

MININD1909-1

THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH, 1909

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

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MINISTER FOR MINES



Tasmania

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1909



PROGRESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1909.

Hobart, 21st May, 1909.

The following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 31st March, 1909, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1908:—

	During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1909.		During the Quarter ending 31st Decr., 1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
* Gold won ozs.	11,039·788	46,894	11,521·458	48,940
Silver-lead Ore produced tons	18,473·51	81,955	20,990·88	81,840
† Blister Copper produced ..	2120	144,973	2266	161,031
Copper Ore and Copper produced ..	312·55	3648	191·50	1528
Tin Ore produced ..	862·7	76,454	1191·80	110,920
Iron Ore raised ..	...	...	800	300
Coal raised ..	13,353·75	11,351	14,137·50	12,016
Wolfram Ore produced ...	2·8	252	1·28	134
Bismuth ..	1·25	450	1·25	150
	...	365,977	...	416,859

* Fine gold, including gold contained in blister copper and silver-lead bullion.

† Value of gold contents deducted.

GOLD.

During the past quarter, 4861 ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 75·25 ozs. from alluvial, 1552·5 ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 2989 ozs. from blister copper from the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, and 1579·88 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works, Zeehan, valued at £46,894.

The following table shows the quantities obtained from the various sources on the different fields during the period under review, together with the totals for the corresponding period of 1908, and the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1908:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 31st March, 1909.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1908.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Decr., 1908.
	From quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Beaconsfield	4599·25	...	1210	...	...	5809·25	8801·45	5501·5
Mathinna ...	178	...	86	...	...	264	1080	404
Mt. Victoria	61·25	32·5	...	...	...	93·75	157·97	99·83
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron	22·5	...	256·5	...	...	279	228·4	213·5
Lefroy								
Lisle .....	...	20	...	...	...	20	48	90
Golconda ...								
West Coast.	...	22·75	...	2989	1579·88	4591·63	6525·5	5382·5
TOTALS	4861	75·25	1552·5	2989	1579·88	11,057·63	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1908.....	7924	144·47	2251·85	5446	1075	...	16,841·32	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Decr., 1908	4355	192·33	1775	3866	1506	...	...	11,694 33

Value £46,894 ; equal to 11,039·788 ozs. fine gold.

BEACONSFIELD.—The quarter's statistics for the district are as follow:—

	Gold produced.	Men employed.
	ozs.	
Tasmania Mine	5524	526
Tasmanian Tailings Syndicate...	277·75	15
Others	7·5	21
Total.....	5809·25	562

Tasmania Mine.—Fifteen thousand one hundred and four tons of quartz crushed, and 5524 ozs. gold obtained (by amalgamation and chlorination), which makes a total of 772,879 tons quartz crushed, and 728,414 ozs. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

LEFROY.—The quarter's statistics are as follow:—

	Gold produced. ozs.	Men employed.
New Pinafore	7·25	11
Creek Cyanide	256·5	23
Kitto's Chum Syn	15·25	2
Totals.....	<u>279</u>	<u>36</u>

LISLE, GOLCONDA, &C.—Twenty ounces of gold have been won from these fields. Twelve men have been employed.

RINGAROOMA.—The Mercury Gold Mining Company obtained 61·25 ozs. of gold from quartz, and employed two men.

Alluvial Gold and Dredging Companies.—Gold has been obtained by the following companies in streaming tin:—

	Standard Gold. ozs.
Ringarooma Dredge	25
Dorset Dredge.....	7·5
Total	<u>32·5</u>

MATHINNA.—The quarter's statistics are as follow:—

	Quartz crushed. tons.	Sand treated. tons.	Gold produced. ozs.	Men.
New Golden Gate	216	600	213	36
Others	59	...	51	29
Totals	<u>275</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>65</u>

WEST COAST.—Mr. Inspector Curtain reports:—The chief operations in this direction are centred on the Davie P.A., adjacent to Lynchford, where two men have driven 35 feet into an unique auriferous formation.

Alluvial.—Mr. F. O. Henry's Gormanston and Queenstown branches report the purchase of 22 ozs. 15 dwts. 12 grs., which was obtained by eight men.

