

GOLD.

The directors of the Royal Mint have appointed Mr J. G. Payne mining manager. He will return from Victoria in a few days, and at once proceed to the claim. A call (the first) of sixpence per share has been made on the shares in the Company, payable on Monday, the 21st inst. The directors are negotiating for a 15-head battery and 20in cylinder engine; a 24ft by 6ft 6in boiler has been ordered.

A meeting of shareholders in the No. 1 West Tasmania Co. (Quigley's lease), Beaconsfield, will be held at the Mechanics' Institute to-morrow evening, for the purpose of forming the Company.

A sample of quartz was last week taken by the mining manager of the Caledonian Company, Nine-Mile Springs, from the last bucket of stuff broken out from the winze at a depth of 18ft, the reef being over 2ft wide, and was placed in Mr E. W. Woodgate's hands for treatment. The sample given to Mr Woodgate weighed one pound avoirdupois, and the treatment it was subjected to was crushing, panning off, and retorting the residue. Mr Woodgate's certificate, dated 4th inst., states that the pound of quartz yielded 10 7/6 grains of gold, which was at the rate of 50oz 4dwts to the ton. The button of gold obtained, which we have seen, is of a bright character, like the usual quality of Springs gold.

There is at present on view at the office of Mr Andrew Reid, Brisbane-street, a sample of gold, weighing about 2oz, taken from the White Lead, at Back Creek. This lead was about four and a half chains in width, and a large quantity of alluvial gold has been taken out of it by private parties of miners, who worked it up to where it dipped under a strata of decomposed basalt, and were prevented from tracing it farther by the excess of water encountered. This is one of the leads the Deep Lead Company hope to pick up in deep ground.

A meeting of holders of promoters' shares in Brewer and Whitfeld's claim, North Mount Cameron, was held at the Mechanics' Institute last evening. Mr Wm. Aikenhead in the chair. It was decided to form a company to work the claim, to be called the Progress G.M. Co. Registered, the capital was fixed at £20,000 in 20,000 shares of £1 each, issued paid up to 10s. Messrs D. Powell, Wm. Aikenhead, G. Allen, W. Gurr, D. Mackintosh, G. Orpwood, and G. Suter were elected directors, Mr W. L. Windsor was appointed legal manager, and Messrs G. P. Hudson and H. C. Littler auditors. The qualification of a director was fixed at 100 shares, and the scale of voting at one vote for every share up to 500, and above that one vote for every 50 shares. The calls not to exceed 6d each, with an interval of not less than one month between each. The rules and re-

each, with an interval of not less than one month between each. The rules and regulations of the North Tasman Co., with such alterations as would agree with the foregoing resolutions, were adopted, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. It has been decided to commence mining operations without delay.

NORTH MOUNT CAMERON.

North Tasman.—The mining manager reports on 5th inst. that the tunnel had been extended 15ft. during the week, making the total length 179ft. The ground still keeps hard.

Deskford.—The mining manager reports under date March 4:—The shaft has been sunk a further distance of five feet, making a total distance from surface 30ft. There is no change in the country. I have had two men cross-cutting for the Royal Mint reef, but have not yet been successful in cutting it. The surface is very deep, and I have not yet got into the slate formation. I will put one man cross-cutting for the Royal Mint cross reef next week.

Golden Age.—Mr Robt. Clarke, under date March 4, writes as follows:—I started yesterday trenching near the west boundary of the claim, and have this day cut a reef 15in thick, position and bearing corresponding with the cross-reef cut in the Royal Mint claim.

Royal Standard.—Mr J. S. Goodall writes to the legal manager, Mr A. Corrie, under date March 5, as follows:—Since my return on 28th of last month I find that during my absence the reef in the middle cutting near the centre of the lease has greatly improved in quality and quantity. Gold can be seen in the stone, and capital prospects can be obtained from stone in which gold is not visible. The formation of the reef is first-class, it being solid and well defined, and going down nearly vertical, with exceedingly soft country on both sides of it. Sixty-one yards north from middle cutting the reef is uncovered, and shows nine feet wide, solid and compact, bearing gold. The stone here is more of a bluish colour, and contains mineral plentifully. Fifty-five yards south of the middle cutting, the reef is again uncovered and shows 8ft 6in in thickness, but has not been broken into. We can get coarse gold in the dish in the rubble between the furthest south cutting and our boundary. Adjoining Lamond's lease (No. 1 South Royal Standard), the reef shows on the surface a solid body of stone from 15ft to 20ft wide. I have had the two men cross-cutting for other reefs in our claim. I have got one between the Standard and the Tasman reefs, running nearly parallel with both. The stone is over two feet thick, and we can get a few colours in the dish. I have not crushed any of the stone from it yet. I have also uncovered a "cross reef" on the east side

any of the stone from it yet. I have also uncovered a "cross reef" on the east side of our claim. This reef runs under the new township. I will break out some of the stone to-day. I can get gold in the surfacing by washing with the dish on the cap of the reef.

NINE-MILE SPRINGS.

West New Chum.—The mining manager, under date March 7th, reports:—During the week there has been 17ft driven in No. 1 level west, making total length from cross-cut 246ft. The reef is small but well defined. The shaft is down 49ft from No. 2 chamber, making 4ft 6in sunk for the week. The ground is tight. A rise is being put up west in No. 2 level; it is now up 27ft from the back of the drive. The reef is 1ft 6in wide, and gold bearing. The stopes in the back of No. 1 drive are still productive, but the quartz is not so good as it is between No. 1 and No. 2 levels. The length of stopes now being worked is over 200ft long, and they carry a little gold all through. There have been 160 tons of quartz crushed for the week, and the scraping on Saturday gave 413oz amalgam from plates and ripples.

