

JUST ONE BIDDER FOR SHUT TIN MINE

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THE only company left in the running for the takeover of Wheal Jane tin mine, near Truro, are Cornwall Tin and Mining Limited, who own the nearby Mount Wellington mine.

Wheal Jane manager Dennis Bridger yesterday confirmed reports that the Department of Industry were now negotiating solely with Cornwall Tin following the rejection, by Consolidated Goldfields on Thursday, of any further involvement in the future running of Wheal Jane.

Cornwall Tin have been widely tipped for weeks as the mystery 'Company X' interested in buying Wheal Jane.

There will be wry smiles in the mining villages of Cornwall if Cornwall Tin do take over Wheal Jane, as it was their announcement of the closure of Mount Wellington that precipitated the shut-down of Wheal Jane by Consolidated Goldfields in the first place.

But the future for Wheal Jane still looks bleak.

Transport workers' branch secretary John Foster said yesterday: 'I am more pessimistic about the future than at any time since the original

By Tim Minogue

announcement that the mines would close.'

Mr Bridger was similarly doubtful about the prospects at Wheal Jane.

'We know all there is to know about getting tin out of the ground,' he said. 'If we couldn't make Wheal Jane work, I can't see anyone else doing it.'

Mr Bridger hit back at claims by Truro MP David Penhaligon, that Consolidated Goldfields figures on the tin content at Wheal Jane were unreliable.

'Mr Penhaligon doesn't know what he's talking about,' he said.