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ROOIDRAAI GOLD ESTATES

Ventersdorp

ROOIDRAAI GOLD ESTATES

349  
675



ROOIDRAAI (WEST WITWATERSRAND) GOLD  
ESTATES, LIMITED.

M. I. M.

Geologist's Report. 5. 7. 33

This company recently acquired, in addition to its options on the farms Rooidraai No. 75 and Reismierbult No. 153 in the Potchefstroom District, the eastern portion of Blaauwbank No. 45, comprising 1,594 morgen 256 square roods; the northern portion of Dutoitsspruit No. 120, 832 morgen 210 square roods in extent; and the south-western portion of Rooidraai, amounting to 936 morgen, making a total area held of 3,181 morgen 269 square roods. The report of Mr. H. S. Harger, F.G.S., consulting geologist, on the original two properties optioned by the company is of a favourable nature. He is of opinion that the Lower Witwatersrand series of rocks is represented under the younger rocks and is likely to contain such pebbled beds as the Buffelsdoorn and Red Reefs and others found to accompany that series to the north-east of Klerksdorp. There is, also, evidence (he states) to support the view that the Main Reef or Randfontein horizon is represented under the dolomites on Reismierbult and the greater portion of Rooidraai. The extreme western portion of Rooidraai, however, shows a change in formation, the dolomite giving place to beds of the Ventersdorp series, on which a few un-eroded remnants of the Black Reef quartzites lie uncomformably. The report goes on to state that the Black Reef itself appears to have been removed by erosion on the rocky ridge which is a feature of the topography of this area, but it will probably be found to continue under the dolomite in the usual manner, though not so far identified owing to a fair thickness of overburden.

Although the surface stratigraphy indicates nothing of great value the possibilities presented by the underlying more ancient formations call for serious consideration. The possibility of the Upper Rand Beds, with the Main Reef series, existing beneath the dolomite, Black Reef series and Ventersdorp beds on the farms under report is a matter of the utmost importance. To the west of Rooidraai on Thyszyndoorns 89, Syferbult 711 and Blesbokfontein 676, and Syferfontein 128, ferruginous shales and quartzites are exposed at the surface, and according to the views expressed by the late Dr. Draper, the Main Reef series should be found interstratified in those beds and pass close to the north-western corner beacon of Rooidraai. "I regret (states Mr. Harger) I am not able to agree with Dr. Draper's correlation of these beds. I feel very strongly that the strata he refers to belong to the Lower Rand beds (or 'northern' series) and that the Upper Rand beds and Main Reef series must be looked for to the east of Dr. Draper's Main Reef line.

## Prospecting on Crown Land—Powers in Respect of Leases—Penalties—Regulations Governing Additional Rights Has Option of Disallowing Proportionate Share of Profits to be

THE Mineral Law Amendment Act, 1934, for the promulgation of which the mining community of South Africa has been waiting so long, became operative on July 1st. The new Bill, as published in the Union "Government Gazette" of June 15th, contains 54 main amendments and substitutions applying to the repealed sections of the Precious and Base Metals Act, 1908 (Transvaal), other mineral laws in force in the Union, and the Townships Amendment Act, 1908 (Transvaal). A perusal of the new provisions gives the impression that those responsible for the framing and drafting of the amendments have done their work with intelligence and thoroughness, resulting in the removal of crying anomalies and the inclusion of ameliorations that are calculated to make general mining more attractive to the capitalist and to the prospecting small-owner.

