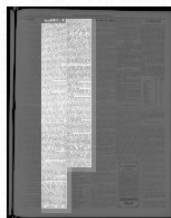




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MINING IN SELANGOR.

By E. S. Willbourn, Asst. Geologist, F.M.S. Kuala Lumpur Plan.—In the neighbourhood of Kepong, the granite hills near the contact with limestone have been hydraulicised to a considerable extent and, in the same district, the alluvium is being worked by open-cast methods down to the bed-rock of dolomitised limestone. Several exposures in French Kepong Mine and in Chinese-owned mines in the neighbourhood show the general line of the granite limestone contact, and prospecting is being carried on in the search for further rich alluvial deposits. Yap Po's mine is situated on the contact, and it seems that a fissure has been formed in the limestone, where it came into contact with the granite, which now contains tin-bearing sands and clays. The karang here contains a comparatively small proportion of clay. The old French Kepong Mine was on the contact too, and it contained a rich lead of tin. This was probably an alluvial deposit laid down in a fissure formed by solution at the granite, limestone contact. The mine which is at present being worked by the French Kepong Company has bed-rock of limestone (Plate IV, Fig. 2) and the granite contact several hundred yards away.

The granite hills near the 8th mile Rawang road are being ground-sluiced, but not much work is now going on there, and there is also an old lampan at the second mile from Kuala Lumpur, on the Batu road which has evidently not been worked for some years. The face shows weathered fine-grained granite which is a small intrusion into the country rock of shales and sandstones, and which may be continued eastwards into the limestone.

There are several open-cast mines in



There are several open-cast mines in the alluvium near Setapak, most of the country between here and the granite to the east and to the Ampang road being formerly mined for tin, and at the present time there are lampan workings in the weathered schists just to the east of the rifle-range.


There are some very large open-cast mines in the neighbourhood of Ampang, all with dolomite and dolomitic limestone as bedrock, the proximity of the main range granite is indicated by the occurrence of intrusions of pegmatite and also of fine-grained aplites. In the mine to the south-east of Ampang, nearest the granite hills, such intrusions are connected with the presence of scheelite, of which it is said that three hundred pikuls were won from the neighbourhood of a pegmatite-vein. Some lumps of quartz were noticed lying on the floor of this mine with crystals of cassiterite several inches across, so it is clear that the tin here must be derived from veins in the neighbouring granite and schist near the contact, for these large lumps cannot have travelled far.

Lode Mine Southeast of Ampang.

The granite in this mine is non-porphyrific and is veined with kaolin-stringers, and, in addition, it is penetrated by two sets of vertical quartz-veins, one with strike N., 30 deg. W. by S., 30 deg. E., and the other with a strike N., 50 deg. E. by S., 50 deg. W. The widest vein noticed had a breadth of eighteen inches and was deeply stained with iron. The quartz-veins are tin-bearing, and, in addition, tin was won from irregular patches of pegmatite in the granite. The mine had been abandoned when it was visited in 1920. In March 1917, pegmatite was being worked at the lowest spot in the centre of the mine-floor. It was impossible to be sure about the mode of its occurrence, but it appeared to have no relation to the above-mentioned quartz-veins. The lode stuff from the mine is very rich in arsenopyrite, and contains a little topaz.


The granite slopes south-west of Ampang, within two miles of Pudu, and the low-lying granite country east of the railway at Salak South, were being sluiced four or five years ago, and in 1917 some lodes were being worked by shafting on them.

There are several open-cast mines north-west of Salak South, the largest,





Thong Hing's and Thong Fok's mines, being in alluvial beds, with limestone and dolomite as bed-rock, both being near granite, and having granite exposures on their floors and walls. The west side of the former mine is within a few yards of hill ground made up of a formation of shales and sand-stones, which are penetrated by thin kaolin-stringers and thicker veins of quartz.


The greater part of the low granite country which lies to north and west of Salak Hill has at one time been worked for tin.




