

GOLD.

We are informed that Mr Thos. Hughes, of Lefroy, has been appointed mining manager of the North Extended Tasman claim. Mr Hughes leaves for North Mount Cameron per Avon.

The Commercial Bank forwarded to Melbourne on Sunday, by s.s. Mangana, 1610 ounces 7dwts of gold, valued at £6450.

The boiler which was recently imported for the West New Chum Co., per the s.s. Flinders, and which has been lying on the Esplanade for some days past, will be forwarded to the Lefroy goldfield to-day by road. Mr M. Boland is the contractor for its removal.

Mr John Sinclair publishes a corrected application to register the Royal Sovereign Company.

A meeting of all persons interested in Cooper's prospecting claim, Flowery Gully, near Blue Tier, is called for Thursday afternoon, at Messrs. Irvine and McEachern's office, to consider the best means for working the claim.

One of a party of prospectors sent to the New Country to test the truth of the report as to the discovery of a gold-bearing reef there, returned to Hobart on Saturday, says the *Mercury*, and reports anything but an encouraging result. The locality where the quartz specimens containing gold were alleged to have been found is about 70 miles from Hamilton and seven from Lake St. Clair. It is a most romantic and picturesque spot, and there is apparently any quantity of quartz, but unfortunately it is not of an auriferous character. None of the prospectors have, we understand, been able to find even the tiniest speck of gold, though hundreds of pieces of quartz were broken. The alleged discovery of gold quartz requires, therefore, some explanation, and in the meantime we would strongly advise any miners who purpose visiting the locality not to start for the present.

Our Mount Cameron correspondent informs us that claims are being pegged out at Waterhouse, and that the old Pioneer reef has been taken up again.

GOLCONDA.

Mount Wilson.—The mining manager, under date the 23rd inst., reports :—“ Since my last report I have driven 14ft, making a total distance driven of 94ft. The country is very hard, and making harder.

BEACONSFIELD.

Who can Tell.—The mining manager reports on 23rd inst. :—“ During the week we have driven some 11 feet along the course of the reef, which has proved to be gold-bearing in payable quantities, and I hope to be able to get out a crushing ready for the Victoria battery when it starts. The water is not increasing.

ready for the Victoria battery when it starts. The water is not increasing. From 2lbs of quartz pounded in a mortar, I obtained about a grain of gold, or at the rate of 2oz 16dwts to the ton.” From a private source we learn that the reef is from 2ft 6in to 3ft wide.

Lefroy.—The acting mining manager reports under date the 25th inst. :—The shaft is now down 23 feet from the surface and timbered up. A 12in frame has been put in 18 feet from the surface. The ground is favourable for sinking.

Tasmania.—The mining manager writes on the 25th inst. :—I have sunk a winze 20 feet on the stone at the lower tunnel. At the bottom of the winze the stone is 9 feet wide, and shows splendid gold.

Florence Nightingale.—The mining manager reports on the 23rd inst. :—We have during the week extended the east level 10ft, the total distance from the cross-cut being 90ft. The stone in the stopes continues about the same size and quality. The quantity of amalgam obtained from the plates and ripples on Saturday was 160oz from about 60 tons of stone crushed.

BLUE TIER.

Blue Tier.—The mining manager reports on the 23rd inst. :—I commenced sending stone to Ellis's battery to-day and have delivered 5 tons. The balance of the 20 tons will be delivered by Tuesday. They commenced to crush this afternoon.

Welcome.—The mining manager reports under date the 23rd inst. :—I am in from the mouth of the approach to the face of the tunnel 84ft. The country the tunnel is going through is similar to that in the old tunnel of the Victoria.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—The mining manager reports under date April 25th :—The shaft has been sunk about 7ft since last report, making the total depth about 27ft. The lode is making stronger, with prospects still about the same.

LEFROY.

Prince of Wales.—The mining manager, under date April 25th, writes :—I have put a cross-cut from the south boundary to the road on the north boundary, but can find no trace of any other reef. I am now prospecting east and west on the reef, but have had no success as yet.

East New Chum.—The mining manager reports under date April 25th having driven east during the week 15ft, making the total distance from the cross-cut 77ft. The country is about the same as last reported. He has extended the north drive 8ft, making a total distance from the shaft of 58ft.

East New Chum Extended.—The

East New Chum Extended.—The mining manager reports under date April 25th :—Sunk 6ft for the week, making a total distance from the surface of 204ft. He has lost a good deal of time on account of the holidays. The water is heavy and the ground light.

