

## MINING NEWS.

In addition to reporting on the Minnaw goldfield and Mount Claude silver-lead deposits, as formerly announced, we understand that Mr Thureau, F.G.S., will also visit the Penguin, Forth, and Castra Road districts with the same object.

### GOLD.

Mr W. Creelman, mining manager of the Star of the West Co., Minnaw River, has gone to Melbourne to procure a ten-head battery for the claim.

The adjourned meeting of shareholders in Taylor's lease, Lefroy, will be held at the office of Mr James Brickhill at 8 p.m. on Friday next for the election of directors and officers, adoption of deed of association, etc.

**FURTHER CRUSHINGS AT BEACONSFIELD AND SALISBURY, 2098oz 17dwts GOLD; VALUE, £7868.**

The result of the recent crushing at the Tasmania Company's mine, Beaconsfield, was brought to town on Saturday evening, and lodged in the Commercial Bank. The 1740 tons quartz crushed at the Company's battery yielded 1921oz 15dwts gold, value £7207, giving an average of 1oz 2dwts 2grs to the ton. The crushing of alluvial at King and Eastman's battery yielded 149oz 2dwts gold, value £559, making a total yield from the Tasmania claim of 2070oz 17dwts, value £7766. The Tasmania Company's battery resumed crushing on Friday evening, the whole 50-head being employed on stone from the Tasmania Company's mine.

A cleaning-up took place on Saturday at the Victoria Company's battery, Salisbury, of a month's crushing of alluvial washdirt, which yielded 28oz gold, value £105. The Victoria Company's battery resumed crushing on Saturday, the ten-head being employed on the washdirt they are now breaking down from the stopes.

### LEFROY.

*New Chum.*—Dec. 3—I have crushed 158 tons quartz for the week, and obtained 200oz amalgam from plates and ripples.

*West New Chum.*—Dec. 3—I have crushed 277 tons for the week, and obtained 467oz amalgam from plates and ripples.

### GLADSTONE.

*Deskford.*—The drive has been extended 10ft during the week, making a total distance of 50ft. I have lately crossed some quartz leaders, and the country is mixed with quartz. There is nothing defined to the present. I am still driving through a nice slate country.

### A TRIP TO CAMDEN.

### A TRIP TO CAMDEN.

(By Tasman.)

Having heard a good deal about the gold finds lately made in this locality, two friends and myself thought we could not do better than pay it a visit, and accordingly one day last week we procured horses and made a start.

Some of your readers may not be aware that Camden Plains is the name given to a plain or series of plains situate behind the north-west end of Mount Barrow, and between the Mount and the well-known Diddleum estate, lately purchased by a company for gold mining purposes.

For the first eighteen miles from Launceston we followed the Pattersonia-road, and were glad to see what a good job the contractor is making of it this time. The metal he is putting on is rather large certainly, but when it has a little traffic over it the road will be fit to drive a buggy over. It was noticeable, too, that the heaviest gradients are being made less steep, and the worst parts avoided altogether. We did the first part of the journey very comfortably, and arrived at Milwood's Mount Arthur Hotel just in time for tea, and very welcome Mrs Milwood's excellent fare was after the ride. Next morning, about six o'clock, we got under weigh again, and here the road leaves the main road and enters the bush at the back of Milwood's house, crossing the St. Patrick's by Peck's bridge, and joining the old

Diddleum-road a little further on. This road we followed for about six or seven miles, passing through some splendid agricultural country part of the distance, fine rich soil, growing old man, and cathead ferns, with myrtle bushes, and dog-wood scrub most luxuriantly, but very heavily timbered, with larger growth of gum, blackwood, etc., that would take a lot of time and money to get rid of. Presently we spy a narrow track leading from the Diddleum track we are following, through a dense myrtle forest, and we are told we have to take it. For the benefit of anyone who may try to find the road without a guide I may state that a few yards before reaching the track a tree will be noticed with the letters DBT cut on it. What they signify deponent knoweth not, but they call attention to the turn off. After getting on to this pack track we had to leave the saddle and tramp it, and it is a tramp; they call it three miles, but it might be anything between that and nine miles the first time one goes over it, though it may shorten after a little experience. The forest is so thick that the sun never gets through, and not a sound is heard, as neither birds nor beasts of any description seem to live in this forest. But the tramp through the "black forest" is not a long price to pay for the pleasure experienced when one suddenly steps out of it into a beautiful little plain, well grassed, and with several mountain streams of pure water running through it, here and there a belt of timber, then another small plain, each one better than the last, and here we found the Camden diggings.

