

MININD1910_2

THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1910.

COMPILED BY

W. H. WALLACE

SECRETARY FOR MINES

BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE A. E. SOLOMON

MINISTER FOR MINES



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1910.



PROGRESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA.

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE, 1910.

Hobart, 9th August, 1910.

THE following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 30th June, 1910, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1910:—

	During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1910.		During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
* Gold won oz.	8013·697	£ 34,040	11,132·073	£ 47,286
Silver-lead Ore produced tons	10,130·88	67,986	9570·36	44,514
† Blister Copper produced ..	2086	138,821	2183	152,446
Copper Ore and Copper produced	156·5	4010	48·85	1950
Tin Ore produced	859·84	88,964	740·56	74,407
Coal raised	21,157	10,084†	26,122	22,204
Wolfram Ore produced...	13·9	1456	15·1	1494
Bismuth	1·75	700	1·25	465
Osmiridium	120	530	...	...
...	...	346,591	...	344,766

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

‡ Value at pit's mouth.

GOLD.

During the past quarter, 2988·5 oz. of gold were obtained from quartz, 78·33 oz. from alluvial, 2071 oz. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, and 2912 oz. from blister copper from the Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, valued at £34,040.

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 1909, and the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1910:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1910.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1909.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1910.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Beaconsfield	2725·5	...	1831	...	...	4556·5	7557	6921·8
Mathinna ...	263	...	74	...	...	337	350	283·5
Mt. Victoria	}	58·33	...	...	...	58·33	164·25	8·5
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron	}	...	166	...	...	166	132·75	220·5
Lefroy								
Lisle	}	20	...	...	...	20	27·5	20
Lilydale.....								
Golconda ...	}	...	...	2912	...	2912	4270·46	3698·2
West Coast.								
TOTALS	2988·5	78·33	2071	2912	...	8049·83	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1909.....	7006·5	140·25	1099·75	2627	1628·46	...	12,501·96	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1910.....	4883·5	31·7	2542·3	3695	...	...	...	11,152·5

Value, £34,040; equal to 8,013·697 oz. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced.	Men employed.
	oz.	
Tasmania Mine	4153	533
Moonlight-cum-Wonder	5·5	4
Tasmanian Tailings Syndicate...	398	12
Total.....	4556·5	549

Tasmania Mine.—Fourteen thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven tons of quartz crushed, and 4153 oz. of gold obtained (by amalgamation and cyanide process), which makes a total of 847,230 tons quartz crushed, and 754,587 oz. gold obtained since the mine was first started. The lode has been cut at the 1370-foot level, and the sinking of Hart shaft below the 1250-foot level, and of Grubb shaft below the 1370-foot level, has been continued.

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

	Gold produced. oz.	Men employed.
Creek Cyanide	166	18

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

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

	Standard Gold. oz.
Dorset Dredge	5.5
S. Mt. Cameron T.M. Co.	8
Briseis Co.	39.06
New Brothers' Home No. 1 Co.	5.77
Total	58.33

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

	Quartz crushed. tons.	Sand treated. tons.	Gold produced. oz.	Men.
New Golden Gate	430	900	309	46
Others	21	...	28	26
Totals	451	900	337	72

WEST COAST.—Mr. Inspector Curtain reports:—

Davie Prospecting Association.—Mr. T. Davie reported:—During the quarter the drive from the bottom of the winze has been extended to a total of 72 feet, and passed over the pitch of the auriferous shoot of stone, in addition to which a shaft has been sunk 125 feet, or 60 feet below the lastmentioned level, where it is purposed to open out, in order to cut the continuity of this stone. Four men employed.

Alluvial Gold.—Both Mr. F. O. Henry's Gormanston and Queenstown branches report that no alluvial gold has been purchased during the quarter.

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

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	11.9	1190	33	...
North-Eastern Division.....	396.3	42,065	590	58
Eastern Division.....	74.6	7580	292	33
North-Western Division.....	289.31	29,943	413	...
Western Division.....	87.73	8186	135	...
Totals.....	<u>859.84</u>	<u>88,964</u>	<u>1461</u>	<u>91</u>

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	Ore won. tons.	Men employed.
		Europeans. Chinese.
Mt. Bischoff	260	333
Mt. Bischoff Extended	25.25	75
Weir's Bischoff Surprise.....	4.06	5
Totals.....	<u>289.31</u>	<u>413</u>

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine	69	96	...
Aberroe	5.5	7	...
Argus Tin Mine.....	6.7	16	...
South Mt. Cameron	27	40	...
Dorset	3.8	18	...
Purdue Tin Mine	17.55	16	...
Garibaldi.....	3.35	18	6
Other Claims	26.05	78	36
Totals.....	<u>158.95</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>42</u>

RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese
Various Claims.....	2.65	21	...

