

## GOLD.

We understand that operations upon the West Tasmania Co.'s claim, Beaconsfield, are to be commenced at once by driving a tunnel across the Company's ground to cut the supposed continuation of the Tasmania reef. The manager having been permitted to examine the workings in the Tasmania claim, is sanguine that the reef will be found in the West Tasmania. Should this tunnel strike the reef from 160ft to 180ft of backs will be obtained.

The resignation of Mr. Heslop, mining manager of the Deakford Company, North Mount Cameron, has been accepted by the directors, and other arrangements made for further prospecting the reef, which has widened out to between 5ft and 6ft.

A contribution (the second) of 9d per share has been made in the East Morning Star Co., now being wound up under an order from the Commissioner of Goldfields, payable at the office of Mr J. F. Hobkirk on the 30th inst.

Notice is given that unless the first call of 3d per share in the Golden Mount Co. is paid before 1st June, all shares on which it remains unpaid will be liable to forfeiture.

Notice is given that unless the second call of 6d per share in the Royal Mint Co. is paid before the 2nd June, the shares in arrears will be liable to forfeiture.

We remind shareholders in the Star of the South Company of the extraordinary meeting to be held at the office of the manager, Mr F. Cobham, this evening, for the purpose of further confirming the proposed amalgamation with the Tasmania Extended Company.

Application is made to register the Marquis of Lorne Co., Blue Tier.

## BEACONSFIELD.

*Olive Branch.*—The mining manager reports, under date the 14th inst., that M'Donald and party had about 20 tons of stone in paddock, and were up to their boundary. According to the dish prospects the stone ought to go half an ounce to the ton.

*Little Wonder.*—The mining manager reports on 16th inst. that owing to the great rainfall he has had a good deal to contend with, and has not made as much progress as might be expected. The shaft is down 194ft, plenty of quartz containing mundie, but no gold visible. The country is still hard, but there are indications of a change. Samples of the stone can be seen at the office of the manager, Mr J. Sinclair.

*Lefroy.*—The mining manager reports :—The contractors have not been sinking during the past week, being engaged puddling the back of the timber in the shaft.

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*Florence Nightingale.*—The mining manager writes on the 12th inst. :—I have to inform you that there is no change to report in the stopes. The stone continues about the same size and quality. I have about 50 tons of quartz in the hopper.

## LEFROY.

*Chance.*—The mining manager, under date May 14th, reports that he has made fair progress in sinking the shaft, 33ft having been sunk and secured for the fortnight. The water was increasing, and the recent rains had also given more water to contend with. The total depth of the shaft from the surface was 141ft. He thought if the ground kept the same the required depth of 156ft. would be attained by the end of the week. He would then get ready for opening out, leaving 6ft. for the well.

*New Chum.*—The mining manager writes on the 16th inst. :—The reef continues much the same as when I last reported. The total length of the reef worked at No. 2 level is 19ft. I have not done much sinking this week, only 2ft 6in, owing to having to do some slight repairs to the engine. I have sunk the winze 7ft 6in for the week. The reef in the winze is 3ft wide, showing gold.

*Queen's Birthday.*—The mining manager writes under date the 14th inst. :—Since my last I have driven the eastern level 17ft, making a total of 106ft from the cross-cut. On Friday last I came on a new make of stone. It is now about 18in thick, and well defined, and underlaying to the south. I have tried several dishes of the rubble, and obtained prospects of fine gold, but have not seen any gold yet in the solid stone. I have delivered 100 tons of quartz to the battery. They will clean up when this is all through.

*West Chum Extended.*—The mining manager reports under date the 16th instant :—I have driven the eastern level 12ft for the week, the total distance from the cross-cut being 55ft. The stone is still about the same size ; it appears to be coming round to its proper course again. I have driven west 16ft for the week, making a total distance of 46ft. The reef in this face is about 18in. wide, well defined, with two good walls. I will start to rise to-day from the back of the level, and also commence sending stone to the battery.

*Great Extended West Chum.*—The mining manager writes under date the 16th instant :—I have the whim all ready, and will start baling out the shaft to-day.

*Golden Era.*—The mining manager writes on the 14th instant :—I commenced sinking on Tuesday, at 4 p.m. The shaft is now down 16ft 6in. The ground is good, and the water is increasing.

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*Windermere.*—The mining manager writing under date 14th inst., reports :—The distance driven during the past week has been 7ft. I am glad to see a change in the face, and from present appearances I shall be able to make better headway. The prospects are also improving a little. The thickness of the stone is much the same and good walls. Water still continuing.