Golden Age.—The mining manager writes under date April 25th :—Your request to have samples of stone forwarded shall have immediate attention. There has been 10ft sunk this week and all timbered. The work is going on well.

Windermere.—The mining manager reports on 22nd inst. :—I mentioned in my last that I had five inches of stone with gold in it, and it is still increasing in width, and the water is also increasing in the face. The ground is very hard, and progress in driving slow; the distance driven for the past fortnight is 11ft.

South West Chum.—The mining manager reports on 23rd inst. :—During the week the men have been engaged putting down ladders, which are now completed, and they have started to cut the chamber.

West New Chum.—The mining manager reports, under date the 25th inst. :—During the week good headway has been made in cutting the chamber, which is now nearly completed. I will start the cross-cut early next week. The ground is very tough. The guides to receive cages are fixed down to No. 3 level, and I commenced to haul with double cages on Thursday. I have given the battery the usual overhaul, and will start crushing again to-day. I am still stoping from No. 1 level to the surface, and have some men stoping from No. 1 to No. 2 levels. I intend extending the two western drives as soon as practicable. All the machinery is in good working order.

Caledonian.—The mining manager reports under date April 25th :—Since my last report I have sunk the shaft 4ft, making a total depth of 90ft, which is timbered as far as is necessary at present. I opened out at 80ft for the opening set and bearers, and then started to drive for the lode. I have driven 9ft, the ground being precisely the same as that sunk through. I have seen some nice looking quartz leaders, heavily charged with pyrites. I have not started the winze yet. I expect to cut the lode about the end of the week.

New Chum.—The mining manager writes under date the 23rd instant :—I have driven No. 2 cross-cut 7ft for the week, making the total length 53ft, and by the present appearance I do not think I shall strike the reef within 60ft from the shaft. The shaft is down 15ft 6in from No. 2 level. The stone in the stopes continues about the same. I am preparing for building in the boiler.

Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager writes on the 23rd instant :—I am

Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager writes on the 23rd instant :—I am still engaged stoping. The stone still prospects well with the dish. I have delivered 28 tons of quartz to the battery.

Golden Era.—The mining manager reports on the 25th instant :—The eastern level is in 122ft. After driving about 12ft further I will commence stoping. The western level is in 66ft; the country is getting softer. I have about 25 tons of quartz in the paddock.

West Chum Extended.—The mining manager writes on the 25th instant :—I have driven east on the reef 15ft. The stone is improving in this face in size, and about the same quality. The stone continues about the same west. I have about 25 tons of quartz in paddock.

Great Extended West Chum.—The mining manager reports on the 25th instant, that he is getting on with the whim, and has sunk the shaft 10ft for the week, making a total depth of 127ft.

LYNDHURST.

Royal Sovereign.—The mining manager (Mr Brown) reports under date April 23rd, that he has succeeded in getting the water out of the main shaft, and examined the old workings. The pumping and winding gear are in good order, and working well. Being engaged at the old workings, he had not been working lately in the face. He has raised about 60 tons, and has a strong body of stone going south showing good gold. Crushing will be resumed in a few days, when a few necessary alterations will be completed.

NORTH MOUNT CAMERON.

Royal Tasman.—Mr Leonard J. Anderson reports as follows on Friday, 22nd inst. :—"I am getting on very well with the erection of machinery. All foundations are in place, and I shall have engine and boilers erected next week, and horses for battery. The last of the plant will be here to-morrow (Saturday), and I purpose starting some teams carting all sawn timber from the Port. The tunnel has been driven 12ft for the week with two men, and will be finished by the time wanted for battery. I shall start to sink on the new reef next week, having examined the reef and found it much richer than the stone sent you by Mr Bennell. The shareholders need not be alarmed at any outside reports about the Royal Tasman. I shall feel glad to give any information to them if they will take the trouble to come here and see for themselves."

North Tasman.—The mining manager reports on 22nd inst. :—I have driven 18ft for the week, making the total length of tunnel 280ft. For the last 10ft I have met with a quantity of water, and have had to timber the ground, which is very

soft. I had to take the men from the open cutting to get timber ready, and to erect blacksmith's shop, which is now completed. I came across in the cutting two small leaders, on which I intend to sink for some distance.

Lady Tasman.—The mining manager reports on 23rd inst. :—I have sunk the shaft 9ft for the week; country hard, with little water, and it being bad standing ground I have had to timber. The total depth from brace is 25ft, of which 16ft are timbered.

