

GOLD.

The average yield per ton of the crushing of 1500 tons stone from the Tasmania Company, Beaconsfield, mentioned in our last issue, was a fraction over 1oz 11grs to the ton. The average for the crushing of 82 tons from the Golden Gate Company was a fraction over 16dwts to the ton.

Some excitement was perceptible yesterday in Royal Tasman stock. On Saturday shares advanced to 34s, but yesterday there were transactions at from £2 to £2 2s per share, consequent upon the favourable reports received through various channels from the mine. Mr Anderson, the mining manager, arrived in town on Sunday by the Avon, in order to confer with the directors respecting the machinery, etc. The time for sending in tenders expires to day. When Mr Anderson left the shaft was down over 30ft., the stone rich in gold, and the reef maintaining its width of 5ft. He will probably stop at 40ft. and commence tunnelling from near the battery site. A correspondent writing from North Mount Cameron under date January 26th says:—"The Royal is looking well. The shaft is now down over 30ft., and some of the stone is very rich, although as usual difficult to be seen with the eye. The reef keeps 5ft wide. What is required now is the battery, and that must be got with the least delay." The same correspondent, writing on the 28th, says:—"The reef at the present level is looking really splendid. There has been a large number of visitors here this week, some from Ballarat, Sandhurst, Queensland, and some even from the Cape of Good Hope! They all think well of the prospects of the Royal Tasman, and consider them first-class. Some are trying to buy in, and shares have been sold down here at £2 each."

A correspondent, writing from North Mount Cameron on 26th ult., says:—"The Royal Standard is looking very fair; not rich, but very fair prospects. It is a large body of stone, and half an ounce to the ton will pay well."

A special meeting of shareholders in the Sir John Franklin Company is called for 14th inst., to consider the advisableness of winding up the Company.

The directors of the Tasmania Company, Beaconsfield, have declared a dividend, the 28th, of £1 2s 6d per share, free of dividend tax, payable at the office of the Company to-morrow. This makes a total of £36 17s 6d per share, amounting to £109,128, paid in dividends. The tax on this last dividend amounts to £126 11s 3d.

BEACONSFIELD.

Florence Nightingale.—The manager (Mr R. H. Price) received a telegram from the mining manager yesterday, reporting that the strapping plates of the plunger pole

had broken, and the water rose to the upper level in thirty minutes after the stoppage of pumping.

NINE-MILE SPRINGS.

New Chum.—The mining manager reports, on 31st ult.:—The mine continues about the same as last report. I have started a drive this week south of the cross-cut to prospect the country south of our present reef, and have driven 10ft. I have sunk the shaft for the week 8ft. The machinery and pumps are all working first-rate.

West Chum Extended.—The mining manager reports, under date the 30th ult.:—The well is sunk and the chamber finished, and I am in 14ft from the shaft. I do not think I will have over 50ft to drive for the reef.

Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager writes, under date the 31st ult.:—I am in with the cross-cut 20ft from the shaft.

East New Chum.—The mining manager under date 31st January reports:—I have extended the drive 7ft during the week through a hard sandstone, but there is, however, better ground in the face now. Have had two extra men on assisting me to lower the lifts. These will be all fixed in the course of a few days.

Prince of Wales.—The mining manager under date 31st January reports:—I have sunk the shaft 19ft for the week, making 58ft since starting, and total depth from surface 108ft. Will sink 2ft more, and then start driving at 100ft level. Country still favourable. Water the same.

East New Chum Extended.—The mining manager reports on 31st January:—The contractors are now down 70ft with main shaft. Whim is all ready for work when required.

West New Chum.—The mining manager reports on 31st ult.:—During the week good headway has been made with the sinking of the main shaft, which is now down 23ft from No. 2 level. I have driven 20ft in No. 1 drive west; quartz smaller, but still carrying good golden stone. The stopes at back of No. 1 level west are still productive, and I am sinking a surface shaft down on them for air. The stopes eastward are looking very well, the reef being 2ft wide. During the week 135 tons quartz have been crushed, and 500oz amalgam taken off the plates and ripples. The machinery is all in good working order.

GOLCONDA.

Queensland.—The mining manager reports on 29th ult.:—Since commencing work after the holidays we have driven 13ft 6in on the lode, north level; No. 1 rise 11ft, and No. 2 rise 4ft. I have had some of the men for the last two days clearing and making road from claim to battery. The reef is looking well in both rise and face. I will forward full report

battery. The reef is looking well in both rise and face. I will forward full report of the works by next mail.

NORTH MOUNT CAMERON.

Deskford.—The mining manager reports on 28th ult.:—I have extended the tunnel 9ft, making its total length 88ft. As the country was very hard and required shooting, I did not consider it advisable to drive it any further at present; the further extension of it, to cut the parallel line of reef at the back of the Tasman, can be done by contract. I have also driven the cross-cut on the reef 8ft, making the total distance driven 14ft from side of tunnel. There is still about 5ft of formation between the walls, and the reef has a very heavy underlay to the west—3ft in 5ft—which cannot be her true course. I started with one shift this morning to cut down the side of the hill for the purpose of sinking a shaft on the stone struck in the lower tunnel. The shaft will be about 15ft south of the tunnel, and will be sunk on the underlay, following the stone down. I will also commence to cut a chamber in the cross-cut in upper tunnel for following the stone down on the underlay, as there is no change to note in the appearance of the reef in the cross-cut, and I consider, as the quartz makes stronger in the bottom of the cross-cut, that it is more advisable to sink than to drive along the course of it. I will have two shifts on the shaft next week, as soon as it is logged up and the windlass on, and two in the tunnel,

runs between the porphyry and slate. On 31st January news was received from Mr Nodin stating that he had cut a reef 14in wide. The manager, Mr A. Reid, received by the Devon on Saturday a bag of specimens from the numerous quartz leaders previously reported, and tests made of the stone have given excellent prospects of gold.

Creelman's Claim.—Mr W. Creelman writes on 28th ult. that on this claim, which is a private one, north of and adjoining the "Blue Bell" he has cut the reef 2ft 6in wide, showing gold.

MINNAW.

Star of the West.—On this claim before a public company was formed the work done comprised an open cutting 171ft long and five shafts sunk in, tracing the gold eastward, No. 5 shaft being 70ft east of No. 1 shaft. The trial crushing made at Beaconsfield was obtained from No. 3 shaft. Mr A. Nodin, who was appointed mining manager, is sinking No. 5 shaft to cut the quartz struck in Nos. 1, 2, and 3 shafts, which he expected to do at a depth of about 50ft. On 19th inst. he was down 47ft, having passed through belts of porphyry and gold-bearing leaders, coming on very hard porphyry at 36ft down. From the 47ft level he commenced driving south to the quartz struck in the first three shafts. On 24th January Mr Nodin reported that the drive was in 7ft, through very hard porphyry, and he should continue till he cut the quartz that runs between the porphyry and slate. On 31st January news was received from Mr