

## MINING NEWS.

### GOLD.

The directors of the United Chum Company met on the 30th ult., and decided in consequence of the valuable nature of the reef which was cut a few days ago in their claim, to at once purchase machinery for working the mine. They are now making arrangements for the purchase of a complete winding and pumping plant, also a 10-head battery, with sufficient engine power to drive another 20-head of stampers. In the meantime one of the batteries now at Lefroy will crush whatever stone is ready.

In another column appears the prospectus of the Chum Chum Gold Mining Company, which is to be formed for the purpose of mining on a ten-acre section, but one remove from the East Chum Company's property on the Chum line of reef, Lefroy. We are informed that very encouraging prospects have been obtained, and the general success of claims on this line of reef warrant the proprietors in placing it before the public. The capital is represented by 80 promoters' scrips, each carrying 250 shares, 40 of which are offered to the public at £25 each. Mr T. C. Just is the agent.

A meeting of shareholders in the newly formed United Chum Extended Gold Mining Company is called for 3 o'clock this afternoon at Mr Just's mart, Charles-street, when proposals will be submitted for the immediate commencement of mining operations.

The amalgam obtained from the 1795 tons of stone crushed at the Tasmania battery yielded 1661oz of retorted gold, valued at £6228 15s, being an average of 18dwts 12 grains to the ton. The alluvial amalgam yielded 186 x 13dwts of retorted gold, valued at £699 18s 9d. The gold was brought to town on Saturday evening, and lodged in the Commercial Bank. The battery, 50-head stampers, was started again on Friday evening, crushing stone from the Tasmania mine.

The acting manager reports that no scraping of the plates of the West New Chum Company took place on Saturday last, owing to the cleaning up taking place next Wednesday.

The directors of the Royal Tasman Gold Mining Company arrived from Gladstone by the p.s. Avon early yesterday morning, bringing with them the first cake of gold from the Company's claim. The cake (which will be on view at Mr Alex. Webster's establishment, Charles-street, to-day) weighs 467½oz, and is the produce from 322 tons of stone, being at the rate of 1oz 9½wt 0½gr to the ton. The cleaning up on last Friday morning gave 578oz of amalgam, prin-

cipally from the boxes, the plates and ripples having been scraped on the previous Wednesday. This amount, added to 1320oz already obtained at the first cleaning up and from periodical scrapings of the plates, etc., gave a total of 1898oz of amalgam, which was retorted on Saturday morning, the process being completed just in time to permit of the directors leaving at half-past one o'clock p.m. for Ringarooma Port, where they at once embarked on board the Avon. It will be seen from these figures that the amalgam yielded about one-fourth gold. That there has been no attempt to pick the stuff put through the 15-head battery is acknowledged by all who have been watching operations during the last month, the universal testimony being that quartz, sandstone, and all the debris from the drives have been impartially trucked to the hoppers and the whole passed into the battery. Had quartz only been crushed the yield of gold would have been greater. The manager states that he has experienced considerable difficulty with the amalgam, owing, as he believes, to the presence of some foreign mineral which interferes with free amalgamation, and suffers gold to pass away the blanketings and tailings, which will require special treatment. These, as previously stated, are all being saved. The blanketings are washed every hour and the residue carefully stacked, while the tailings are collected in a settling dam. However, when the percussion tables ordered from Victoria are fixed the pyrites, which have been proved to be extraordinarily rich in gold, as well as any free gold passing over the tables, will be effectually separated from the sand, and in this concentrated form can be readily treated. Judging from the experiments already made by professional assayers and on the claim itself with the pyrites and sand, a rich return may be reasonably anticipated. The fact is the stone is different in character to any yet met with in this or the other colonies, and will require special treatment in order to extract all the gold it contains in one form and another. This is stated to be the opinion of Mr Thureau and other experts who have had opportunities of examining it and viewing crushing operations. We are informed that the stone in the south drive on the main reef is looking very well, carrying good gold; also that the No. 2 or parallel reef is a solid, well-defined body of stone, fully 6ft in width, carrying gold from wall to wall of a superior quality to that found in the main reef. The manager does not hesitate to state that this is the best part of the Royal Tasman claim yet discovered. A tunnel is to be driven at once to intersect this reef, and this will

once to intersect this reef, and this will give 100ft of back. In its immediate vicinity is a good payable surface wash several feet in depth, which will all be put through the battery when the tunnel is ready. As soon as practicable the No. 3 or cross reef lately discovered near the battery site, and running into the Royal Mint claim, will be further prospected. Though only the cap of the reef has been broken into, the stone gives excellent prospects of superior gold. The reef is about 5ft in width. Notwithstanding the first crushing has not come up to the sanguine expectations of some persons, all who have inspected the claim agree that it is one of the most valuable mining properties in Tasmania.