TIN.

The statistics for this metal for the past quarter are as follow:—

	Ore won. tons.	Value. £	Men employed.	
			Europeans.	Chinese.
Northern and Southern Division	16	1600	37	...
North-Eastern Division.....	430.35	40,004	488	63
Eastern Division.....	50.25	4418	167	33
North-Western Division.....	331.15	27,601	434	...
Western Division.....	34.95	2831	112	...
Totals.....	862.7	76,454	1238	96

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	tons.	Men employed.
		Europeans. Chinese.
Mount Bischoff	240	300
Mt. Bischoff Extended	67.5	88
Waratah Alluvial.....	4.6	7
Wombat Mine	1	4
Stanhope Alluvial	8	1
Mt. Cleveland	17.25	31
Others .....	...	3
Totals.....	331.15	434

Mt. Bischoff Extended.—Mr. W. Gullock, manager, reports:—
Mine workings opening up satisfactorily; No. 6 level advanced to 1050 feet, expecting to meet lode daily; new battery working satisfactorily; additional plant erected; rock-breaker, "Robins" conveying-belt and gearing, challenge feeders, and new centrifugal pump for raising battery-water to supply tanks; increasing tonnage of stone through mill with new appliances added.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine	29.75	66	...
Pioneer Extended	9.85	24	...
Argus Tin Mine.....	...	18	...
South Mt. Cameron	2.55	18	...
Ringarooma Dredge	9.70	15	...
Dorset	5.55	18	...
Purdue Tin Mine	22.5	23	...
Garibaldi	4.1	5	...
Other Claims	12.25	47	40
Totals.....	96.25	215	40

DERBY DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mines.....	240·1	80	...
New Brothers' Home, No. 1....	33·95	20	...
Briseis Extended	22·65	32	...
Other Derby Claims	2·65	54	10
Total.....	299·35	186	10

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine.....	9·95	36	...
New Ruby Flat	2	10	...
Other Claims	2·05	1	13
Total	14	47	13

MOORINA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Weld Tin Mine	6	10	...
Native Youth	7·50	8	...
Abbotsford	1	4	...
Mutual Hill.....	·95	4	...
Wilberforce Pump Co.	4·40	6	...
Other Moorina Claims	·90	8	...
Total.....	20·75	40	...
Total for North-Eastern Division	430·35	488	63

EASTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>			
Emu	1·95	6	...
Chinese (Weldborough)...	2·15	...	25
Other Claims	5·75	28	...
Total	9·85	34	25
<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>			
Anchor Mine.....	14·5	37	...
Other Claims	6·8	42	6
Chinese Claims			
Total	21·3	79	6

St. Helens Mines.

C. Miller	1·10		
A. Williams	1·60	6	2
J. C. Macmichael	1·30	6	...
Royal Ruby Co.	3·15	7	...
Deep Lead	1·25	2	...
Others	·85	6	...
Total	9·25	30	2

Avoca Mines.

Story's Freehold	1·90	3	...
Mount Rex Co.	3·95	6	...
South Esk	·90	3	...
Other Claims	3·10	12	...
Total	9·85	24	...
Total for Eastern Division	50·25	167	33

WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Emu Bay Railway (various claims)	34·95	112

Renison Bell.—Assays taken from the five trenches, 350 yards beyond the blow, and 140 feet greater elevation.

These trenches are about 1 chain apart, on an average. One is 41 feet long; each of the other four are over 60 feet. From these trenches sixteen sets of bulk samples were taken by Mr. Briggs, and assayed by Mr. Ward, Government Assayer, as under:—

Metallic Tin.	Per cent.	Metallic Tin.	Per cent.
Trench M1a	0·1	Trench O7	Trace
Trench M2a	7·2	Trench O8	0·7
Trench M3a	6·6	Trench P9	0·56
Trench N1	4·8	Trench P10	0·5
Trench N2	2·9	Trench Q11	16·75
Trench N3	1·2	Trench Q12	4·7
Trench N4	3·3	Trench Q13	13·75
Trench N5	3·8		
Trench N6	1·75		

Nos. 1, 5, and 7 are mainly pyritic. A little pyrites is also present in Nos. 4, 9, 10, and 16.

