

THE SWAN RIVER NEWS MINING REPORTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING INTERESTS, PUBLISHED IN
CONNECTION WITH THE "SWAN RIVER NEWS."

No. 1.

LONDON: MAY 1ST, 1847.

§ GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "SWAN RIVER NEWS."

ADDRESS.

THE arrival of the Mail of the *Dispatch* has confirmed our hopes, dissipated our fears, and established the fact, that coal, copper, and other minerals exist in abundance in Western Australia. The *Swan River News* was the first British journal which announced the discovery of the remotest indications of these valuable products; and now that the operations for turning them to account have been entered upon so seriously as to demand a distinct and separate organ to record their progress, we commemorate the fact by stamping our diminutive sheet with the name of that paper, as the passport, (which we trust it will be) to the favor of the public, and the certificate of the authenticity of our statements. As the resources which have so long been hidden within the soil of Western Australia become more fully developed,—as these mines of wealth which have for years baffled the search of the settlers, but are at last discovered—as these springs of prosperity are brought into action, the MINING REPORTER will assume a more formidable shape: the sheet will be increased in size and issued more frequently; its scheme of correspondence, already organized on no niggardly scale, will be extended, and every effort be made to do justice to the importance of the subject; and all we ask is cordial, honest, and liberal support. The projectors of this paper have already made sacrifices in a different field of exertion, and they are prepared to make more; but nothing deadens enterprise so much as coldness on the part of those for whose sake alone energy is put forth, and we trust we shall not be left to struggle single-handed. With this appeal we conclude: our arrangements in connexion with the parent-journal are that every subscriber to the *Swan River News* shall receive a copy of the MINING REPORTER regularly, free of any charge, but this privilege can only be extended to such of its subscribers as pay for the paper *in advance*. At present a copy will be issued as often as occasion may require, and on the receipt of dispatches from the parties working the mines,
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of whose proceedings the fullest and most authentic information will be given.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF COAL.

THE following important Notice was issued by His Excellency the Governor, prior to the sailing of the *Dispatch* for England:—

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 5, 1847.*

It is with great satisfaction His Excellency the Governor announces to the public that the visit of the party who proceeded recently in the colonial schooner *Champion*, to examine the neighbourhood of Champion Bay, has not only confirmed the report of the existence of a large and open bed of coal, on the spot formerly indicated by the Messrs. Gregory, accessible by an easy road, but has also ascertained the fact of extensive tracts of country lying in the vicinity, well suited for pastoral and agricultural purposes; and further, that a bay immediately adjoining Champion Bay to the south of Port Moore is probably identical with Port Grey, which, though not free from serious objections as a Port yet possesses several advantages, especially a natural wharf or jetty running out from the land, which forms a small well sheltered harbour, having 2½ fathoms of water close to the jetty, and thus seems admirably adapted for the loading and unloading of small vessels. There are also strong reasons for supposing that Champion Bay is a perfectly safe anchorage at all seasons of the year.

By His Excellency's Command,
G. F. MOORE, Col. Secretary.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING COMPANY.

A COMPANY under the above denomination has been formed at Perth, the date of its foundation being September 16th, 1846. The capital is to amount to £20,000, to be subscribed in 10,000 Shares of £2 each, a deposit of 10 *per cent.* or 4s. per share to be paid on the enrolment of the subscriber's name, and no further calls to be made to a greater amount than £10 *per cent.* on each share *per quarter*, unless authorised, by the vote of a special meeting of the shareholders, convened by regular notice in the public papers. The following are the Directors at present elected:—The Hon. J. S. Roe, R. N. Surveyor-General,

M. C. &c.; The Hon. George Leake, M. C., Messrs. S. Moore, Knight, Vigors, Sutherland, and Habgood; the Bankers are the Western Australian Bank, and Mr. Charles Sholl is the Secretary, *pro tempore*. The lists are to be closed as soon as the shares rise to a premium, that the original subscribers may have the option of increasing their number. A week after the issue of the prospectus, 5000 shares were subscribed for. The Company has offered liberal rewards and remuneration to all parties bringing useful information, to be awarded in shares which are to be written off as paid up. The immense premium to which the South Australian Mining Shares have risen would, we should think, operate as a strong inducement to parties to invest their capital in this Company.

EXPEDITIONS IN SEARCH, AND DISCOVERY OF, COAL-FIELDS.

On August 7th, Messrs. A. C., F. T., & H. C. Gregory, aroused by the reports resounding on all sides, started from Mr. Yule's farm at 9 o'clock a. m., and after passing over varying descriptions of country, Mr. H. Gregory discovered, after a long and laborious journey, a bed of coal on some Crown lands, in the midst of a very fine country. It was in two seams, and the following was the order of strata,—red sandstone, black shale, white clay, coal 5 feet thick, red sandstone, black shale, white clay, a second seam of coal 6 feet thick, red sandstone, black shale and white clay.—Here the strata became buried and the next and probably thicker, coal seam hidden. The first 100 feet of depth was coarse red sandstone. About 5 cwt of coal was brought up, and burned well, blazing brightly, and consuming to a white ash. The party then returned, bringing with them a block of coal 1 foot by 10 inches, and 4 inches, as well as 15 specimens of the strata, which are described as a complete "execution in nature of Buckland's map of the coal formations." Mr. Gregory has claimed of the Government the promised reward of 2500 acres of land. The site of the discovery is 210 miles north of Fremantle, 40 miles from the sea and on the Irwin River, but indications of coal are being discovered in several other localities.

The Governor, with that promptness and decision which characterise him, at once sent Lieutenant Helpman with the *Champion* to the neighbourhood indicated by Messrs. Gregory, and on the 28th December that officer returned

entirely confirming the report, and adding that "the communication with the coast was along a country almost level, and calculated to form a good hard road, without any outlay of capital," and bringing, by way of proof, about 5 cwt. of the coal.

THE ROYALTY QUESTION.

In consequence of the discovery of metaliferous ores, the Governor caused a notification to be made through the *Government Gazette* on the 17th September, to the effect that at present the reservation in favor of the crown upon all lands to be sold or granted amounts to one-fifteenth portion of the proceeds.

NEWS ABOUT THE MINES.

We give the following paragraphs as we find them in the *Inquirer*, having no private communications of our own to confirm them:—

COPPER.—Mr. Owen, of Adelaide, who has called here in the *Emma Sherratt*, from Mauritius, on being shown the specimens obtained by Mr. Davey, declared to us that they were much superior to any surface indications discovered at Adelaide, and promised, he considered, larger and richer mines than theirs.—Nov. 4.

COAL.—We understand that the parties who have been boring for coal in the Murray district, have come upon a seam of superior quality to any previously found, at a depth of 40 feet, and they have also found a vein of metal supposed to be zinc.—Dec. 23.

COPPER AND LEAD.—We perceive in the *Inquirer* of Dec. 2, an advertisement from Messrs. Duffield and Gilman, announcing their discovery of copper and lead ore on the surface on the 20th October, and offering to sell the discovery.

COPPER.—We have seen a letter from Mr. Lionel Samson, dated January 9th, in which he says "I am happy to say a beautiful specimen of copper has been brought down from the land. The General Mining Company are working on the Canning, about 15 miles from Fremantle."

THE COPPER.—We understand that the Mining Company will confine its operations to copper mines should they be proved to exist. At present it is only fair to state, that, while the existence of coal is beyond question, there are still a few who doubt the existence of copper.

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