*East New Chum.*—The mining manager reports, under date May 16, that he has extended the north drive 8ft, making the total distance from the shaft 83ft. The country is a mixture of slate and quartz leaders. He had extended the south drive 6ft; making the total distance from the shaft 56ft. The ground was hard, but he expected a change for the better soon, as there was slate making in the face and it was full of small quartz leaders.

*East New Chum Extended.*—The mining manager, under date of May 14, reports :—I have finished the chamber and driven

10ft, making the total distance from the shaft 16ft. The country is composed of sandstone and slate, and is rather hard.

*West New Chum.*—The mining manager reports, under date May 16th, that during the previous week good headway had been made with No. 3 cross-cut, nine feet having been driven, making a total distance from the shaft of 41ft. The ground was tough and close. The men were engaged cutting a cistern plat. The winze in No. 2 level had been sunk 7ft, but he could not sink any more before the reef was struck in No. 3 level, the water being too heavy. The reef at the bottom of this winze was 2ft 6in wide, well defined, and carrying good gold. There had been 412 tons of stone passed through the battery up to Saturday, and 152 ounces of amalgam had been obtained from the plates and ripples. The masons were getting on well with building in the new boiler. The West Extended Chum were to start crushing that day at the battery. All the machinery was in good working order.

*Caledonian.*—The mining manager, under date May 15, reports that the drive had been extended on the course of the lode 20ft since his previous report. There was no alteration, the lode still being 15in wide. He thought that in driving west he should get into more settled country. As he stated in a previous report a slide and cross lead had caused the ground to be greatly disturbed or unsettled. The ground was now more settled than it had been, and he hoped the lode would be more regular and defined as he proceeded.

*East Golden Era.*—The mining man-

ager, under date May 16th, reports that the surface water was so troublesome after the late rains that he considered it advisable to erect a whip, and continue sinking with two shifts of men and horses. The shaft was down 78ft and timbered, and everything was in good working order. He expected to make good headway during the week.

*GLADSTONE, (NORTH MOUNT CAMERON.)*

*Golden Age.*—The mining manager reports under date May 13 :—This week we have driven the cross-cut 12ft further, making a total distance of 24ft from the hanging wall of the reef. At 20ft quartz was cut, but not well defined. We are now through the track of the reef, and into the footwall. We have extended the level along the course of the reef a distance of 9ft from the shaft, and find the stone improving and becoming thicker and more solid, it having made six inches of additional width in two feet. During the week the heavy rainfall necessitated a little extra surface work, but I am pleased to say the water does not interfere with our progress.

*Royal Tasman.*—The mining manager, Mr L. J. Anderson, reports as follows on 14th inst. :—Since my last report an additional horse for tailings pump has been fixed, crank shaft of engine, fly wheel, and the first horse of battery erected. Since then the carpenters have been framing the building for engine house and battery. The tunnel has been extended for fortnight 22ft (two men), total 48ft. No. 2 shaft sunk and timbered 13ft, logged up, and windlass fixed (two men). The reef is a fine solid body of stone from 4ft to 5ft in width, showing a little gold, but prospects well by crushing.

*Lady Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 15th inst. that he has sunk for the week ten feet, making total depth 53ft from the brace. Water still making stronger; country very hard. Have had an extra hand on for the latter part of the week getting timber. I hope to be ready to open out in another eight or nine days, and I have every reason to believe that I shall be successful in cutting the reef, as the Deskford are driving towards us with a well-defined reef. We have had some very wet weather this last week, so less work than usual has been done on the surface in any of the claims.

*North Tasman.*—The mining manager reports that the total length of the tunnel is now 330ft. The ground is much the same, and he is still meeting with large bunches of quartz. The shaft on the line of No. 2 Royal Tasman reef has been sunk 12ft for the week, making the total depth 37ft. He will soon commence to drive, but the leaders in the shaft increase in size as it goes down; and from the appearance of the stone it is evident that

in size as it goes down; and from the appearance of the stone it is evident that he is not far from the reef.

*Progress.*—The acting manager reports on 13th inst. that he is now putting a cutting on the boundary of the Grand Centre claim, but has not cut anything yet. In the cutting that he has put in close to the North Extended he has come across three leaders. They are close together, with bars of sandstone between. He is of opinion that they will form into one as they go down, and he thinks that it would be advisable to sink on them when the windlass and hammer and steel arrive on the claim.

*Royal Standard.*—The mining manager, writing on the 13th inst., reports that during the previous week the cross-cut had been extended 4ft, making a total distance of 13ft, in hard solid stone, well charged with minerals. The recent wet weather had caused a very great increase of water.

