

HAVE WE A KIMBERLEY? RICH DISCOVERY OF DIAMONDS.

UNDER THE BASALT AT COPETON.
1000 CARATS WON IN 10 DAYS.

"Mining shows signs of a revival at Copeton. A short time ago Dr. Flatau, of Sydney, secured a lease from the trustees of the property of the late Mr. Beveridge, and a fortnight ago commenced mining for diamonds and tin. The result of the clean-up to date was a yield of nearly 1000 carats. A considerable quantity of tin wash has yet to be treated."

This was a telegram from the "Herald" correspondent at Inverell. As a yield of 1000 carats for a fortnight's work was exceedingly large, and would, if the diamonds were worth only 5s a carat, mean a large revenue for the work of a few men, a representative of the "Herald" set out to ascertain the value of Copeton diamonds, they having been found in that district for several years. The first gentleman seen was the representative of one of the leading jewellery houses of Sydney, who has dealt in Copeton diamonds for a quarter of a century. In his opinion they were a drug in the market at the present time, by reason of the fact that the Premier diamond mine in German South Africa was flooding the market with a diamond not so pure or valuable as the Kimberley diamond, but much more easily cut than the Australian diamonds, the hardness of which caused them to be set aside by diamond-cutters, and the German-South African stone cut instead.

"What is the value of the Copeton diamond per carat?"

"You may set it down generally at 5s," was the answer. The jeweller added:—"The country around Copeton has produced a considerable number of diamonds for years past, and at some future time will become one of the greatest diamond-producing centres in the world. My opinion is that the diamond-bearing material has been shed from volcanoes, and was subsequently overlaid by basalt. Some day someone will stumble on the crater whence the diamonds were shed, and will become as rich as Croesus."

A SYDNEY SYNDICATE.

As a result of further inquiries, it was learned that Mr. H. E. Finckh, Jeweller, of George-street, was chairman of a syndicate of Sydney gentlemen who were exploiting the ground at Copeton whence the 1000 carats were won. He said: "Your telegram refers to a tin and diamond mine which several other gentlemen and myself are developing on the property of the late Mr. Beveridge. Here is a parcel of 495 carats got during 10 days' work on the wash. Dr. Flatau is at present in charge as the mine manager, and has come to Sydney to attend a meeting of the syndicate, and also to buy machinery for the mine. During his absence Dr. Flatau has doubtless increased the output from 495 to 1000 carats, as your correspondent states."

"What is the nature of your workings?"

Mr. Finckh: Our manager, Mr. H. E. Mar-

"What is the nature of your workings?"

Mr. Finckh: Our manager, Mr. H. E. Martin, is here, and will answer you."

"What is the value of the diamonds you have just shown me?"

Mr. Finckh: "We expect to get from 20s to 21s per carat."

"But another leading Jeweller of Sydney says the Copeton diamonds are only worth, on an average, 5s per carat."

Mr. Finckh: "The best answer to that is that we have entered into negotiations with a buyer to take the whole of our output at 20s per carat for good stones. It is also true that Mr. Streeter, the eminent diamond expert, of London, spoke very highly of Australian diamonds. As to the objection of the diamond-cutters to handle them because they were so hard, their principal objection was the fact that they only got small parcels at long intervals. If they got a regular and large supply they would have their machinery adjusted to do the work."

DIAMONDS AND TIN.

The mine manager was then questioned as to the geological characteristics of the mine, and the nature of the work done.

"You must remember," observed Mr. Martin, "that diamonds have been searched for on the Copeton field for many years, but we think we are the first to get on to a well-defined gutter—an ancient river bed, if you like—which was covered with a lava flow after the tin and diamonds had been shed into the old river course. Our shaft, which is bottomed on the wash at 64 feet, passed through 40 feet of basalt. The wash ranges from 2ft 6in to 3ft in depth, and is covered with several feet of sand drift. The wash is made up of two seams, divided by a little drift. The lower portion is the richest, and has run as high as 200 carats to the yard. We got as many as 50 diamonds in two shovelful of wash put through a sieve."

"How many loads of wash did you put through to get the 495 carats?"

"About 25 loads. The development work done is very small. I am satisfied we are close to the edge of the gutter, because we have no water in the wash in the 30 feet driven diagonally across the lead. But the wash is dipping, showing that we have not reached the deepest portion of the lead. Moreover a pot-hole put down in the drive came on water in 2 feet, thus showing that the shaft struck the wash close up to the rim rock."

"What is the country rock on the surface?"

"Granite everywhere," said the manager.

"Then the wash also carries tin?"

"Yes. So far as we have driven, it has gone from 30lb to 40lb of tin oxide to the cubic yard. I should state that we got 350 carats in four days by simply putting the wash through a hand sieve."

"Have you any idea where the diamonds come from?"

"Visiting geologists have expressed different opinions, but my own view is that they were shed from the tourmaline veins occurring in the granite."

"Are there any signs of a volcanic pipe or blue clay, as at Kimberley?"

"Not the least. I know the South African mines well, and there is no analogy whatever between the two formations."

"What about the value of the Copeton diamonds?"

"I have sold thousands of pounds worth of diamonds, and feel satisfied that the parcel handed to Mr. Finckh is worth a guinea a carat. They are octahedron diamonds, and clear in colour. On behalf of the syndicate I have just bought a boiler and engine for the purpose of driving a diamond and tin washing machine. It will have to be built on the mine and designed to save both tin and diamonds."

