

CURTIN & DAVIS MINING INTERESTS.

[BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.]

LAUNCESTON, Tuesday.

Mr. William Knox, chairman of directors of the Mount Lyell Co., and Mr. Wm. Orr, both of whom are purchasers of interests in Curtin & Davis and Curtin & Davis Extended mines at North Dundas arrived to-day from Melbourne, and completed arrangements with local directors, whereby the Curtin and Davis Co. will be floated in Melbourne in 100,000 shares of £1 each. Twenty-five thousand of these will be reserved, and 75,000 distributed amongst the present shareholders. The directors of the company will be Mr. Wm. Knox, chairman; Messrs. Wm. Orr, H. H. Schlapp, Wm. Jameson, and Jenkyn Collier, and H. J. Dean, and R. J. McKenzie, representatives of Launceston interests. Five thousand pounds will be placed to the credit of the company and work commenced at once under the direction of Mr. H. H. Schlapp. Three different tunnels will be commenced at three different levels, which will command about 600ft. of back.

Mr. Orr visited the mine some time ago, and on sampling the ore recognized its similarity to that ore found on a level of

rich returns were obtained. On being interviewed to-night. Mr. Orr said this class of ore was somewhat novel to Australian miners, the discovery at Mount Lyell being practically the first important discovery of the kind in Australia. Experience gained at Lyell has led to the belief that it is an ore that will reach very high figures. As much as 8,000oz. per ton have been obtained in the Mount Lyell ore. He considers the discovery at North Dundas is interesting from the fact that though ore has been found outcropping on the side of this steep mountain at Lyell they had to drive over 600ft., and only got the apex of it at 200ft. from the surface.

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gist, who visited the property, has given opinion that the lode is permanent and likely to yield rich ore to a great depth. The splendid assays obtained from face of lode ranged from 300oz. to 2,100oz. of silver per ton. Mr. Schlapp states that the ore is of splendid quality, containing copper to form matrix and siliceous material for fluxing, and it is entirely free from zinc. Overtures had already been made to them for erection of smelting works on the field.

With regard to Curtin and Davis Extended Co. Mr. Orr said a Melbourne syndicate had accepted an offer made to them, and would place £2,500 to credit of the company. They meet directors to-morrow to settle details.

When both of the new companies have been duly constituted it is probable, he says, that an amalgamation may be brought about.

Messrs. Knox and Driffield, the latter of whom is engineer to the Mount Lyell Co., were also interviewed. Mr. Driffield stated he had been in Melbourne completing arrangements for extension of railway to the mine, and he expects to put 500 men on the line within the next two or three months. All work in connection with the property were in a forward state, and early in March the furnaces of the smelters should be working. All the tramway system between the tram and smelting site is now finished.