DERBY DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mines	165·95	146	...
New Brothers' Home, No. 1....	28	14	...
Clyde	·7	2	...
Other Derby Claims	2·1	15	6
Total	196·75	177	6

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine	11·35	36	...
New Ruby Flat	3	18	...
Other Claims	3·9	5	9
Total	18·25	59	9

MOORINA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Weld Tin Mine	5·5	6	...
Native Youth	4	6	...
Banca	4	8	...
Abbotsford	1·2	6	...
Other Moorina Claims	5	18	1
Total.....	19·7	44	1
<i>Total for North-Eastern Division</i>	<i>396·3</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>58</i>

EASTERN DIVISION.

<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Fancy Creek Co.	2·05	12	...
Bryce Bros.	4·75	6	...
Chinese	3·75	...	30
Other Claims	12·95	31	...
Total	23·50	49	30

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans. Chinese.	
<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>			
Anchor Mine	33·25	110	...
Emu	1·3	4	...
Poimena Claims	3	19	3
Total	37·55	133	3
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>			
C. Miller	·35	2	...
A. Williams	·85	6	...
J. C. Macmichael	2·3	8	...
M. Hartnett	·3	2	...
Cohen	·75	4	...
Others	2·9	14	...
Total	7·45	36	...
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>			
Storey's Creek Claims	1·75	40	...
Mt. Rex	2·4	7	...
Gipp's Creek	1·25	20	...
Other Claims	·7	7	...
Total	6·1	74	...
Total for Eastern Division	74·6	292	33

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine ...	11·9	33

WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Boulder	27·25	18
Renison Bell	40·5	55
Montana Tin Syn.	13·43	34
Various Claims	6·55	28
Total	87·73	135

Montana Tin Syndicate.—Mr. C. V. Westbrook, manager, reports:—A 10-head battery has lately been purchased, and will be erected as soon as the machinery necessary for same can be brought to the mine.

Boulder Tin Mine.—Mr. E. Flight, manager, reports:—The faces from which battery supplies are being drawn are maintaining their depth and value. New tables have been installed at the

old mill. Excavations are being taken out for a new 10-head battery. This work is nearing completion, and the erection of new mill will then be pushed ahead.

SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ore in the Western Division for the quarter ending 30th June, 1910, is given below:—

<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Men
Mt. Zeehan, Tas.	galena	92	£1149	35
Zeehan-Montana	"	872·4	15,039	180
Zeehan-Western	"	216·8	2154	30
Zeehan-Queen	"	8	186	6
Florence	"	91	733	51
South Nubeena	" .....	...	...	3
Sunrise	"	7·7	110	5
Maxim	"	7·2	40	3
Balstrup's	"	10	127	3
T. L. E.	"	3·7	26	3
New Mt. Zeehan	"	25·35	104	2
Oonah	"	20·7	190	4
"	iron pyrites.....	1294	1294	40
"	matte	723·5	19,834	206
South Comstock	galena	40	240	7
Queen Extended	"	21	286	4
<i>Dundas Mines:</i>				
North Jupiter	"	21·5	78	6
Hercules	zinc-blende	1813·56	4007	55
Comet	" .....	...	...	10
Mt. Zeehan, Tas.	" .....	...	...	32
<i>Rosebery Mines:</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	zinc-blende	100	1230	10
Primrose	" .....	...	...	8
N. Tasmanian Copper	" .....	...	...	5
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines:</i>				
Mackintosh	galena	27	378	4
Mt. Farrell	"	6	88	2
N. Mt. Farrell	"	661	4975	94
<i>North Pieman:</i>				
Chester Mine	pyrites	2132·47	882	43
<i>Mt. Lyell:</i>				
Tasman & Crown Lyell	Work temporarily suspended.			
<i>Sundries:</i>				
Tasmanian Smelting Co.	.....	...	...	45
Others .....	.....	...	...	93
Total		8194·88	£53,150	989

Zeehan-Montana.—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—Exploratory work is being carried on by driving north of the main slide at Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 levels. At Nos. 2, 3, and 4 levels the lode is of excellent value, and is practically maintaining the whole of the output from No. 1 shaft.