The first hut we came to was the one long used by F. Lempriere, and now occupied by D. Westman and mate, and here we found a garden giving promise of all the "delicacies of the season"—peas, beans, gooseberries, strawberries, all growing splendidly, but as the season is rather late up there (3000ft. above sea level) none are yet fit for use. After tethering our horses in the long native grass, which they seemed to enjoy notwithstanding its coarse

they seemed to enjoy notwithstanding its coarseness, we started in company with Mr Westman for a look round the workings. The first claim we came to was that known as the Speedwell Co.'s, consisting of one section, taken up by John West, and worked for some time for alluvial. A shaft has been sunk, but has a lot of water in it, so that the depth could not be seen, but I believe it is about 30ft. They have a reef in the shaft about 2ft wide, but I do not know whether it carries gold. The prospectors say it does, but a gentleman sent up a few weeks ago by some Hobart shareholders, does not seem to have gone back with a very favourable impression, though what he could see is hard to state, as he did not have the water taken out of the shaft, and therefore could not even see the reef. It certainly seems strange that a person sent up to report on a quartz claim should be content to take the opinion of others on the ground without proving for himself whether it is good or otherwise. On the next section to West's a little work has been done and a reef found (about 8ft down), some 18 inches wide, but not proved gold-bearing, though on the creek about 20 yards away Madden and party have been getting some splendid alluvial, but it appears to be too much water-worn to have come out of the reef so close to it. From here we go up to the Camden Company's sections, taken up by Westman and party. This seems to be the best show on the ground so far, and the discoverers certainly deserve to get something good, as they have put a lot of work into it, and spent a good deal of money. As yet all they have is a leader, which they struck in the creek when working alluvial, but as no gold can be found above the leader they think it must have been the source of the gold they were working below. They have not gone very far down on it yet—about 5ft—but a cutting put into the hill on both sides of the creek showed the leader widening from about 2in to 8in, but so far it is not solid, but decomposed. We washed out two dishes, and got prospects good enough to satisfy even Royal Tasman holders, and if the leader should continue to widen as it is doing now for about 12ft it ought to be another Chum at least; but this, of course, remains to be proved. The gold washed out was very coarse, and without doubt reef gold. I believe it is the intention of the prospectors to work for about a week in sinking on the leader, and if it continues to improve to sell an interest to provide money to further develop it, for two men can do very little when the water is coming in as it must do on the bed of a creek.

Our time was very limited, so we were unable to go across to Dunn's and other claims, about two miles away. The prospect of being benighted in the forest was not good enough, so after trying and fully appreciating the cooking of Westman's mate, we started for Milwood's again, reaching there about eight o'clock, and after a good night's rest turned out at the witching hour of 4 a.m. to get into town before most honest people were out of bed.

For anyone who does not mind rough travelling this is a very pleasant trip at this time of the year. The view one gets of Mount Barrow, the seventh highest mountain in the island, is alone worth a lot of trouble, and if one keeps his eyes open going along the Diddleum-road he might get a nice bunch of the beautiful Waratah. Though rather early in the season we were very fortunate, having dropped on the only bush in the locality that was in bloom. At the Mount Arthur Hotel can be obtained good accommodation for man and beast, and as good a host as one could wish to meet in a country inn. A break now runs up to Milwood's every day, so that there need be no

a country inn. A break now runs up to Milwood's every day, so that there need be no difficulty in getting so far, and a horse or two could be obtained from there for the remainder of the journey.