

### GOLD.

The result of the trial crushing at Beaconsfield of two tons of quartz from the Blue Bell section, Mussel Roe, was received in town yesterday. The stone was taken from two distinct reefs, both close to the old Blue Bell reef, and running parallel with it. One reef is 2½ ft wide, and the other—44 yards away—3½ ft wide, and a ton of quartz was taken from each. The result of the crushing is that 10z 5dwt of gold was obtained from one sample, and between 8 and 9dwt from the other. The claim is now known as Campbell's lease, and is being prospected by Mr M'Lean. Four reefs have up to the present time been discovered there, all within a short distance of each other. The old Blue Bell reef itself is said to be 2½ ft wide, and showing gold. Another small quantity of quartz will shortly be tested from a reef 30 ft away from and running parallel with one of those from which the recent sample was obtained. We are informed that the stone recently crushed weighed barely two tons, consequently with full weight the average would have been greater. The blanketings have yet to be tested.

The directors of the West Chum Extended Company, Nine-Mile Springs, have decided to erect a whim on this claim. The contractors have completed the sinking of the shaft to 110 ft, and it is intended to sink to a further depth before opening out. A call of sixpence per share has been made on the shares in the company, payable on Saturday next.

A third call has been made upon the shares of the Duke of Argyle Company, payable on Friday next.

The following mining meetings are announced for the 31st inst:—New Native Youth, Eureka, and East New Chum.

The first call of 3½ per share has been made on the shares of the North Tasman Company, payable February 3.

We understand that the directors of the Derwent Company, whose claim lies between the Gorge and the Blue Tier, have decided to raise a trial crushing of some 20 or 30 tons from the reef, and have it tested at one of the Beaconsfield public batteries. Operations were commenced some time ago on this claim, but latterly work has been suspended, owing to shortness of funds.

The *Mercury* records the fact that Mr Pike has purchased 2oz gold from Mr Strong, of Port Cygnet, at £3 12s 6d per ounce. It is stated that the gold was the result of one week's work.

### BLUE TIER.

*Victoria.*—The mining manager reports under date the 21st inst:—The tunnel has been extended 20 ft since last report, making a total of 240 ft. with good ground

has been extended 20 ft since last report, making a total of 240 ft, with good ground still in the face. I expect to cut in about 170 feet the stone they have cut in the Gladstone, which will be about 80 feet from the Victoria reef.

### BEACONSFIELD.

*Florence Nightingale.*—The mining manager writes under date the 21st inst:—“We are making fair progress with the driving, the ground having changed to a more favourable character. Should it keep as it is, if we do not strike the reef by Saturday night we shall by that time be close to it. We passed through several leaders showing gold, and I send you some stone from one of them.” These samples are on view at Mr R. H. Price's office.