

1937

WEDDEN REPORT

The present operations began in 1936. In the previous year the eastern end of the Island was purchased outright so as to avoid later trouble with owners. A power line was installed capable of delivering 7500 watts. A modern pump capable of more than 1000 gallons a minute was brought on the site and in the spring of 1936 a start was made to clean out the Chappell pit of 1931. During the summer the work was aggressively prosecuted, the pit 12 x 14 being cleared out to a depth of 175 feet, that is, to the volcanic rock and lined with heavy timbers its whole depth. This work was carried out under the direction of F.R. Krupp, an engineer of wide experience all over the world.

In re-excavating this pit two oak splinters were brought up from a depth of 147 feet. As no previous excavations had reached that depth, it is clear that these splinters must be part of a box or of an oak platform of logs which fell to that depth in the collapse of the 118 foot pit in 1850.

During the present season a second pit 12 x 24 beside the pit opened last year, is being sunk and heavily timbered. The soil bears all the evidence of former operations, collapsed timbering, etc.

In the course of these operations the workmen came upon an old miner's lamp, made of tin and partly filled with whale oil, evidence it would seem of very early work estimated to have been that of 1850.

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