

CHAPTER 12

Fremantle Gold Mine

Shortly after the release of C. Wilson's report, followed by that of J.A. Allen, and the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the company to develop Brown's Reward, interest started to wane in that locality.

The possibility of speculators who held fringe leases to the main lease ever making money by selling, or by some other manoeuvre, was now gone. The main ones concerned were Andrew Brophy and Loftus Connor. It was time for them to quit and cut their losses.

Some prospecting work in the way of shaft-sinking, but to no depth, had been done on these since Hamilton and Carter's original discovery, both by prospectors and the mining company. As late as 1924 Robert Wellshaw made what looked like a good strike on the line, but it turned into nothing.¹ All leases except the main one, GML 907 on the Brown's Reward line of reef, had been surrendered by 1928.

Turner, the battery manager for Brown's Reward, together with W.H. Logan, a miner also apparently in the company's employ, took out a prospecting area in the same line, but on the west side of Brown's Reward. In the ensuing year they did sufficient exploratory work to indicate the show had potential, but they lacked capital to proceed further.

A syndicate was formed by Turner, Logan and Mr. F.G. Higham, an accountant and real estate agent of Fremantle. In 1929 the PA was converted to GML 994 going under the title of Fremantle Gold Mine. The share allocation was J.W. Turner (48) F.G. Higham (24), W.H. Logan (24).²

Since capital was limited every effort was made to ensure the mine met its own expenses from the start. The first crushing put through in June that year was 184 tons, all from open-cut work. Everything was thrown in. Some of it is reputed to have gone five ounces. Most of the stone was taken out at night by Logan who must have been a true miner of the old school. It is generally believed that after an eight-hour shift on Brown's Reward he would then work on the Fremantle show.

This ore was similar in character to Brown's Reward, having a high gold carry over into the sands. Thus the official statistic, which is plate gold only, did not look the best at twenty one ounces, whereas the total for that crushing including sands was seventy ounces, which was very encouraging. The second crushing put through in November that year, of 194 tons for a total of 106