Mr. Briggs writes:—The lode is 40 feet wide, and a good one for that distance. In one trench 11 feet of solid pyritic ore is exposed, and is identical in appearance with the large pyritic lode in railway-cutting.

The assays taken from the 11 feet of pyrites returned from 5.5 to 7.2 per cent. Mr. Briggs states the 2-per cent. trenches on Lewer's section, the gossan at river face, the blow, and these five trenches are all in line. From these new trenches many very rich lumps of gossan, 30 lbs., 40 lbs. up to 70 lbs. are found. These will assay from 30 per cent. up to 50 per cent. tin. The rich decomposed gossan, at trenches, is identical with that which was at the river face.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine	16	37

SILVER

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ore in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st March is given below:—

<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena	584	3862	106
„ Zeehan-Montana	„	794	13,361	263
Zeehan-Western	galena, &c	208	3298	71
Silver Queen Extended	„	15.70	185	12
Oonah	„	49	583	80
„	pyrites	987	1233	
„	carbonate of iron...	83	224	
Zeehan Queen	galena and gossan	1077	1141	12
Florence	galena	73	763	15
New Mt. Zeehan	„	33.5	88	3
Tas. Smelting Co's. Sections	low fluxing ore	195	153	6
„	„ gossan	45	71	11
Victoria-Zeehan	„ .....	...	...	16
Colonel North	galena	43.67	458	25
Section 1914-M	„	16	210	6
„	gossan	51	344	
S. Comstock	„ .....	...	...	4
<i>Dundas Mines:</i>				
Comet	galena	16.50	223	38
„	gossan	4129.46	4421	
Hercules	zinc-lead sulphide...	5240	18,056	93
„	zinc blende	309.6	754	
Adelaide	galena	226	2967	40
<i>Rosebery Mines:</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	zinc-lead sulphide ...	1377	9387	45
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines:</i>				
Mt. Farrell	galena	14	234	6
North Mt. Farrell	„	922	7837	140
Mackintosh Mine	„	29	147	4
Murchison River	„	48.35	749	15
<i>Sundries:</i>				
Tasmanian Smelting Co. ....	...	...	...	310
Sundry Companies .....	...	...	...	87
Prospectors, &c. ....	...	...	...	41
Total		16,566.78	£70,749	1449

The Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-lead Mines, Limited.—Mr. T. Vincent, manager, reports:—

Spray No. 2 Shaft.—The ore between Nos. 5 and 6 levels being of too low grade for shipping to smelters at the present rates ruling for silver and lead, work has been suspended.

Spray No. 1 Shaft.—Operations being purely speculative, and the water heavy, we have closed down, pending the decision as to the necessary pumping-plant to be adopted. Have installed an additional boiler, which will give ample power when work is resumed.

No. 5 Shaft.—Early in January, the west crosscut intersected what we call No. 2 lode, at 284 feet; where cut, it carried pay ore. Drives have been opened out south 87 feet and north 76' 6".

Both drives passed through the shoot, which is 140 feet long. The crosscut has been further advanced 115 feet without, so far, meeting with another lode. No. 1 lode, south drive, extended 38 feet, total 185 feet; looks promising, and is letting out a quantity of water. In the north drive on this lode a rise has been put up 33' 6" without meeting anything of value. Prospects, generally, are favourable; water, 14,000 gallons per hour, which is under easy control.

Florence Mine.—Mr. F. K. Astell, manager, reports:—During the last quarter work of purchasing suitable machinery to cope with late inburst of water, I am pleased to say, has been accomplished. Two large pumping engines and boilers are now being put in position, and a start will be made to unwater the mine as soon as the plant is ready.

Victoria Zeehan.—Mr. A. Batten, manager, reports:—North drive extended to 150 feet, showing improved prospects, but owing to serious increase of water had to temporary cease underground operations while putting in new boiler and providing more efficient plant.