At No. 2 shaft the exploratory work is confined to driving south on No. 2 lode in the Zeehan-Queen property. Small bunches of rich galena ore are being met with, assays of which have given up to 75 per cent. lead and 103 oz. of silver.

A new lode has been found on the surface at a point south-westerly from No. 1 shaft in the flat ground, and on the north boundary of the company's property. The lode has been traced along the surface for a distance of 400 feet. A prospect shaft is being sunk on this lode, and preparations are being made to sink a vertical working-shaft on the boundary of this and the Zeehan-Western Company's property to further develop and work the lode, which appears to warrant the belief that it is likely to prove very productive.

Zeehan-Western.—Mr. John Craze, manager, reports:—A new lode having been discovered south of the main shaft, and on the boundary dividing the company's property from the Zeehan-Montana property, an incline prospecting shaft has been sunk on the lode to a depth of 76 feet. At that depth the water has been reached, and a drive has been driven north on the lode for a total distance of 60 feet. The lode is 18 inches wide, of good ore. We shall continue this drive for a time to further explore the lode, and if it continues to develop for a sufficient length as now showing, a vertical joint-shaft will be sunk by this and the Zeehan-Montana Company on the boundary of the two properties to work this part.

The prospects, as shown in the drive, are such as to warrant the belief that it is likely a new lease of life may be given to the old mine. Forty tons of marketable ore have been raised from this work, the average assay of the ore being 100 oz. of silver and 78 per cent. of lead. A considerable number of tributaries are still engaged in various parts of the mine, most of whom are making fair wages.

MT. DUNDAS DISTRICT.—Zeehan-Dundas, Limited.—Mr. T. H. Vincent, manager, reports:—Main shaft has been sunk 52 feet, when a burst of water was met with, necessitating the suspension of sinking until a larger boiler can be delivered on the mine by Government tramway now under construction. Meanwhile an adit-level is being driven from a point on the south boundary for surface-drainage and prospecting. Three new lodes have been cut, all carrying galena in payable quantities.

MT. REID DISTRICT.—Hercules Mine.—Mr. Claude H. Moxon, manager, reports:—The output of ore this quarter has been from the "E" lode, No. 4 level, where the main first, second, and third stopes are producing large quantities of high-grade zinc ore. Exploratory work has

been carried on in the west crosscut of the "E" rise, No. 3 level, where a 14-foot ore-body was met with at 41 feet, and a 6-foot seam of pyrrargyrite and fahl-ore at 76 feet; and also in the east crosscut at 5B level (50 feet below No. 4 level), which has been further extended 52 feet. An ore-body, presumably the "E," was met with at 211 feet, and has been penetrated 5 feet, the face now showing low-grade zinc-lead sulphide ore. All operations on the mine were suspended from the 19th May until the 21st June, owing to the failure of the controlling gear on the haulage tramway. Repairs have been effected and the plant is now in good working order. The usual surface works have been carried on, and the clearing of a site for the erection of treatment works at Williamsford completed.

ROSEBERY DISTRICT.—*Primrose*.—Mr. G. Barker, manager, reports:—The joint main adit and crosscut has been extended to 1419 feet. The main footwall of lode was cut at 1369 feet, 28 feet of highly mineralised schist, carrying small seams of sulphide, was passed through, and then solid zinc-lead sulphide was met with, and continued for 22 feet, when the hanging-wall was met with. This is an important development, as it proves the lode to be much wider than in the corresponding levels above (137 feet).

No. 5 rise has been put up and connected with No. 2 winze (No. 2 level). Ventilation of mine is perfect.

North Tasmania Copper.—Mr. G. Barker, manager, reports:—No. 1 level, No. 1 winze, sunk to a depth of 60 feet on the lode, the footwall of the lode showing sulphide ore the full width of the winze.

No. 2 level has been extended to 927 feet along the course of the lode. This level is in the Tasmania Copper Company's property; the boundary will be reached in another 100 feet of driving.