Sungei Besi Valley.—In this valley, the low-lying country forms a long narrow strip of country running from north to south, flanked on the west side by hilly land formed of shales and quartzites, and on the east by granite hills. There is no doubt about the origin of the tin—many of the granite hills near the stanniferous alluvial deposits have also been stripped of their softer weathered portions by Chinese miners. Of the open-cast mines, the one known as Chai Seng's mine, east of the Salak Hill, has already been mentioned, as containing crystals of an altered mineral (probably amphibole) in the dolomite bedrock, they were evidently introduced into it by the intrusion of the neighbouring granite. The crystals have not been noticed in the



Thong Onn Kongsu Mine and in the Sungei Besi Mine in the dolomite limestone near the granite contact, perhaps because the actual contact cannot be seen, and the zone containing minerals formed by contact metamorphism in limestone rarely exceeds a few inches in thickness. In Thong Sang's mine near Serdang, which is also an open-cast, granite is seen in contact with darkblue shales, which are like shales seen near the granite contact east of Ampang. The rocks near the contact are soft enough to be worked with a changkol, and contain a considerable amount of tin ore, which, of course, differs both in appearance and origin from the tin of the alluvial beds which are worked in the same excavation. Here is noticed, that there are thin quartz-veins running at right angles to the granite-shale contact in the granite, which do not penetrate into the sedimentary rock. In the Thong Sang Mine there is the difference that, in the altered shales near the contact, numerous quartz-veins lie in the foliation-planes parallel to the contact and this quartzite that




contact, and this suggests that a shearing-movement has taken place in the shales along the contact-plane, and that the quartz-veins, which formerly penetrated them at right angles to the contact, have in this way been dragged sideways, and appear to have been intruded parallel to it.




As already mentioned, a muscovite rock containing a little quartz is common in this district and then stanniferous quartz-veins, which penetrate it in a small hill near Cheras, are being worked by Chinese miners. At the 16th mile from Kuala Lumpur just south of Kajang, there is a lampan in the decomposed fine grained granite which is penetrated by thin stanniferous veins of quartz. In 1916 shafts were being sunk by Chinese into some of these veins and there was little other work going on.

The only other mine of any size in this part of South Selangor is a lampan, working in weathered granite and the overlying soil, on the Negri Sembilan boundary, near Broga.

Sungei Way.—The granite in this district has introduced tin-bearing veins, of quartz into the sedimentary rocks, as, for example, in the quartzites and shales near Pantai, and near the 8th mile Kuchai road.



At Pantai about fifteen years ago these veins were followed into the country rock, and a battery was erected to crush the stone. In 1907, Mr. Warnford Lock wrote "Much if not most of the original deposit still remains in the hills, and several attempts have been made by Europeans to operate on it. So far, but little real benefit has resulted. On the other hand, the mode of procedure has been very ill-judged and costly, and the scale of operations has been trifling, so that past failures are no real criterion of what the future can do. Work on an extensive basis will have to embrace some scheme for disposal of tailings, as there is next to no dumping space, and no convenient river to act as a tail-race."



The sedimentary rocks near the 8th mile, Kuchai road are similar to those at Pantai, and, in the past, the hills to the south of the road were lampanned. The alluvial deposits derived by erosion of these hills are being worked open-cast in a lumbong on the north side of the road, and veins in the decomposed quartzite which forms the bed-rock also provide some tin.

The mine in S. Way Estate was in 1920, being closed down, in order to bring it under European management.



and to use more up-to-date methods. An exposure of weathered non-prophyritic granite veined with tin-bearing quartz-veins gives the source of, at any rate part of the tin-ore, which is disseminated throughout a considerable thickness of coarse-grained wash, consisting of quartz grains embedded in a kaolin-like clay. The beds of karang dip at an angle of 30 deg. away from the granite. Clay bands which are interbedded with the karang show slight faults and dislocations, which suggest that limestone forms the bed-rock, though, at the time of writing, this has not been definitely proved. A considerable amount of tin-ore was obtained by working the granite intrusion mentioned above. The ore in this mine contains a lot of pyrites, and galena is not uncommon. Some scheelite is said to have been obtained by washing the alluvium excavated when digging a sumphole.