Blue Bell.—The mining manager reports on 22nd inst. :—I have driven for the week 5ft north and 7ft south, making total distance driven 7ft north and 15ft south of shaft. I calculate to have from 15ft to 18ft further to drive south and from 10ft to 12ft north to intersect the leads showing on the surface. The water is about the same, 20 gallons per hour. I hear the schooner Penguin is at the jetty, at Ringarooma Port, with the sawn timber ordered from the Don.

Progress.—The mining manager reports on 22nd inst., that he has commenced operations by cross-cutting on the boundary of the North Tasman Extended. I intend putting in a cutting on the boundary of the Grand Centre, as where they struck the reef is close to our boundary.

Grand Centre.—The acting mining manager writes on the 23rd inst. :—I have sunk a shaft alongside the reef to a depth of 30ft. In sinking I cut some leaders carrying gold. I have opened out and commenced driving for the reef, which I expect to cut in a few days.

Royal Mint.—The mining manager writes under date 23rd inst. :—We are at present cutting out foundations for engine and boiler. The ground is tight and will be a splendid foundation for the machinery. We are busy also with a blacksmith's shop. A portion of the machinery will be delivered on the ground on Tuesday (this day). We have got part of the sawn timber and piling for the battery house delivered.

South Mint.—The mining manager, under date the 23rd inst., reports :—The air below these past few days has been light, but I am now making a windsail. Owing to this, work has only been going on in one drive, which has been extended 11ft, making 18ft from the shaft. I have also laid down rails, and got a truck below, which will expedite work greatly. The ground in the face is much better than at the beginning of the week, and mixed with small quartz veins.

Royal Standard.—The mining manager, under date April 23rd, reports :—During the week the shaft has been sunk a

the week the shaft has been sunk a further distance of 2ft, making 11ft for the fortnight, or a total depth of 60ft. The well has also been timbered, and the skids fixed in the underlie portion of the shaft. At a depth of 52ft a level has been driven north along the course of the reef 9ft, and I have now commenced to cross-cut into the reef. It is now cut into a foot and a half of solid stone, from which fair prospects can be obtained by crushing in the mortar. The stone is more stratified, and carries more mineral than the surface stone, but on account of the small distance yet opened it would be premature to express an opinion as to its value. Should the reef maintain its thickness, it will take fully a fortnight to get through it.

(From our own Correspondent.)

It is rumoured that another steamer is to be put into the same trade as the p.s. Avon.

The track from Scottsdale to Mount Cameron, distance 35 miles, is now opened, and very likely looking country for minerals is thereby made accessible to prospectors.

Report speaks well of Richard and party's reef, which is on the Pig and Whistle Creek, some five miles from Gladstone township.

Firewood for the various batteries is being cut and stacked all over the bush, and we hope soon to hear the hills resound with the rattle of the stampers and the shriek of the engine whistles.

Mr Pearce's new hotel is to be called the Royal Standard.

Subjoined are some particulars of the principal claims :—

Royal Tasman.—Mr Anderson is making rapid and sure progress with the erection of the battery. The bed legs of boiler and battery are in position, much of the machinery and material is on the ground, and Mr Anderson has all the necessary tackle for erecting the plant, which bids fair to be of the best description. A tunnel is started in the face of the hill to connect with the bottom of the 50ft shaft, and things are in a fair way to have the battery going at an early date.

Royal Standard.—The reef is cut at the 60ft level and shows good gold.

Royal Mint.—Mr Payne is making good progress with clearing the machinery site and getting timber for the battery.

Royal Centre.—The manager is driving at the 30ft level to cut the reef uncovered at the surface.

North Tasman.—Still driving.

MUSSEL ROE.

Grand Planer.—The mining manager, under date the 23rd inst., reports :—On Monday I shall begin a shaft to follow the stone down, as it will be preferable to sinking a straight prospecting shaft. There are in the claim what appear to be two distinct lines of reef, one apparently about 16ft wide, and the other some seven or eight feet, but at present their width is difficult to determine, as stone can be got over a much larger extent of surface, and enough work has not been done on the claim to prove where the true walls will be found. I have crushed prospects from the present cuttings on several occasions,

the present cuttings on several occasions, and have obtained good results, much better and more regular than I anticipated. I believe the Company's ground to be equal to anything in the district. I forward a small parcel of the stone, which the directors will doubtless have crushed. [The stone is on view at the office of the manager, Mr J. A. Corrie.]

BAND OF HOPE COMPANY.