It is only possible in this place to touch on some of the main features of the alterations to the old Mining Law. In cases where on a property precious metals occur as well as base minerals, if the latter are of greater economic importance and predominate, such property shall be held to be a base metal proposition for the requirements of the Act. On all proclaimed Crown land, not held under mining title and not reserved from pegging and on all unproclaimed Crown land, in respect of which the exclusive right of prospecting has not accrued to the owner, licensee or lessee of that land, prospecting for precious metals under the authority of a permit may be carried on. The Minister may withdraw any Crown land from public prospecting or, alternatively, attach conditions to public prospecting on any Crown land or grant or call for tenders for the right to prospect, involving a lease being entered into between the Minister and the grantee or successful tenderer. Whenever the holder of the mineral rights over any private land desires to prospect it on his own account or through a nominee, he may make application for a prospecting and mining lease, which will be considered by the Mining Leases Board. Should the holder of such mineral rights fail to avail himself of the right of prospecting granted, or, having availed himself of such, fails to exercise his right within the specified period of six months, a prospecting lease may be granted to another person of sufficient financial standing on application, thereby ensuring that the adequate prospecting of mineralised ground shall not be neglected. In such a case a fixed rental, covering the prospecting period, shall be paid and made over to the holder of the mineral rights.

**RCOIDRAAI (WITWATERSRAND) GOLD ESTATES,  
LIMITED. 1733**

M.J.  
The Rooidraai (West Witwatersrand) Gold Estates, Ltd., have received a report from Mr. H. S. Harger, F.G.S., who has been making a thorough geological examination of the company's options. The latter comprise some 4,822 morgen of the farms Rooidraai No. 73 and Reismierbult No. 153. In his report Mr. Harger draws attention to the occurrence of magnetic shales which evidently pass under the farms mentioned, which, he says, "might well represent the West Rand shales of the Witpoortje-Roodepoort area (which have been correlated by Mellor with the Coronation shale of Heidelberg district) and the magnetic shales of Carrick which course through the common corners of Middelvlei, Hartebeestfontein and Witfontein, lying south-west of Randfontein. . . . If this magnetic shale of the area under report is not merely a variation of the local ferruginous shales but a representative of the West Rand and Coronation shales, the prospects of Rooidraai and Reismierbult having the Main Reef Series under the dolomite and Ventersdorp beds are distinctly encouraging and worthy of further careful investigation." In his conclusions he states: "Having examined the farms Rooidraai and Reismierbult and the country adjoining those farms to the west, I consider there is no doubt whatever that the Lower Rand beds will be found underlying the dolomite, etc., on the said properties with a good prospect of containing some of the auriferous reefs such as Buffelsdoorn Red Reef, etc., found accompanying those beds north-east of Klerksdorp. The evidence also strongly suggests the presence beneath the dolomite and other beds of the Main Reef or Randfontein horizon on Rooidraai, and I think the chances sufficiently promising to justify a serious effort being made to locate them by boring." It is notified that the company has also acquired options on the eastern portion of Blaauwbank No. 45 (1,594 morgen 256 sq. roods), and the northern portion of Du Toit's Spruit No. 120 (832 morgen, 210 sq. roods). These farms are adjacent to and on the dip side of the properties already held, and in view of Mr. Harger's conclusions are an important addition to the options already held. An advertisement relating to the company will be found in another part of this issue.

towards the completion stage, and the progress made with the contract for the blast furnace gas cleaning plant gives promise that these three interlocked units will be completed by the required date.

The final sections of the steel melting department are well forward. The work on the rolling mills section has been concentrated upon the heavy mill and on the various auxiliaries required to put that mill into operation first. Despite the difficulties occasioned by the close proximity in which the various contractors have had to work, excellent progress has been made on this complicated section. The whole of the structural steel buildings for the rolling mill section has been erected, as also the overhead cranes installation in every bay; and, with these facilities now available the work on the remaining sections should proceed without interruption until the final completion of all sections of the rolling mill department.

It will be recalled that some time ago the Corporation had come to a provisional understanding with the leading galvanised iron sheet manufacturers in Great Britain for the erection of a sheet works in Pretoria, in which the Corporation would participate. As a result of Dr. van der Byl's present visit overseas, it has been found that there are practical difficulties in the way of carrying out this joint project. In this connection, therefore, the statement made by the deputy chairman, Mr. J. R. Leisk, at the annual meeting of the Corporation this week is of interest and importance.

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