MT. FARRELL DISTRICT.—*Mackintosh Mine*.—Mr. J. Geddes, manager, reports:—Stoping between Nos. 2 and 3 rises has been broken out to intermediate. Other stopes poor; discontinued same. The past three weeks have been confined to driving north end and tunnelling. North end extended to 65 feet. Lode 4 feet wide, of no value. Treated at North Farrell mill 60 tons, and obtained 14 tons of ore and $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons of firsts.

North Mt. Farrell Mine.—During the half-year ending April 30, 10,187 tons of crude ore were mined and $738\frac{1}{4}$ tons of concentrates produced, averaging 51.03 oz. silver per ton and 57.14 per cent. lead. In addition, 370 tons of first-class ore were won, averaging 66.19 oz. silver per ton and 59.63 per cent. lead, making a total of 1108 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons marketable ore. Of the output of crude ore, 9097 tons were obtained from the stopes, and 1090 tons in the course of developmental operations.

The greater part of the ore has been obtained from the No. 3 lode, which carries relatively low values.

At the No. 5 level the No. 3 lode has been opened up north and south, averaging 3 to 5 feet of payable milling ore. The ore-body at this level has proved to be much smaller than at the level above, and carries very little firsts, but the stopes above the level show signs of improvement in widths. The mine manager estimates the block of ground between the Nos. 5 and 4 levels as containing 8650 tons of ore.

Tasmania Smelting Company.—Mr. H. Harris, manager, reports:—Ore bought during the quarter, 1396 tons, containing 419 tons lead, 59,237 oz. silver, 129 oz. gold.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Magnet Mine.....	1936	£14,836	127
Mt. Jasper Mine .....	...	...	15
Victoria Magnet .....	...	...	5
			<u>147</u>

Magnet Mine.—Mr. E. A. De Lautour, manager, reports:—Tramway.—Two thousand and eighteen tons have been hauled over our line, portion going to New South Wales, and the remainder to Europe. Mill.—Four thousand one hundred and ninety-one tons have been treated for a return of 359 tons of concentrates. Mine.—The most important work of the quarter has been the sinking of the main shaft to No. 9 level and the finding of the lode, which is 75 feet wide, 15 feet being firsts, 45 feet seconds, and 15 feet low-grade ore. The high-grade quality of the ore is well maintained, samples of galena assaying 80 per cent. lead and 210 oz. silver.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Devon Mine	4

COPPER.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—The ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated during the quarter ending 30th June, 1910, were as follow:—

Ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated at Reduction Works:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwt.	qr.	lb.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	63,876	15	2	9
North Lyell Mine ore	36,959	2	0	24
Purchase ore	59	17	3	6
	<u>100,895</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>

Quantity and value of metal produced :—

	£	s.	d.
B blister Copper, 2086 tons, containing —			
Copper, 2061 tons, valued at	121,920	10	4
Silver, fine, 165,021 ozs., valued at.....	16,900	18	0
Gold, fine, 2912 ozs., valued at	12,376	0	0
Total.....	£151,197	8	4

Number of men employed :—

At the Company's Mt. Lyell Mine	366
" " North Lyell Mine.....	408
" " Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	4
" " Crotty.....	11
	— 789
" " Reduction Works.....	... 930
Railway Department—Mt. Lyell Railway	135
" " North Lyell Railway...	18
	— 153
Total.....	1872

Mr. Inspector Curtain reports :—

Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company's Group.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—At the Open-cut work continues as usual. The pyritic supply, however, is being steadily augmented by ore again won from Nos. 6, 7, and 8 levels, that are all below the present water-level of the mine. The chief work in connection with these levels is their connection with the main underlie shaft, which, when another 35 feet is completed from No. 8, will bring the whole in touch with the brace and main bins that supply the smelters. The total vertical height from the crown of No. 0 bench to the floor of No. 8 level will be approximately 800 feet, 240 feet of which is again confined to underground mining.

North Lyell Mine.—At the 1100-feet level, in addition to 35 and 36 stopes, two others have been opened on the south drive from the eastern crosscut, while the "pitch" of 23 stope has been ascertained and opened upon from an "intermediate" over the north drive from the winze and main shaft crosscut; the balance of the higher workings, apart from extractions, remaining similar to that reported last quarter, which also refers to the smelters.