Oonah.—Mr. W. Fisher, manager, reports:—The option is driving all cuts on the stannite lode, which show good faces of clean ore. The mine, so far as the stannite lode is concerned, is opening up splendidly, and will produce a good output when the smelters are ready. The smelters are being pushed ahead with all speed, and will be ready to start operations in five weeks from date. Bruce has not done quite so well, having been stuck up for water during the dry season; he is doing very much better now.

Mt. READ DISTRICT—Hercules Mine.—Mr. Claude H. Moxon, manager, reports:—During the past quarter vigorous productive operations have been carried on in most of the workings, also some developmental work completed; the results being entirely satisfactory as far as the quantities produced are concerned, but the

profits accrued have been naturally affected by the low metal values now being received. The mine is in good working condition, and in a satisfactory and apparently safe order. During the term the export of zinc-blende to Europe has been recommended; a fair quantity of this material is now available in our new ore-body, the "E" lode.

Tasmania Smelting Company.—The manager reports:—Ore bought during the quarter, 12,341·454 tons, containing—1849·482 tons lead, 225,297·76 ozs. silver, 1688·958 ozs. gold. Exported, 1841·109 tons bullion, containing 1771·498 tons lead, 212,973·83 ozs. silver, 1579·881 ozs. gold.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Magnet Mine.....	1884·73	£11,067	26

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Round Hill Mine.—Twenty-two tons won, value £139; eight men employed.

COPPER.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—The ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated during the quarter ending 31st March, 1909, were as follow:—

Ores and metal bearing fluxes treated at Reduction Works:—

	tons.	Dry weight.		
		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	67,418	10	0	18
North Lyell Mine ore	33,648	2	3	8
Purchased ore.....	63	15	1	16
	101,130	8	1	14
Metal-bearing fluxes:—				
North Lyell Mine.....	292	14	2	11
Total.....	101,423	2	3	25

Quantity and value of metal produced:—

	£	s.	d.
Blister Copper, 2120 tons, containing —			
Copper, 2093 tons, valued at	127,191	12	2
Silver, fine, 180,518 ozs., valued at.....	17,781	0	6
Gold, fine, 2989 ozs., valued at	12,703	5	0
Total.....	£157,675	17	8

Number of men employed :—

At the Company's	Mt. Lyell Mine	376
"	" North Lyell Mine.....	494
"	" Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	8
"	" Crotty Mine	6
		— 884
"	" Reduction Works.....	... 872
Railway Department—	Mt. Lyell Railway	141
"	" North Lyell Railway	20
		— 161
	Total.....	1917

Inspector Curtain reports :—

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company's Group.

Mount Lyell Mine.—In addition to the usual open-cut workings, operations have been resumed underground at "No. 6," i.e., below the drainage level, where a chamber preparatory to the erection of ore-bins is underway, that will be later connected with the self-tipping hoist, by which the chief portion of the mine's production is now raised to the level of the main storage bins. Other works on this portion of the property follow the usual routine, the daily average of pyrites despatched being 1000 tons.

North Lyell Mine.—Connections between the main and auxiliary (winze) shafts at the 1100-foot level are in progress, there being yet some 50 feet to complete the "circuit," when this portion of the mine will receive additional attention. An easterly crosscut is out some 180 feet in country that favours a continuation of similar ore (bornite) at this depth. Nos. 23 and 24 stopes at the 1000-feet, and 19, 20, 22, and 25 at the 850-foot levels, continue producing high-grade ore, their areas being somewhat extensive, e.g., a section of No. 20 has not yet reached the limit of production on the first, or ground floor, although a full compliment of men with rock-drills have been working on its many ramifications for the past two years. At the 700-foot level, 15, 16, 17, and the sub-stopess, contribute their quota to the daily average of the mine. An item of importance worthy of recording is that after driving (prospecting) some considerable distance on the "North Contact," at the 500-foot level, another "make" of high-grade ore was located that has every promise for this part of the mine.

Tharsis Mine.—Extractions continue from the 100 and 180-foot levels, where fine-grained bornite, typical of these schists, is still obtained from this part of the property.