A visitor to the Royal Mint claim, Gladstone, writes on 30th Sept. :—" I have just paid a visit to the Royal Mint. The battery-house is a commodious structure, and the engine (a new one) and crushing plant of 15-heads (formerly the property of the Laura Company) have been erected in a most substantial and workmanlike manner by Mr Hicks. At present Mr Pilbeam, one of the directors, is in charge of the claim, pending the appointment of a manager, *vice* Mr J. G. Payne, resigned, and he most courteously afforded my friend and myself every opportunity of inspecting it and the machinery. Whilst we were there steam was got up, and the engine set in motion.

It worked very smoothly, and owing to the solid manner in which the horses and foundations have been constructed, there was scarcely any vibration. Crushing operations will commence in about ten days, and there is some very good stone already in paddock ready for putting through. The tramway from the tunnel to the machinery site is all but completed. Water will be obtained from Deep Creek. A race has been cut for a distance of a mile and a half, but to ensure a constant supply throughout the dry season, the race will have to be continued a total distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, so as to tap Deep Creek higher up. The dam, which is only a short distance above the battery-house, will be finished in a day or two, the race being quite ready. This dam is 40ft by 50ft, and 8ft in depth, and it is calculated it will store a supply of water sufficient for all purposes. The tunnel is in 215ft, and a drive has been put in both ways on the course of the reef, also a short drive near where a cross-reef came in. In this drive the reef is about 18in in width. At haphazard I broke out a small piece of stone of a bluish white hue, and on crushing it afterwards obtained a fair prospect of fine gold of rich quality, though previously I could not detect a colour in the quartz. From the stone

though previously I could not detect a colour in the quartz. From the stone lying round the main shaft I picked up a number of pieces containing gold visible to the naked eye. Stone of similar character is to be seen at two other shafts on the line of reef."

A meeting of the promoters in Whyte and De Little's lease will be held at the office of Mr O. Meredith this evening, at 7-30, to adopt rules and regulations, elect officers, etc.

Holders of transfers in the Panama and Nelson Amalgamated Company are requested to deposit the same with the manager.

Mr Alex. Corrie publishes a letter asking the shareholders of the West New Chum Company to suspend their judgment, and not pledge their votes until they hear the charges and the answer to them. He states that he wants nothing but fair play.

Miners are wanted for the Mount Bischoff Silver-Lead Company.

Mining managers and others report as under :—

#### GLADSTONE.

*North Mint.*—Sept. 28—In accordance with my last report I have opened out the No. 1 lode close to the battery site. I have cut it in three places, and it crops out on the surface for at least a hundred feet that I know of. It is a well-defined lode, and is from three to four feet wide, and underlies towards the west. The stone is highly mineralized, and some portions are actually blue with arsenical pyrites. This is a new feature in the district, as all the other lodes are remarkably free from minerals as yet. I have obtained some very fair prospects from some of the stone, and am now engaged in sinking a shaft 6ft by 3ft in the clear, and on the line, and will open out at a depth of 50ft. On the No. 2 lode or dyke I have been obtaining some really magnificent prospects of what I should think is first-class quality gold, judging from its colour and appearance. I have not yet decided which is the best portion of the lode to sink upon, but will continue prospecting until I find the best place. It is peculiar stone in appearance, and no one would imagine that it carried gold until they crushed some.

*Deskford.*—Sept. 28—I have to report for the week that I have driven 10ft, making a total distance of 74ft. Since my last report we struck some quartz, and it opened out in the bottom of the drive to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide, and has every appearance of making larger as it goes down. It was a very short shoot, about only 4ft long. I shall soon be in far enough with the drive to put in a cross-cut to see if the reef is in the west or east side of the drive.

*Grand Flaneur.*—Sept. 28—I have

**Grand Flaneur.**—Sept. 28—I have sunk the shaft 14ft further, through very promising country. The prospects are favourable, as the ground has got much better for sinking, and the country is dipping to the westward. The shaft is making a good deal of water. Should the water increase I would advise the sinking of the present shaft to a depth of 120ft before opening out for the reef. At that depth I believe the hard bar met with at the 50ft level will have cut out, and from the present clear country we are sinking in we should cut a solid body of quartz. I cut a large leader in the shaft to-day, the stone in which is impregnated with pyrites. The present depth of the shaft is 91ft, and well timbered throughout.