Mt. Lyell Consols Copper Mines, No Liability.—Mr. J. W. Carol reports :—The work done is as follows :—Rising 400 feet, driving 820 feet, crosscutting 46 feet. The ore raised and treated and

concentrates recovered amounted to 7186 tons of cupriferous clays, and yielded 77 tons 10 cwt. 0 qrs. 25 lb., worth £2800. The average number of men employed was 90.

Mt. Lyell Blocks Mining Company.—Mr. R. Ferguson reports:—No production has been made, as the work has been confined to the Consols tunnel. This has been cleaned out and repaired for a further distance of 260 feet, or a total of 2030 feet, where a chamber has been started, and is well in progress to take an engine-hoist for the purpose of sinking a main shaft. The power to be used will be compressed air, a plant to supply which, with the necessary main and receiver, having been erected and put into commission during the past quarter, with 17 men.

Mt. Lyell Comstock Copper Company, Limited.—Mr. Charles E. Cootes reports:—One hundred and eighty feet of driving, 14 feet of rising, and 28 feet 6 inches, or a total of 222 feet 6 inches, has been accomplished, with 17 men.

Jukes and Darwin.—*Darwin Copper Syndicate.*—Mr. J. Souter reports:—Work has principally been confined to extending the "contact drive" in a northerly direction for a distance of 70 feet. Veins of galena, with copper and iron pyrites, were met with. Two crosscuts are to be started easterly, in order to prove the large body of mineralised schist that has been passed through; 2 men employed.

Jukes Proprietary.—Mr. Walter Donath reports:—Work was suspended in this mine on the 20th of April, after having put the track in order from Crotty, rebuilt a camp (with blacksmith's shop and other accessories), cleaning out of the winze and adits; with 17 men.

He also reports that it is contemplated working this property in conjunction with the Lake Jukes Mines, when the new leases are granted for the last-named property.

Prospectors.—Mr. William McDonough, the original discoverer of the Mt. Lyell Mine, has been here, formed an association, and is at present out in the direction of Mt. Sedgewick and the Eldon Ranges.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	±	Men employed.
Murray's Reward	79	1210	17
Others (estimated) .....	...	...	50
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 1210	<hr/> 67
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

COAL.

The output this quarter was 21,157 tons, against 26,122 tons the previous quarter. The output of the respective collieries was as follows:—

Colliery	Tons raised.	Value at mine.	Men employed.
Cornwall Colliery	8967	£4035	85
Mt. Nicholas „	7821	3519	80
Enterprise „	230	100	3
Cardiff „	40	18	2
Spreyton „	484	314	9
Illamatha „	70	35	2
York Plains „	154	100	2
Mount Cagnet „	410	279	8
Wallsend „	2776	1596	72
Ida Bay „	20	10	3
Colebrook „	185	78	9
Total	<u>21,157</u>	<u>10,084</u>	<u>275</u>

OSMIRIDIUM.

One hundred and twenty ounces of osmiridium were purchased by Mr. A. J. Spotswood, Zeehan, during the quarter, for £530. Obtained by 20 men.

BISMUTH.

The Shepherd and Murphy Company obtained 1·75 tons of bismuth from its tin ore, valued at £700.

WOLFRAM.

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

	Tons.	£	Men.
Avoca Mines.....	7·25	725	...
Shepherd and Murphy Mine	6·65	731	...
	<u>13·9</u>	<u>1456</u>	<u>...</u>

Gipps Creek Mines.—Mr. Inspector Griffin reports:—The whole of the work being done on the creek at the present time is on the Wolfram lodes. There are three of these in parallel line outcropping on the hillside east of the creek. They are rather thin seams, the thickness being from 10 to 16 inches. They dip at a low angle of about 35° to the south-east. Briggs and Smith worked

these lodes some years ago and obtained good payable ore, so long as the demand for the metal kept up to from £60 to £80 per ton. The market went down and the field was abandoned for some considerable time. A revival took place with the rise in the price of the metal this year. Scott and Williams went out in January; others followed, and there are now 16 men working on the wolfram, all close together. A 20-acre section would probably cover the whole area. The outcropping of the lodes, however, has been traced for nearly a mile and a half to the north. The ground now being worked is held in 5-acre leases, as follows:—

(1) No. 4517.—Stanley and others (Briggs' old camp); idle at present.