*Grand Standard.*—Mr Pearce, writing under date May 14th, reports that the blacksmith's shop is completed, and slabs are being split with which to slab the top of the shaft. Men are logging up the shaft, and a fair start at sinking would be commenced on Monday (yesterday). The last cross-cut near to the shaft exposes a very large reef, 12ft wide, making strong. The stone is of good quality under foot, and carrying a little gold. He considered that when cut into at a depth of 60ft the property would not be behind others on the field. The weather had been very wet of late.

*North Extended Tasman.*—The mining manager reports, under date May 13th, that he had a good hut built on the claim. He had done but little trenching, and found that trenching was unprofitable; he had commenced to sink the shaft at a point marked on the plan, and had sunk 9ft and logged up the brace 6ft; made a new windlass and stands, and had the same fixed. In connection with the two reefs mentioned in his last report at the west end of the claim, he had sunk a further depth of 5ft upon one of them, the perpendicular reef, making 10ft in all. It showed a strong body of stone about 2ft wide, which appeared to be of good quality. The other reef was underlaying very fast out of the hill, with well defined walls. He thought a tunnel would test these reefs, and it would take but a short distance to drive. He had had two men at work on and off. The weather had been very rough and wet.

*Fly-by-Night.*—The acting mining manager writes on the 14th inst.:—I started sinking a shaft last Monday about one chain from and on the western side of the Fly-by-Night creek. It is now down 12ft, slabbed and logged up. The windlass is on, and everything is ready to start two shifts on Monday.

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#### BACK CREEK.

*Try Again.*—The mining manager reports under date May 14th, that the shaft on the south reef is down 12ft., and he intended to slab and puddle it up during the coming week. The blacksmith's shop had been completed. A previous report to Mr Edgell was to the effect that work on Birkett's section had been discontinued for the present, pending the final settlement of the jumping case.

*Holdfast.*—The mining manager, under date May 14th, reports that he had logged up and sunk the shaft to a further depth of 8ft., and slabbed up to the surface. He had cut a nice looking leader about four inches wide, running east and west. It was making wider as the shaft went down. The country he was going through was good looking, it being soft sandstone. He intended to put on another shift next week, and hoped to have the shaft down to 40ft., when he should open out and drive for the reef.

*Deep Lead.*—The mining manager reports, under date 14th inst.:—We started sinking again on Tuesday, and are now down 70ft, having gone 10ft in five days and timbered up. We have very little water to speak of (under 100 gallons per hour), and the puddle keeps out the surface water very well. We have three shifts (three men in each) sinking, and if the water does not trouble us we will sink from 10ft to 12ft per week. We have gone through several feet of timber, and are now sinking through sandy pug, which stands well. Hutchinson has made a first-rate job of the brace and poppet legs, and is now engaged with the bed logs for the engine. If we get the winding gear soon he expects to have steam up in a month from date. The Try Again and Holdfast Companies are sinking with the view of testing the reef at a depth. I am of opinion they will get a good reef.

#### WATERHOUSE.

*Royal Sovereign.*—The mining manager reports on 14th inst. that he commenced to crush last Tuesday with four head and later on with eight head; the machinery is working well, and prospects as favourable as ever. The plates show well for the quantity put through. Messrs James Dally and Archibald, who have just returned, report that travelling is attended with some risk, the bridges being under water, and carting in the district is almost an impossibility.

#### DENISON.

*Royal Treasury.*—Mr Brewer writes under date May 15th, that during the week the men had bagged and sewn up six cubic tons of quartz, cleared a road from the claim to the bridge, and also assisted to re-erect the bridge, which was washed away by the recent flood.



assisted to re-erect the bridge, which was washed away by the recent flood. He was daily expecting M'Mahon to cart three loads on his return from the Mount, and hoped to get the balance carted by Mr Barrett.

MUSSEL ROE.

*Blue Bell.*—The mining manager, Mr W. R. Thomas, reports on 13th inst. that he has driven during the week 21ft, viz., 13ft north, 4ft south, and 4ft east on the course of the lode. After driving about 7ft past the lode the ground became very settled, and showed no more signs of any more quartz in this drive. I put them on the quartz to drive east, and we are now in 4ft from the cross-cut, with 2ft 6in of solid quartz, and well-defined walls, and we occasionally see a colour or two of gold in the solid stone. We are now in 40ft north, and no signs of any lode. I have stopped this drive, and put the men on to open the lode in the south drive opposite the drive going east, and I hope to be able to report in my next a well defined lode going west. We have had some rough and wet weather this week, and it has increased the water. About one half the time is now occupied in baling water, which is a great drawback to the progress that we should otherwise make below.

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