(From a Correspondent.)

Several directors of the Royal Tasman Gold Mining Company arrived here between 5 and 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, to inspect the mine and plant, and to be present at the cleaning up, which takes place on Friday. The retorting will take place on Saturday morning. The party arrived in Campbell's wagon, and consisted of Messrs. Alex. Webster (Chairman of the Company), Wm. Aikenhead, F. K. Fairthorne, and M. Nathan (directors). Messrs. O. W. Windsor and Wm. Ritchie accompanied them. They return to Launceston by the p. s. Avon on Saturday afternoon with the cake of gold.

The directors visited the battery the same evening they arrived, and were highly pleased with the thoroughly substantial manner in which Mr Leonard J. Anderson has erected the plant. Everything is in excellent working order, the stampers going continuously and with a regular ring which at once arrests the attention. To-day the directors have been busy inspecting the tunnels and workings, the shaft on the parallel reef, the settling pit and dam, besides making a more minute examination of battery house, machinery, etc., than they could possibly manage at night. The result of their inspection, I understand, fully confirmed their first impressions as to the care, ingenuity and foresight exercised by the mining manager. In the main reef there is a fine strong body of stone; it is this which is being passed through the battery, together with a good deal of poor looking stuff. It is quite clear that there is no picking of stone, but everything is being put through just as it comes out of the tunnel. It will therefore be a most fair and impartial test of the main reef. But the reef which the manager deems to regard as the best is the No. 2 or parallel reef, on which a shaft 63ft in depth has been sunk. This is a fine solid body of stone averaging fully 6ft in width, and carrying gold of a much richer quality than that in the main reef. A tunnel is to be put into this reef as soon as possible; but the machinery, and the position of the reefs, tunnels, and the measurements have already been published from time to time in the *Examiner*, so it is unnecessary to recapitulate them. The battery is working continuously and well, but the manager is very anxious to have the percussion tables, as at present he has considerable trouble with the amalgam, and in saving the pyrites and fine free gold. The stone is admitted by experts—including, I am informed, Mr Thureau—to be very peculiar in its character, though undoubtedly rich in gold and

Mr Thureau—to be very peculiar in its character, though undoubtedly rich in gold and pyrites. What the yield from the first crushing will be, no one can tell until the boxes are opened, but the general opinion seems to be that it will go about 3lbs to the ton, which, under all circumstances, will be a very handsome return. However, your readers will know all about it, I presume, from Monday's *Examiner*.

Mr Thureau is busily engaged here, and it is rumoured that he entertains a high opinion of the mineral resources of the district, both as regards gold and tin. He has been examining the granite country, and is now visiting the gold mining claims. He has been working on them from the north, and has finished the Progress, North Extended Tasman, and North Tasman claims. The Royal Tasman comes next.

(By a Visitor.)

The cleaning up at the battery of the Royal Tasman Company after its first month's crushing was an event looked forward to with great interest throughout the colony, and even beyond

it, and attracted a large number of visitors to Mount Cameron towards the close of last week. The anticipations which had been entertained were generally so sanguine, and in some cases so extravagant, that it was quite evident to dispassionate onlookers that no reasonable yield would satisfy the expectations of a large portion of those who had any considerable stake in the result. Such shareholders had none but themselves to blame if they felt disappointed, for Mr Chaffey, the discoverer of the mine, and by far the largest shareholder, had repeatedly expressed his opinion that the yield would not be, on the average, more than from two to three ounces per ton, and that it would be absurd to expect the five or ten ounces per ton commonly talked about. In these cases "the wish is father to the thought," and those who make haste to get rich often try to salve their sores after a fall by attempting to cast the blame on others and proving, to themselves at least, that they are poor deluded mortals, the victims of misplaced confidence. The yield of 467oz of retorted gold from 322 tons of stone was quite sufficient to stamp the mine as being, *prima facie*, a great and qualified success on its merits. And when it is considered that the stone is rich in pyrites, and that this pyrites, already proved to be rich in gold, is reserved for future treatment, and will almost certainly add very appreciably to the handsome yield now in hand, the shareholders should congratulate themselves upon their prospects. It is well-known to those who take a general interest in mining that very few indeed of the quartz gold mines of Victoria yield an average of 1oz 9dwt of gold per ton, which is the result, without taking into account the pyrites, from the Royal Tasman crushing. In fact I may venture to say that there is scarcely a quartz mine in the Ballarat and Sandhurst districts which gives anything like such a yield, and that the average throughout Victoria is little more than from seven to eight dwts per ton. It must be borne in mind that the Royal Tasman mine, although only prospected to a limited extent, already shows two large, strong, and well-defined reefs, with very promising indications of a third. The two proved reefs can be worked at a very moderate cost by means of tunnels driven into the hill along which they take their course, and which will give upwards of 100ft of backs; this may be estimated to supply ample stone for some years to give employment to a large battery than that now



