

GOLD.

An intimation was received on Saturday by the manager of the Royal Tasman Company, from the Commissioner of Goldfields, to the effect that Mr Cunningham had reported to the Government that the cost of putting the road from Ringarooma to North Mount Cameron by the shortest route—branching from Deep Creek—in such a state as would enable machinery to be carted over it would be £425. The Minister of Lands desired to know whether the companies interested would contribute one-third of the cost, as in case of their acquiescence in this proposal he would call a meeting of the Cabinet on Monday, and have the remaining amount passed as an emergency vote, so that the work could be commenced without delay. A meeting of the directors of all the companies interested in the North Mount Cameron goldfield has therefore been convened for ten o'clock this morning, at the Mechanics' Institute, and the result of their deliberation will be communicated without delay to the Commissioner, who will forward it to the Minister of Lands. We may mention that the reason why this apparently hurried course has been taken is that two members of the Cabinet—the Premier and Col. Secretary, leave Hobart this evening en route for the meeting of the Intercolonial Congress at Sydney on Thursday next.

NINE-MILE SPRINGS.

West Claim.—The battery resumed crushing after the holidays on Tuesday last, 4th inst., and on Friday the mining manager reported that the full 15 head had since been kept employed night and day, and the mine was looking as well as ever. The first scraping of the plates will be made on Saturday next, 15th inst.

MINNAW.

Star of the West.—The mining manager reports on 6th inst. :—I am still sinking and have struck some more rich leaders at from 32 to 36 feet. I have now passed through seven feet of rich leaders and porphyry, and the ground is improving the deeper we get. I expect to strike a large body of quartz at about 50 feet. I should think there is quite enough payable stone to warrant the company putting up a battery at once.

NORTH MOUNT CAMERON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I need scarcely state that during the holiday little or nothing was done here in the shape of advancing mining operations, old hands and new, too, are returning, and the various mining managers are getting their "forces" into working order, and energetic action is the order of the day. The old spirit of gold "hunting" is apparent, and every person here feels that successful and profitable mining at North Mount Cameron is assured, and that when the result of the first crushing on the ground is known, the excitement throughout Tasmania will exceed

the first crushing on the ground is known, the excitement throughout Tasmania will exceed that hitherto experienced.

At the Royal Tasman the manager is arranging matters in something like methodical order. immense "paddocks" are being formed to contain golden stone, extensive preparations are being made for conducting mining operations on a comprehensive scale, and matters generally give evidence even to a novice that the manager of the Royal Tasman knows he has an exceedingly valuable property to superintend, and is preparing his plans with discrimination, and with a view of considerably extending his works as opportunity admits. A new shaft has been commenced—north of No. 1 about four chains—and shows better prospects than any previously disclosed; for the reef is fully 12ft wide, yielding better golden stone than any seen before, as I am assured by Mr Anderson that he has seen better stone the last few days than that sent as a trial crushing, and which he put through the battery at Sandhurst for the Royal Tasman Company.

Preparations are about being initiated for the erection of a battery on this Company's claim, and I learn that tenders have been invited for the supply of all necessary machinery; which, it is hoped, will be not only delivered, but erected ready for the first autumn rains, when a great stimulus will be given to the working of all claims on this line of reef, and a large demand set in for promoters' interests, as all offer fair inducements for speculation.

No. 1 North Royal Tasman.—The manager, Mr McAviston, has with his men commenced the new year with mining vigour, being hopeful for the future of mining operations on his Company's claim. He is now busy erecting the necessary huts, and expects to resume prospecting early.

At the Deskford work has again started.

On the Fly-by-Night trenching is still being pushed on with more or less success. I believe operations soon will be confined to opening out the immense body of stone thought to be a continuation of the Royal Tasman reef. Great facilities are afforded for cross-cutting the reef at from 80ft to 100ft deep, and without having to drive far before striking it; and it seems to me this would be the most successful and economical mode of procedure. An approach cutting is being made with a view of driving an adit on the Royal Standard line of reef, which has been opened in numerous places on this Company's ground. With such an immense quantity (30 acres) of ground as the Fly-by-Night Company has to operate on, one is led to anticipate great and profitable results.

Royal Standard Claim.—Work on this claim has not yet been resumed, but the manager is daily expected to return from his holiday tour, when mining proper will doubtless be pushed on vigorously.

On the other claims there is nothing doing at present, but I believe work will be again commenced on W. Pinnington's—next Royal Standard, Heyward's—on the Royal Tasman line of reef; Percy's, R. Osborne's, Pyke's, and other claims.

During the holidays we were visited by the directors and legal manager of the Royal Tasman claim, who during the greater part of two days made a close examination of this and other claims, and notwithstanding they had "tall" notions of what they expected to see on their arrival at North Mount Cameron, their anticipations were more than realised after a close examination of the prospects revealed on the various claims.

January 5.

MATHINNA.

MATHINNA.

City.—In the south stope, about 10ft from the winze, there is a fine body of stone 2ft wide, and extending about 30ft, when the country becomes softer. The mining manager will wash up this week, when 100 tons will have been crushed.—*Mercury.*