shaft of this mine is downcast. 1700 c.f.m. flows from the shaft at No.2 level, 3,200 c.f.m. at No.3 level and 4,600 c.f.m. along No.4 level (These were the figures obtained when measured in April 1955) The air flows along the levels to upcast through the working stopes and old stopes to reach the surface through a shaft connected to a stope above No.2 level. This shaft is equipped with a 30" diameter Aerex fan. The fan should be capable of exhausting more air through the mine. Dust cond... taken through the mine were quite satisfactory.