

GOLD.

We learn from the manager (Mr R. H. Price) that the directors of the Tasmania Company have arranged to continue the pumping at the Florence Nightingale claim, Beaconsfield.

Mr Payne, the newly-appointed mining manager of the Royal Tasman claim, will proceed to Mount Cameron, per p.s. Avon, on her next trip to take charge of the mine. In the meantime Mr Chaffey has taken charge, and from the last report the battery was working well.

The Tasmania Company (Beaconsfield) have declared a dividend, the 38th, of 3s per 30,000th share, payable at the office of the manager, Mr R. H. Price, tomorrow. The amount of this dividend is £4500, and the tax payable on it is £168 15s. The Company have now declared in 38 dividends a total of £155,750, or equal to £51 15s per share on the old issue, and making 12s per share paid since the capital was increased from 3000 to 30,000 shares.

The Secretary of the Camden Company (Camden Plains), informs us that their prospector, Mr D. Westman, writing on 30th ult., states that on that date they had sunk on the leaders 11ft below the bed of the creek, the prospects of gold obtainable being better than ever. So far the main leader has not permanently widened, being sometimes wider, but on an average maintaining the width it was at surface. Owing to the water being troublesome it is doubtful if they can get down 20ft without further appliances, but he believes a lode or reef is not far distant. On 1st December he writes that they had got down another 3ft, making 14ft from surface, the water getting very heavy, and he was doubtful whether they would be able to go much deeper with existing appliances. The main leader maintained the same thickness, and carrying gold as usual. The leaders in the shaft are running nearly east and west, and the underlay is about one in ten north.

Mining managers and others report as under :—

BEACONSFIELD.

Rising Sun.—Dec. 5—The contractors have driven 8ft for the week, making 20ft for the fortnight. There is no change to report in the country driven through. The leader still keeps its course, carrying a little gold.

Leviathan.—Dec. 3—The tunnel has been extended a further distance of 31ft for the week, making a total of 577ft from the opening. We have passed through some splendid looking country for the last 10ft intermixed with black sandy veins and broken quartz.

Prince Consort.—Dec. 3—Since my last report I have sunk the shaft a further distance of 9ft, the total depth now being 38ft. The lode was greatly changed

distance of 9ft, the total depth now being 38ft. The lode was greatly changed within the last 2ft, and is widening out for the better. I shall be able to report more definitely when I get down a few feet more. I have driven the cross-cut in the tunnel 8ft since my last. The last 4ft has been principally through quartz, from which I have obtained fine colours of gold.

Lefroy.—Dec. 5—The shaft is down 194ft. from the surface. The ground still continues good, and no increase of water.

Kohinoor.—Dec. 5—The contractors have cut down the shaft 6ft. for the week, and timbered total depth 91ft. The ground is now easier.

SALISBURY.

Blue Tier Tunnelling.—Dec. 5—In the No. 1 tunnel the contractors have driven 13ft., making the total length of the tunnel 169ft. The contractors in the No. 2 tunnel have driven 17ft. for the week, making the total length 226ft. In the No. 2 tunnel a wide seam of rubble was cut, underlaying to the south, or in an opposite direction to the underlie of the strata.

LEFROY.

South-West Chum.—Dec. 3—Since my last report I have driven the north cross-cut a distance of 11ft, and the south one 9ft. The country is improving as we get north, and consists of stone, mixed with leaders, dipping north, which leads me to believe that the reef is not far distant. I have centred the shaft, and the air is much better.

West New Chum.—Dec. 3—The main shaft is sunk a further depth of 7ft for the week, making 42ft from the bottom of the No. 3 level. In the No. 3 level the west drive is in 237ft, making 8ft driven for the week. Width of reef, 1ft 6in, and the ground is tough to work. The stopes are looking as well as last reported.

Waverley.—Dec. 3—The north drive has been extended 5ft during the week. I think I shall discontinue this drive and go to the south side of the shaft, and drive on the last quartz we have gone through. I have discontinued the south cross-cut, and commenced to drive west. The quartz found on this side of the shaft is from nine to ten feet wide, and carrying a lot of mineral. I have not found any gold yet by washing or crushing the stone. I am thinking, if I don't get a prospect this week, to put down another little shaft about 100ft further west, nearer the Caledonian.

Land o' Cakes.—Dec. 5—There is no further change in the mine. I shall commence on Monday to sink the prospecting shaft with one shift to meet the uprise from the main drive.

Caledonian.—Dec. 5—Since my last report the shaft has been sunk a further depth of 10ft, making the total distance

port the shaft has been sunk a further depth of 10ft, making the total distance from the No. 1 level 92ft. I am down about the back of the plat that I intend to open out, and shall be preparing during the week for the opening set as I go down. After sinking 10ft below the plat I shall commence to drive for the reef.