Mechanical.—A series of electrically-driven plunger pumps have been installed that automatically (by floats) cope with the water, which, to the present, is fortunately almost a negligible quantity,

while at the auxiliary (winze) shaft preparations are being made to supplant the present hoist with one more powerful.

Reduction Works.—Smelting and converting continue as usual, the production of blister copper for the past half-year comparing favourably with those that precede it.

Mount Lyell Consols Copper Mines.—Mr. J. W. Carroll reports:—Since the resumption of operations on January 20, the main shaft has been sunk 50 feet; the chamber at No. 1 level completed; and the drive widened and extended a further distance of 30 feet; a steam winding hoist, with suitable poppet gear erected, and put into satisfactory commission; while operations are at present confined to necessary developmental work, with 24 workmen.

Lyell Extended and Crown Lyell Mines.—Mr. William Madden, residing at Linda, is the Tasmanian agent for both these mines, but to-date he has not supplied any official information regarding either of them. At the latter, diamond drilling is proceeding, a depth of 180 feet below the bottom of the main shaft having been attained, but with what results I am unable to stipulate. The work is being done by the Australasian Goldfields Exploration Company, under the direction of Mr. James Elliott, with three men.

Tasman and Crown Extended.—Mr. Edward Carter reports:—The contract drive east of the 70-feet intermediate was extended 50 feet through mineralised schist, from where another connection will be made with the sulphide lode on No. 2. The recently constructed horse-tram has been completed to the mine, from which the first parcel of ore is being despatched to the Tasmanian Company's smelters at Zeehan. Sixteen men are employed.

Mount Lyell Comstock Mine.—Mr. C. E. Coote reports:—Ninety-five feet has been driven in the low-level adit, with 8 men.

Darwin.—Mr. W. H. Taylour kindly supplies the following information:—Work on the Darwin Copper Syndicate continues, with three men, until their objective, the striking of the "contact," is accomplished.

NORTH DUNDAS DISTRICT.—The Ring Valley Mining Company obtained 58 tons of copper sulphides, valued at £796. Fourteen men employed.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

Murray's Reward.—Output, 254.55 tons; Copper, value £2852. Eighteen men employed.

COAL.

The output this quarter was 13,353·75 tons, against 14,137·5 tons the previous quarter. The output of the respective collieries was as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Cornwall Colliery	5852	60
Mt. Nicholas „	6191	70
Spreyton „	302	6
York Plains „	84	2
Wallsend „	924·75	45
Total	13,353·75	183

BISMUTH.

The *Shepherd and Murphy Company* obtained 1·25 tons of bismuth from its tin ore, valued at £450.

WOLFRAM.

The output of wolfram during the quarter was as follows:—

	Tons	£	Men.
Ben Lomond Tungsten Mine.....	2·8	252	3

BARIUM.

Mr. Inspector Curtain reports:—Bulk samples from the barium discovery on the North-east flank of Mt. Darwin have been forwarded home for the purpose of bringing it under notice, and thereby obtaining a satisfactory market for its disposal.

On *Howard's Plains*, and within a mile of the Mount Lyell Company's General Office, Mr. W. H. Wesley has obtained a reward section for this mineral which there abounds in quantity and quality.

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 31st March, 1909:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	708	...	708
North-Eastern	490	63	553
Eastern	365	33	398
North-Western	478	...	478
Western	3556	...	3556
Total	5597	96	5693

Value of mineral output per man:—£64 5s. 8½d.

Dividends paid by Mining Companies during the quarter ending
31st March, 1909:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines	<i>Nil</i>					
From Gold Mines.....	<i>Nil</i>					
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered.....	9000	0	0			
New Brothers' Home No. 1 T.M. Co., N.L.....	1500	0	0			
Purdue Tin Mines, N.L.....	375	0	0			
Montana Tin Prospecting Co.	240	0	0			
	<hr/>			11,115	0	0
From Silver Mines :						
Zeehan Montana Mine, L d.	2000	0	0			
Oonah S.M. Co., N.L.....	1060	0	0			
Hercules G. and S.M. Co., N.L.	2574	0	0			
	<hr/>			5634	0	0
From Coal Mines	<i>Nil</i>					
Total .....	...			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				£16,749	0	0