supply ample stone for some years to give employment to a larger battery than that now possessed by the Company, before there will be any necessity for erecting pumping and winding machinery to sink below the adit levels. There is nothing in the preceding remarks which is intended to be apologetic for a yield with which many appeared to be dissatisfied. The Visitor could not help feeling amused at the various phases of character presented by those who were subjected to the ordeal of waiting upon the cleaning up. There was "the fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy," who had worked out in the most satisfactory way how much amalgam there was to be and how much gold it would give, and who before the fatal day was full of jibes and quiddities, but after the result became certain was like poor Yorick, "quite chop-fallen." There were those who had been influenced by the sanguine expectations of others, and participated in some degree in their disappointment, although they were soon reassured; and there were those who were thoroughly satisfied with the outcome of the crushing, but whose contentment was in a measure marred by the reprimands of the over-sanguine.

Mr Thureau is at present at Mount Cameron, and appears to be highly pleased with the mineral character of the district, which he seems to regard as one of the most promising he has yet seen in these colonies. That the district is likely to become of great importance as a gold-field is sufficiently indicated by the recent crushing and by the number of quartz reefs discovered in the short period that has elapsed since attention was turned to them, and of which several have been proved to be auriferous. The stanniferous character of a large area of country surrounding Mount Cameron has been known for many years; and that the alluvial tin deposits have been remunerative is amply evidenced by the extent of the workings and the great quantity of ore which has been raised. The shipments of tin ore from Ringarooma Port can now be but little behind those from Emu Bay. But alluvial tin mining in this part of the colony is likely to receive a great impetus in a short time by the enterprise of several companies in bringing in supplies of water from various sources to the rich ground on the east side of the Ringarooma River, where the principal ore deposits are in terraces at a considerable elevation above any water supply hitherto available. The first Company to bring in an important body of water is the Edina. This Company's race commences at a branch of the Mussel Roe River, known as the Old Chum Creek, on the eastern slope of the range dividing the Mussel Roe from the Ringarooma River, and after contouring the ranges and crossing several gullies by means of fluming, finally debouches upon some apparently rich tin sections belonging to the Company, at an elevation of about 120ft above the Ringarooma. The length of the race is upwards of seven miles, and its capacity is about twelve sluice-heads, but this could be easily doubled at a comparatively trifling expense. The source of supply seems ample for the present ditch throughout the year. Several other similar schemes—some of them of a more ambitious character than that of the Edina Company—are in contemplation, and have their surveys completed or in progress. One of these is for bringing in a race from the Mussel Roe, and another is for obtaining a very large supply at a high elevation from the Mussel Roe and Blue rivers. The gaining of elevation is a most important consideration, in order to work profitably some of the richest tin ground on the summits of the terrace hills.

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The indications of the existence of rich and extensive tin lodes about Mount Cameron are of the most encouraging nature, particularly in a certain belt of country at the junction of granite, with the sedimentary rocks, crossing the southern part of the Mount Cameron Company's section, the Fly-by-Night claim, and sections held by Webster, Pennington, and others. Abundance of lode ore can be seen on the surface in several places where it has been exposed in the alluvial workings, and some of the most experienced miners and prospectors in the colony have expressed their high opinion of the future of lode tin mining in this district. A visit to Mount Cameron will well repay any one who can spare a week or two, and who takes an interest in the progress of the colony. The usual run of the Avon from Launceston to Ringarooma Port is only about 12 or 14 hours, and an easy ride of little more than an hour will take the visitor to Gladstone, in the middle of the mining district. He will find capital hotel accommodation, and will be surprised at the moderation of the charges, while he will discover ample to interest him in the surrounding country, and in the important part which the mining industry is now playing in building up what promises to be a thriving town, where a few years since the foot of man but rarely trod.

#### MANGANA.

*Alpine.*—24th Sept:—The contractors have sunk 18ft. for the fortnight, making total depth below the level 25ft. I have stopped sinking in the south shaft, and have commenced to cut out for sinking in the north end of the level, about 40ft. north of the first shaft. I have more faith in this end of the level, although we have had a large body of stone in the south, but it has not the appearance of going down. This shaft going north will show 20in. of stone. We could not see much gold in driving, but it was all crushed the last crushing.—*Mercury.*