(2) Lease No. 4709.—Baily, Park, and Hays; 3 men working on this.

(3) Application for lease by J. F. Egan; notice posted dated 2nd March, 1910. The lode is now being worked by the Egan Bros., sons of the applicant, and also by Oliver and Dudgeon, who say they hold a tribute from Egan (Sen.) About seven bags of wolfram have been obtained so far. Oliver and Dudgeon are only commencing.

(4) Lease 4706.—Johns. No work on this just now. The Johns Bros. are opening a lode a mile further north, for tin and wolfram.

(5) Lease 4635.—Stanley, Scott, Williams, and Eberhard; four men working on this.

(6) Lease 4710.—Baily and Gunton working this. Some men were absent at time of my visit. The total number of men on the field is 16. Five of these are married, and have their wives and 13 children at the camp.

Method of Working.—The method of working is crude, indeed. The lodes being so flat, a good deal of the outcrop can be exposed by open-cut down on to the hanging-wall. When rock to be removed in this way gets too deep, underhand stoping is resorted to; short adits are driven to the dip in places, and the stone is stoped to the rise. This mode was all right at first, but now that the work is getting deeper, and drainage has to be provided for, things are not so easy. The stone when broken is burned in wood piles; a frame is made of fine wood (pigstye fashion), with a grating of wood at the bottom; the stone is placed in this, with a few more pieces of wood added; the pile is then fired. When the stone is roasted it is broken small with hammers, and then sluiced in ordinary tin sluice-boxes, and then streamed. By this means a good percentage of the oxide, dressed up to 70 units, is obtained. No machinery has so far been introduced. There is some talk of getting rollers, or some kind of grinding-pans; but where men are working mates in parties of twos and threes, it is not easy to see how they are to come together and provide a common reduction plant.

If wolfram only maintains anything like its present market value, there is plenty of scope for development in the Ben Lomond field. So far, the lodes have only been scratched on the outcrops, even at Storey's Creek, where the main lode was worked by a company nine years ago; the depth worked to did not reach 100 feet. I estimate that with the present system of working not more than 60 per cent. of the wolfram oxide is recovered. If men working singly or in small parties, as above, can by such primitive methods as are in use earn from 50s. to 60s. per week per man—and I believe they are doing this at least—then what better results might be obtained with improved mining and milling facilities.

Storey's Creek Camp.—At this place 39 men are working as mates, in parties of twos and threes. Operations are carried on on the tin and wolfram lodes worked by a company some years ago. All the parties are working close together, round about the old camp and adit entrance to the main lode.

The leases held are:—Twenty acres, in name of John Ward (number unknown), on which 12 men are employed. Some of these are on tribute, and portion is worked by the owner and his brother and sons.

James Hall, 5-acre lease, south and adjoining John Ward.—On this section five tribute parties (11 men in all) are working; also the owner, and his partner (J. T. Meehan).

South of above.—One-acre lease, held by William Blair, on which his four sons are working.

The next to the south is 10 acres held by Donald McLeod, on which three men are working.

To the north of the above workings is a 10-acre section held by Donald McLeod, on which two men are working. The lode here is parallel to the main lode, and on the west side of it.

Alex. Meehan has a 5-acre section east and adjoining the above. On this two men are working on the main lode; the outcrop is lost at this point.

Three men are engaged prospecting.

The methods of working and of recovering the wolfram are exactly the same as those employed at Gipps Creek. The main lode is, however, a little thicker, up to 2 feet 6 inches in places, and carries payable tin as well as wolfram. In some places the tin is very rich, and a bag or two of the ore is often obtained from a comparatively small section of the stone. The lodes here are flat. The strike is north and south, with underlay to the west.

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending 30th June, 1910:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	732	...	732
North-Eastern	590	58	648
Eastern	534	33	567
North-Western	647	...	647
Western	3126	...	3126
Total	5609	91	5720

Value of mineral output per man:—£60 11s. 10·2d.

Dividends paid by Mining Companies during the quarter ending 30th June, 1910:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines:—						
Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Co. Lim....	105,000	0	0	105,000	0	0
From Tin Mines:—						
Mt. Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered.....	9000	0	0			
Montana Tin Prospecting Co.	300	0	0			
New Bros. Home Co.,	1500	0	0	10,800	0	0
Total .....	...			£115,800	0	0