

MINING NEWS.

GOLD.

LEFROY.

New Native Youth.—Dec. 12—I have to report a change coming in the north cross-cut, with a little gold coming in.

New Chum.—Dec. 12—There is a decided improvement at No. 3 level, and I have got past the slide driving west. During the week the reef cut out to almost nothing, but since then there is a new make of stone 18in in width, which is carrying very fair gold and is improving in size and quality as we drive on it. The total distance driven west of cross-cut is 15ft, making 11ft during the week. The western level at No. 2 has been extended 12ft for the week, the reef being 18in wide. The stopes continue much about the same.

Great Extended West Chum.—Dec. 12—I have driven 10ft for the week, making a total distance of 102ft. The contractors have sunk the main shaft 7ft, and timbered.

Old Chum.—Dec. 10—I have no particular change to report this week. I am still sinking in slate, which is a little harder than last week, and have sunk 25ft for the fortnight. The country is at present lying very flat, and I shall continue sinking, as I can thus reach quartz on a change of country sooner than by driving. I hope to get into a change during the coming week.

South-West Chum.—Dec. 11—I have driven the north cross-cut a further distance of 14ft, making a total of 25ft from the shaft. The south cross-cut has been extended another 4ft, making 13ft in that direction. The ground has become a little harder going north. I intend to drive the north cross-cut, as there is a great improvement in the last few feet.

Windermere.—Dec. 12—During the week I have extended the level a further distance of 10ft, making the total distance from the crosscut 27ft. I have got a change of country for the last two or three shifts; the hard sandstone has cut out, and some nice slate and soft seams of pug and quartz have come in the face. I am getting more water than usual, and there is every indication of the reef making larger.

Brother Scott.—Dec. 10—I have driven a further distance of 18ft for the week, and during the last two shifts have had a change of country in the face, with some nice quartz leaders running in the right direction for carrying gold. As I like the appearance of the country I am now in, I shall continue on for another week before suspending work for the holidays.

Ellangowan.—Dec. 10—The north drive has been driven for the week 4ft. The ground is very tight, and bad shooting. I have a small leader in the face

The ground is very tight, and bad shooting. I have a small leader in the face, carrying a great deal of pyrites. The water is troublesome, and I expect to have a change of country by next report.

Land o' Cakes.—Dec. 10—The drive on the lode west is now under the prospecting shaft, and I started this morning to sink a winze on the lode. The appearance of the lode at this level is much better than at the 100ft level, and from the loose stone I can get colours of gold in the dish. I shall be able to report fully by the end of next week.

Waverley.—Dec. 10—I am going to open out east. There is no improvement from last report, but there is a lot of quartz, and the lode is carrying regular walls with a great quantity of minerals. I would recommend that a prospecting shaft be put down on the line east and west.

Caledonian.—Dec 10—During the week the shaft has been sunk 6 feet 6 inches, making a total from No. 1 level of 98ft 6in. We are also making room for the opening set, which will be completed very soon.

West New Chum.—Dec. 12—The main shaft is now down 47 feet from No. 3 plat, making 5 feet sunk for the week; the ground is tough. In No. 3 level the west drive is in 244 feet from the cross-cut, making 7 feet driven for the week; the ground is hard, and reef about same size as reported last week. The stopes are looking as well as last reported, and all the machinery is in good working order. An accident occurred in the main shaft; two blasts went off about one of the shaftmen, who was scarcely touched, but received a great shock to his nervous system.

West Queen's Birthday.—Dec. 10—Since my last report I have driven the cross-cut north 13ft, and have driven through two well-defined leaders, from which I can get gold by hand-crushing, but not sufficient as yet to drive on their courses. I will still continue this cross-cut, and try to pick up something more permanent.

Lannock.—Dec. 12—The amount sunk since my last report is 17ft, through hard slate with sandstone coming in the bottom, just as the contract was completed. The water has not increased much. The estimate is about 40 gallons per hour. The measurement that I have allowed the contractors is 103ft from the brace to where the shaft is timbered. The measurement is 106ft; the work is being completed by Ward very satisfactorily.

United Chums.—Dec. 10—Since my last report I have extended the western drive 12ft, making a total distance from the chamber 70ft. I have put up a rise in the west face showing fair gold. All works in connection with the mine and erection of machinery are being pushed ahead with every possible despatch.

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BACK CREEK.

Holdfast.—Dec. 10—In the north-west shaft I have opened out to the east on the leaders mentioned in my last report, and driven 15ft. The stone is very much broken, and is deepening very fast; it carries a little gold. I am going to drive west next week.