New Chum.—The mining manager reports under date March 7th:—The mine continues to look as well as when I last reported. For the week we have sunk the shaft 4ft; put in a frame set, and made a start to open out for driving the cross-cut. We have driven the western level 15ft for the week, and the total length of the southern cross-cut is 40ft.

Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager under date March 7th writes:—I have now driven from the cross-cut 58ft east and 46ft west on the course of the reef. I have two nice walls 2ft apart; the stone is rather small, carrying gold, but is making stronger under foot. I would

ready to drive on the course of the vein. I have extended the north drive 9ft. The country is still the same. The south drive is in 50ft. There is no change in the character of the country.

East New Chum Extended.—The mining manager reports under date 5th March:—Have sunk the shaft 22ft for the week. The country is soft sandstone and slate. The whim is working well.

Windermere.—The mining manager writes under date March 5th as follows:—I have driven for the past week 17ft. in the west drive, and have had a nice little run of stone from six to 10 inches, which still keeps on. It is poor, however, only just showing the colour. Still there is a chance of its improving as long as the stone continues. The driving is good, and I will soon follow it up further.

Land o' Cakes.—Mr James Clark writes to the legal manager, Mr A. Reid, under date March 5th as follows:—I visited the claim yesterday evening, and I find the men have made excellent headway since commencing work. They have sunk two shafts 18ft. and 20ft., and driven 50ft. north and south. The country they are in looks very promising. They have had a few flat leaders, but there was nothing in them.

South West Chum.—The mining manager, under date March 7th, reports as follows:—During the last nine days the ground in the shaft has been very hard, and consequently there has not been so much progress made as formerly. There has been sunk 27ft, making the total depth of shaft 133ft from the surface.

BEACONSFIELD.

Prince of Wales.—The mining manager reports that work has been suspended at the 100ft level; he is now engaged tracing gold-bearing stone in the upper workings.

Golden Gate.—The mining manager reports, under date March 5th:—The stone in the western stopes is 3ft wide; the water is draining off in the eastern level. The crushing is proceeding satisfactorily.

Tasmania.—The mining manager writes on March 5th:—I am through the stone at lower tunnel; it is 7ft 6in wide, and very strong, with good walls, showing splendid gold. At other parts of the mine all is going on well.

Olive Branch.—The mining manager reports, under date March 5th:—I started two men to sink a shaft north of the slide. It is now down 16ft, and we have cut two very small gold-bearing leaders. The country is very hard.

Florence Nightingale.—The mining manager reports under date March 7th:—For the week 40 tons of stone have been crushed, and the scraping of the plates and ripples has given the satisfactory yield of 95½oz. amalgam.

GOLCONDA.

recommend that the shaft be sunk to a depth of 50ft further, as I believe we will get a good body of stone at that depth.

West Chum Extended.—The mining manager writes under date March 7th:—I have sunk the shaft 12ft and timbered 7ft since I started on Wednesday evening, making a total depth from surface frame of 128ft. The country is slate and full of quartz leaders right through it.

East New Chum.—The mining manager, Mr Thomas Woods, under date March 7th, reports as follows:—In driving south I cut what I suppose to be the Chum reef, and started a small drive along it east. In about 3ft driving I found gold in the stone, and the walls widened to about 15in. I think by appearances the stone will improve eastward. I have been engaged widening the drive, and am now ready to drive on the course of the vein.

GOLCONDA.

Queensland. — The mining manager writes under date March 5th :— During the past fortnight the north level has been extended a distance of 24ft. The width of the lode is 3ft. 8in. The stone in the stopes will average about 2in. It prospects well. The scraping of plates and ripples gave a result of 118ozs. amalgam from 60 tons of stone crushed for the week. The prospects of the mine at present are very encouraging ; they are, in fact, better now than they have ever appeared.

Mount Wilson.—The mining manager reports under date March 5th :—I have straightened up the tunnel, and am ready to start with two shifts on Monday morning. I will push on the work as fast as possible.

BLUE TIER.

Cobham's Lease.—The mining manager writes under date March 7th as follows :— I cut the reef at 19ft from the shaft, showing a fine clean hanging wall. I have only just broken into the reef, but will be able to report fully in a few days. I have been troubled with foul air, but have now got a windsail, so that we will be all right.

BACK CREEK.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.

There is not much doing here either in alluvial or reefing, excepting that the Deep Lead Co. have started operations again. They have their main shaft (9 x 10) down 15ft, in a position that ought to catch the leads that are trending towards it. The gold has been traced to, and is now being worked to within less than a chain of the Company's boundary, where it has dipped off suddenly into deep ground. The width of the lead is four chains and three quarters, with a splendid sample of rough gold over the whole width of same. On Adams's claim, on the north side of the lead, the gold is very coarse, in pieces varying from one grain to 14oz, a great percentage of which is specimen gold, which has evidently come off a rich reef or leader in close proximity. He has one shaft down 20ft, with 12ft of wash, which will average 14dwts to the load, with the chance of an occasional nugget. If the gold was confined to one chain in width instead of four it would be a rich lead ; as it is, the gold is scattered over the whole of the above area.

On the Red Lead, 100 yards north of and running parallel to the other, the gold is scattered over 150 yards in width, with gold of a similar character, which has been worked to the deep ground within a few chains of the shaft.

From the large quantity of gold that has been traced to the edge of the basalt, there is every probability of the deep ground being good, as there is a great similarity between it and the basaltic country in Victoria and New South Wales, and which has been so rich in alluvial deposits in both colonies.

March 5.