HAVE WE A KIMBERLEY? RICH DISCOVERY OF DIAMONDS. UNDER THE BASALT AT COPETON. 1000 CARATS WON IN 10 DAYS.

Mining shows signs of a revival at Copeton. A short time ago Dr. Flatau of Sydney secured a lease from the trustees of the property of the late Mr Beveridge, and a fortnight ago commenced mining for diamonds and tin. The result of the clean-up to date was a yield of nearly 1000 carats. A considerable quantity of tin wash has to be treated. This was a telegram from the Herald correspondent at Inverell. As a yield of 1000 carats for a fortnight's work was exceedingly large, and would, if the diamonds were worth only 5s a carat, mean a large revenue for the work of a few men, a representative of the Herald set out to ascertain the value of Copeton diamonds, they having been found in that district for several years. The first gentleman seen was the representative of one of the leading jewellery houses of Sydney, who has dealt in Copeton diamonds for a quarter of a century. In his opinion they were a drug in the market at the present time, by reason of the fact that the Premier Diamond Mine in German South Africa was flooding the market with a diamond not so pure or valuable as the Kimberley diamond but much more easily cut than the Australian diamonds, the hardness of which caused them to be set aside by diamond-cutters, and the German-South African stone cut instead.

"What is the value of the Copeton diamond per carat?" "You may set it down generally at 5s" was the answer. The Jeweller added:—"The country around Copeton has produced a considerable number of diamonds for years past and at some future time will become one of the greatest diamond producing centres in the world. My opinion is that the diamond-bearing material has been shed from volcanoes and was subsequently overlaid by basalt. Someday someone will stumble on the crater whence the diamonds were shed, and will become as rich as Croesus A Sydney Syndicate. As a result of further inquiries, it was learned that Mr. H. E. Finckh, Jeweller of George Street, was chairman of a syndicate of Sydney gentlemen who were exploiting the ground at Copeton whence the 1000 carats were won. He said "Your telegram refers to a tin and diamond mine which several other gentlemen and myself are developing on the property of the late Mr. Beveridge. Here is a parcel of 495 carats got during 10 days' work on the wash. Dr Flatau is at present in charge as the mine manager, and has come to Sydney to attend a meeting of the syndicate, and also to buy machinery for the mine. During his absence, Dr Flatau has doubtless increased the output from 495 to 1000 carats, as your correspondent states."

"What is the nature of your workings?" Mr. Finckh: our manager, Mr. H. E. Martin, is here, and will answer you."

"What is the value of the diamonds you have just shown me?"

Mr. Finckh: "We expect to get from 20s to 21s per carat "

"But another leading jeweller of Sydney says the Copeton diamonds are only worth, on an average, 5s per carat " Mr. Finckh: "The best answer to that is that we have entered into negotiations with a buyer to take the whole of our output at 20s per carat for good stones. It is also true that Mr Streeter, the eminent diamond expert, of London, spoke very highly of Australian diamonds. As to the objection of the diamond-cutters to handle them because they were so hard their principal objection was the fact that they only got small parcels at long intervals If they got a regular and large supply they would have their machinery adjusted to do the work "

Diamonds and Tin. The mine manager was then questioned as to the geological characteristics of the mine, and the nature of the work done. You must remember, observed Mr. Martin, " that diamonds have been searched for on the Copeton field for many years, but we think we are the first to get on to a well-defined gutter - an ancient river bed, if you like - which was covered with a lava flow after the tin and diamonds had been shed into the old river course. Our shaft, which is bottomed on the wash at 64 feet, passed through 10 feet of basalt. The wash ranges from 2ft 6in to 3ft in depth, and is covered with several feet of sand drift. The wash is made up of two seams, divided by a little drift. The lower portion is the richest and has run as high as 250 carats to the yard. We got as many as 50 diamonds in two shovelfuls of wash put through a sieve"

"How many loads of wash did you put through to get the 495 carats" "About 25 loads. The development work done is very small. I am satisfied we are close to the edge of the gutter because we have no water in the wash in the 30 foot driven diagonally across the lead. But the wash is dipping, showing that we have not reached the deepest portion of the lead. Moreover a pot-hole put down in the drive came on water in 2 feet, thus showing that the shaft struck the wash close up to the rim rock "

"What is the country rock on the surface?"

"Granite everywhere," said the manager "Then the wash also carries tin" "Yes so far as we have driven, it has gone from 30lb to 40lb of tin oxide to the cubic yard. I should state that we got 350 carats in four days by simply putting the wash through a hand sieve".

"Have you any idea where the diamonds come from?"

"Visiting geologists have expressed different opinions, but my own view is that they were shed from the tourmaline veins occurring in the granite" "Are there any signs of a volcanic pipe, or blue clay as at Kimberley?"

"Not the least. I know the South African mines well and there is no analogy whatever between the two formations "

"What about the value of the Copeton diamonds" "I have sold thousands of pounds worth of diamonds, and feel satisfied that the parcel handed to Mr. Finkh is worth a guinea (21s) a carat. They are octahedron diamonds and clear in colour. On behalf of the syndicate I have just bought a boiler and engine for the purpose of driving a diamond and tin washing machine. It will have to be built on the mine and designed to save both tin and diamonds"