For some days past very unpleasant rumours have been floating about town with reference to the Band of Hope Company, whose claim is situated at North Mount Cameron, and it would now appear that four persons, named John Pope, sen., John Pope, jun., E. Mewton, and William Digby Coleman, have conspired to defraud the public by deliberately "salting" a "duffing" claim with quartz and gold obtained from some other locality. From the particulars we have been able to gather it seems that the parties have been engaged in tin mining, and have resided near North Mount Cameron for some time past. Pope and his son recently took up a ten acre section, about two miles from the township at North Mount Cameron, under a gold mining lease, and Pope, jun., and Coleman each took up adjoining sections on the line of reef. Coleman then confidently communicated to Mewton that a splendid find of a reef showing gold freely had been made on the prospectors' section, and Mewton mentioned the matter to Mr P. M'Intyre, who had known him for some time, and had no reason to suspect him of any duplicity. Mr M'Intyre at once visited the locality, and was shown the reef by Pope and his son. He found claims marked off on the line of reef by different parties, a prospecting shaft put down, and a cross-cut put in, and upon breaking out specimens of stone from the reef shown him, gold could be seen in the stone, and portions not showing any gold gave good prospects when crushed in a mortar. He was quite satisfied of the genuineness and of the value of the affair, and the result was that in conjunction with Mr P. Bennett he arranged to give the prospectors £800 for the claim.

A company was then floated, called the Band of Hope Co., to work the claim, and owing to the rich specimens exhibited from the reef, and the favourable opinion Mr M'Intyre was able to give as the result of his inspection, the promoters' shares went off pretty freely. After the Company was formed, however, certain rumours came to Mr M'Intyre's ears which made him visit the claim again and make a more careful examination, and

make a more careful examination, and the result not being satisfactory, he employed two men to cross-cut the reef to see how the shoot of golden stone ran. Their labours led to a conviction that a deliberate swindle had been perpetrated by the prospectors, and Mr M'Intyre at once returned to town and informed the shareholders. Some, however, would not believe but that the reef was all it was originally represented, while others were too ready to believe the worst, and a meeting of shareholders held at the Mechanics' Institute on 19th inst. was a rather stormy one. It was, however, then decided to obtain the services of Mr Payne, mining manager of the Royal Mint Company, to inspect and report upon the claim. After a thorough examination of the claim and its surroundings, Mr Payne (we are given to understand) came to the conclusion that a case of salting had taken place, and that a deliberate imposition had been practised on the public. He found that the fraud must have taken many weeks to execute, as several hundred weight of quartz had been salted by inserting particles of alluvial gold (of a much richer quality than any of the gold found at North Mount Cameron) in the interstices of the stone, and fixing it there with American cement, a composition which resembles pipeclay to outward appearance. In close proximity to the carefully-prepared body of salted stone was a well-defined quartz reef, but in this no gold could be discovered.

Besides the £800 received from the promoters of the Band of Hope Company, Pope, sen., had received £150 from Messrs. Heaps and M'Kimmie for a half interest in an adjoining section taken up by his son. After the receipt of Mr Payne's report by the Avon on Sunday, the matter was placed in Mr Superintendent Coulter's hands, and warrants were issued yesterday for the apprehension of the parties believed to be the perpetrators of the fraud. Pope was found to be missing, and it was at first believed he had got away to Melbourne, taking the booty with him. Yesterday morning Pope, jun., and Coleman, were arrested and brought up at the Police Office yesterday on a charge of conspiring with others to defraud Mr P. M'Intyre of £500, and were remanded for a week. Shortly after midday a telegram was received from Hobart, stating that Pope, sen., had been arrested there, and that in his possession were found £26 in cash, a bank-book showing that £150 was placed to his credit, and a bank draft for £740, thus making up a total of £916 out of the £950 Pope is known to have received. Our Hobart correspondent telegraphed last night that the draft found on Pope was on the Union

correspondent telegraphed last night that the draft found on Pope was on the Union Bank of Australasia, Daylesford, Victoria. Pope, sen., will be forwarded to Launceston to-day.

It is said that Coleman was concerned in a similar case at Ballarat some years ago.

A meeting of purchasers of promoters' shares in the Band of Hope Company is convened for this evening at the Mechanics' Institute, to receive Mr Payne's report upon the claim.

It is a matter for congratulation for all concerned in the mining interests that this salting case has been so promptly discovered, and that such prompt action has been taken to shew the offence home to the perpetrators, instead of permitting them, as in another recent and very suspicious case, to escape with impunity.