Old Chum.—Dec. 3—I commenced to sink the No. 2 shaft, and have made very good progress this week. I am at present sinking in slate, the ground being very good for blasting. I hope to get a change before the end of next week.

Rising Sun.—Dec. 5—I have struck the lode at a distance of 9ft from the shaft. The country is very much unsettled about it. There is a soft blue country on the bottom, with water and a quantity of mineral, but I cannot get any gold. I think by the country at the bottom of the drive that there is something at a depth. I shall leave the place open and keep the water out, so that the directors will be able to go down and see it if they wish. I shall come up the shaft where Shirley got the stone, and start to drive on it to-day.

New Chum.—Dec. 5—Since cutting the reef I have squared up and driven 4ft west on the lode; it is now 18in wide, showing gold. I have driven the No. 2 western level 12ft. The stone in the level and stop is continuous the same as last reported. I have yet 60ft to drive in

this level to the western boundary, and have three or four months' work yet in No. 2, and have driven the southern prospecting drive 10ft.

United Chums.—Dec. 3—Since my last report the work at the claim is progressing favourable. There is a slight change in the west drive; the reef has been broken up, but by all appearances I think it will make again before long. There is about 100 tons of quartz in the paddock. The foundations for the battery are commenced.

Consolidated Chum.—Dec. 5—The shaft has been sunk a further depth of 9ft, in all 61ft from the surface and 67ft from the brace from where I will in future measure. The ground is getting a little harder but no sign of water as yet.

Ellangowan.—Dec. 5—The shaft is sunk 4ft. The ground is close and tight, all shooting ground. We have gone through some quartz leaders. I think I am quite deep enough, judging from the water that is now coming. The depth of the shaft is 34ft. I will commence to open out to-day.

BACK CREEK.

Try Again.—Dec. 3—South-west shaft. The south cross-cut has been extended to

Try Again.—Dec. 3—South-west shaft. The south cross-cut has been extended to the south boundary; total distance from the shaft 50ft. There is no change in the ground. I have also driven 14ft east on the body of quartz that we went through in the cross-cut, but without finding any gold.

Huldfast.—Dec. 3—In the western shaft the north cross-cut has been extended 13ft for the week; total distance from the shaft 45ft. Next week I shall drive on the leaders where I obtained the prospects from.

West Native Youth.—Dec. 5—The shaft is down 75ft from the surface.

Great Extended West Chum.—Dec. 5—I have extended the west drive 9ft for the week, total distance from the cross-cut 92ft. The lode is 5ft wide, and the stone is making on the footwall. The contractors will commence the shaft on Wednesday.

Golden Era.—Dec. 5—I have driven north from the shaft 382ft, and have come on to an alluvial gutter. I have washed a dish of dirt and got several specks of gold. I have sunk the winze 8ft; the reef is a foot wide, carrying gold. The water is heavy.

New Native Youth.—Dec. 5—There is 2ft of stone in the western face, and the ground is soft. The south drive is in 16ft, with no change. The north drive is in 150ft, and no important change.

West Queen's Birthday.—Dec. 3—Since my last report I have driven the cross-cut south a further distance of 24ft, making a total of 50ft from the shaft. I have cut nothing as yet to convince me of passing through the track of the lode, but I will start on Monday next to drive north, to try to pick up the head wall of the channel of country in which I now am.

GLADSTONE.

North Extended Tasman.—Dec. 3—During the week the tunnel has been extended 20ft. We are now in nice slaty country, intermixed with leaders. I daily expect to cut the reef. During the week I have excavated the trench on the blow of quartz to a depth of 6ft, having got through an alluvial wash carrying a little gold. I also got a colour in the quartz, but no reef as yet.

Royal Standard.—Dec. 3—During the past week the prospects of your mine continue the same. Gold is seen every shot fired. I have got about 70 tons of stone on the surface, gold-bearing. The open cutting 120ft north of the No. 2 shaft we have stripped about 30ft in length, and can see gold in the solid stone. I shall continue to break out quartz in both places. I have made arrangements with the battery manager of the Royal Tasman for a trial crushing next week. I would recommend that an open cutting with a tramway be started 120ft north of

with a tramway be started 120ft north of the No. 1 shaft. This will lead us on to the good stone we are breaking at once, and a stope of 40ft can be got. I shall also start another tramway on the extreme north end of your line; with this a stope of 80ft can be got if required. The two lines will then meet, and form one line to the battery. Shall I bring the trial gold by steamer, or send it? Please advise.