Try Again.—Dec. 10—I have opened out in the south-west shaft to the north, and driven 20ft for the week. I have cut several leaders, but no gold has been found in any of them.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—Dec. 9. Since my last report I have finished cleaning out the late True Blue shaft (on our claim), No. 2 reef, and have driven about 10ft

along the course of the reef which, although small, is making under foot and carries gold. In No. 2 shaft I have driven 12ft; the reef carries gold and is much about the same size as last reported.

BEACONSFIELD.

Prince Consort.—Dec. 10—The shaft is now down 42ft from the surface, and I have come down on to a well-defined body of stone 3ft 6in wide, but I cannot say what it will be like until I break into it. I shall have to secure the ground before I can go down on to it, as the hanging wall is very much broken just above the new make of stone, but it appears to be solid and well defined underfoot. I can get a little fine gold by crushing off the cap of the new make, and I feel confident that I am in the main body of stone which has shed the gold on the top of the hill and also in the creek, where it must cross if it keeps its present course, nearly E. by W.

Olive Branch.—Dec. 10—During the week the contractors have extended the tunnel of 30ft, making 100ft of contract completed, or 115ft from the entrance. The ground has been considerably harder the last 20ft and does not require timber.

Kohinoor.—Dec. 10—The contractors have cut down the shaft 16ft for the fortnight, and timbered it. The ground is getting easier, and the total depth is 101ft.

Lefroy.—Dec. 10—The shaft is sunk 209ft from surface.

Leviathan.—Dec. 10—I have to report the tunnel is extended a further distance of 20ft for the week, making a total of 597ft from opening.

Star of Beaconsfield.—Dec. 10—During the fortnight the contractors have driven 5ft 8in, the total length of the cross-cut now being a trifle over 13ft. The driving comprises grey and blue cabbage-tree during the most of the time, but towards

during the most of the time, but towards the end a bastard sandstone was making its appearance, and should it continue it will expedite progress to a very great extent. The contractors confidently expect easier ground ahead, and lots of little leaders are being constantly met with as the face is being extended. So far as appearances go the country in the crosscut wears as hopeful an aspect as one could wish for.

GLADSTONE.

Fly-by-Night.—Dec. 10—The tunnel is driven for the week 20ft through favourable slate country, making a total distance driven of 220ft. A change of ground is now coming in in the face, also a little more water making.

Royal Mint.—Dec. 9—Since my last report I have finished the tunnel, and am now erecting horses, etc., for carrying crank shaft. I have the horse completed in connection with cam shaft, and the new piece of shaft connected thereto. I expect to have everything complete by the end of next week.

North Extended Tasman.—Dec. 9—The tunnel has been extended 42ft, making 295ft in all, and securely timbered throughout. The ground gone through for the last 10ft gives indication of the proximity of a reef. I am now from 15ft to 20ft from the drive, so that I am bound to cut the reef in that distance.

West Royal Tasman.—Dec. 9—During the past week the cross-cut has been extended 11ft, making a total distance driven of 55ft. The country is very similar to that reported in my last.

Mount Cameron.—Dec. 9—During the past week the drive has been extended 13 feet, making the total distance from the shaft 57 feet. The country continues favourable, quartz spurs coming in frequently.

Midlothian.—Dec. 9—The shaft is now 52 feet in depth. The ground has been hard for the last few feet, but appears now to be improving.

Golden Age.—Dec. 9—In the No. 1 shaft I have broken down the reef to 31 feet in depth. During past week I have seen gold in the stone which is an improvement on any previously raised from this shaft. In the No. 2 shaft the drive from the cross-cut at 76 feet level is 9 feet on the course of the stone, which is cut off by a slide at about 6 feet, and throws into the lode cut 24 feet from the shaft. I have opened the drive from the cross-cut at about 10 feet from the shaft, which will be about 16 feet from where it was previously passed through.

MUSSEL HOLE.

Imperial.—Dec. 10—Since my last report I have only been able to sink the shaft 3ft, making a total of 68ft from the surface. On Saturday, 3rd inst., I cut some leaders showing gold. The water

surface. On Saturday, Dec. 10th, I cut some leaders showing gold. The water then began to make very heavy, and I found it impossible to sink any deeper with the windlass. Since last Monday I have been engaged cutting timber for driving, etc., and also cutting a tail-race to the eastward of the shaft to carry away the tailing and surface water.

Grand Flaneur.—Dec. 9—I commenced prospecting on the surface to-day, in accordance with instructions, and have got a very fair prospect of gold about 6ft from the cap of the reef, and hope soon to have something good to report upon.