Progress.—Dec. 2—I have driven 8ft for the week, and have met large bunches of quartz and quartz leaders as we approach the reef. I trust soon to be able to report having struck a payable reef.

North Tasman.—Dec. 2—The No. 1 leader cut in the tunnel is 200ft from the mouth, that is the one I mentioned in my last. I have driven 10ft on it, and it has widened out from 18in to 2ft, and has well defined walls. I have seen gold in the stone, and got a prospect by crushing. The No. 2 leader is 500ft from the mouth of tunnel, the same as I sent the samples of tin-bearing stone from, has dipped under foot. I have put three shifts on No. 1 reef.

Fly-by-Night.—Dec. 3—I have driven the tunnel 18ft for the week. The country continues the same.

Royal Mint.—Dec. 3—The water drives have been extended 45ft 6in since my last report, leaving 18ft 6in in to connect.

West Royal Tasman.—Dec. 2—During the week the cross-cut has been extended a further distance of 11ft, making the length to date 24ft. The country passed through is of the ordinary metamorphic appearance, bearing evidence of having been much disturbed and twisted about; at intervals there are hard pressed shistons bars with aqueous quartz faces, and many small quartz spurs, the whole reading as being remote footwall country, upon which it is only reasonable to infer rests a large body of quartz. The subsidence of last week's heavy rains has made the mine water much easier.

North Mint.—Dec. 2—I have driven 12ft through similar country reported in my last, total distance from the shaft 32ft. The water continues of the same quantity. I have one man prospecting the No. 2 lode. I find some very nice specimens with good gold, but have failed as yet to discover the lode that has thrown them. I imagine that it is higher up the hill. I will prospect in this direction for it.

Golden Age.—Dec. 2—I have now to report having broken out the reef in the No. 1 shaft to the depth of 27ft. It is continuing the same in thickness and quality, and getting more solid. In the No. 2 shaft I have driven 6ft on the course of the stone at the 76ft level; the stone has been cut off by a bend, apparently throwing to the eastward,

stone has been cut off by a bend, apparently throwing to the eastward, which may bring it into the lode passed through nearer the shaft.

Mount Cameron.—Dec. 2—I have to report the drive is now in 44ft from the shaft. At the 40ft I passed through a leader 4in thick, and in the last 4ft I passed through two smaller leaders. The ground is more favourable for working, and I hope the change will prove to be indicative of stronger stone close to us.

Midlothian.—Dec. 2—I have to report the depth of the shaft to be 49ft, in the last 5ft we have passed through several small leaders running north and south. The water is now about 50 gallons per hour.

MUSSEL ROE.

Imperial.—Dec. 3—I have sunk 9ft for the week, making a total of 65ft and timbered up. I have gone through some nice looking leaders during the week, carrying

gold. The water is beginning to increase, and I was compelled to engage another shift of men, which enabled me to carry on operations to a much greater advantage.

Grand Flaneur.—Dec 3—I have driven north since my last report 6ft, which now makes the total 109ft. I thought it advisable to open out on the south side, and commenced on Tuesday, 23rd November, continuing up to Monday last, having driven 15ft through hard country.

Blue Bell.—Dec. 2—I have driven 24ft for the week, 10ft north and 14ft south; total distance from the shaft 38ft north and 40ft south. We are getting more water in the south drive, and I think we are getting near the reef. According to the distance on the surface and allowing for the underlay, we should strike this reef in about another 16ft, everything working well.

PANAMA.

Hokitika.—Dec. 3—Since my last report we have extended the level a distance of 20ft. With the exception of cutting a small leader to the west, I have nothing to report that would interest you. As the ground has now settled in solid shooting country, I have determined to stop work in this direction. I consider we have done a good week's work, as far as distance is concerned, and I cannot expect to beat it in this kind of country. On Monday I intend prospecting the stone that I have already passed through. I will drive about a couple of sets off the main level, so as not to interfere with the traffic. I also intend laying down a flat sheet at the formation of the sandstone and granite, and driving north and south. This will prove whether the stone in the creek has been thrown out by an east and west reef. I have laid out the drives so that they prospect an entirely new line of

west reef. I have laid out the drives so that they prospect an entirely new line of country. I will also sink a shaft upon the east boundary, and see how deep I can get down before I strike the water level. I can then give a correct estimate as to the cost of driving the lower portion of the claim (170ft).

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—Dec. 3—Since my last report I have timbered the cross-cut 75ft, and extended the drive 8ft, making a total distance of 93ft 6in. The reef is about the same in the No. 2 shaft. We have driven 12ft in the reef for the week. Some of the stone carries payable gold, and improves as we drive along it.