

## GOLD.

The fourth call of sixpence per share has been made on the shares of the Deakford Company, payable on the 30th inst.

The Port Cygnet correspondent of the *Mercury* telegraphs under date 22nd inst.:—The cap of the Star of the South reef has been got about 80 yards from the shaft, and inside the boundary of Golden Valley Prospecting Association, who have secured about half a mile of private property for 20 yards on the line of reef. Visitors were invited by Mr Milne to try the dirt thrown up on the creek crossing the line of the reef in the proximity of the line, and also to sink for themselves and get their own wash, which would show the rough reef gold. The creeks are known to all in Port Cygnet to be gold-bearing, and visitors confirm previous reports. The Star of the South reef runs true north and south.

## LEVEE.

*Chance*.—The mining manager, under date May 23rd, reports that the shaft is finished, being 156ft from the surface. Having attained that depth, he intended to open out for the reef.

*West Queen's Birthday*.—The mining manager reports having driven the cross-cut 10ft since last report, making a total distance from the shaft of 22ft. The ground has changed for the better, giving every indication of his not being far from the lode.

*East New Chum*.—The mining manager reports that he has extended the south drive a further distance of 7ft, making a total distance from the shaft of 63ft, the

ground being the same as last reported. He had also driven the north drive 6ft, making the total distance from the shaft 89ft.

*United Chum*.—The mining manager reports that the contractors are down 27ft with the shaft, and timbered up 22ft. The work is progressing favourably.

*East New Chum Extended*.—The mining manager reports having extended the drive 13ft for the week, making the length of the drive 29ft. At 23ft he passed through a leader of good looking stone. The country is rather hard, but is of a nice formation.

*New Chum*.—The mining manager writes under date the 23rd inst.:—The reef in the eastern face is 2ft 6in thick, and the western 1ft, and in the winze 4ft 6in wide, and very good. I have sunk the winze 9ft for the week, driven the eastern level 8ft, and the western level 10ft. The total depth of the shaft is 37ft, in hard country.

is 37ft, in hard country.

*West Chum Extended*.—The mining manager writes on the 23rd inst.:—I have driven the western level 12ft for the week, making a total distance of 58ft. The reef is one foot wide, carrying two good walls. I am not driving the eastern level, being engaged rising on the stone. The stopes are looking a little better than they did. I have delivered to the battery 42 loads of quartz.

*Great Extended West Chum*.—The mining manager reports:—I have sunk 7ft for the week, making a total of 144ft, in sandstone country, mixed with quartz leaders. The whim is working well.

*South West Chum*.—The mining manager reports on 23rd inst.:—During the week there has been 16ft driven in the cross-cut, making the total distance driven from shaft 48ft. The ground passed through has been slate and sandstone, intermixed with small vertical leaders of quartz, with a little water coming from them.

*Caledonian*.—The mining manager reports under date May 23rd:—Since last report I have driven 18ft, the distance from the cross-cut being 44ft. I am preparing to sink the winze or No. 2 shaft. I found it necessary, in consequence of late rains, to cut the shaft down a few feet below the tunnel, and timber and puddle it. This is now completed. I have erected a whip, and made a road for the same. I will start to sink No. 2 shaft to-morrow.

*East Golden Era*.—The mining manager, under date May 23, reports that the shaft has been sunk 16ft for the week, making a total depth of 94ft.

*West New Chum*.—The mining manager, under date May 23, reports that he has driven the cross-cut 11ft for the week, the total distance being 52ft. The ground is still tough. He had started a winze in No. 2 level near the cross-cut east. It was down 15ft, and the reef was small, but showing fair gold. He had started No. 2 drive west. There was a little quartz making, and showing a little gold. The reef in the stopes between No. 1 and No. 2 levels west of the cross-cut was small, but a little gold could be seen by breaking the stone. Good headway had been made in building in the boiler, and it would be completed this week.

*Queen's Birthday*.—The mining manager writes on the 21st inst.:—Since my last I have driven the eastern level 17ft, making a total of 125ft from the cross cut. The reef is still about the same as when I last reported. The water is not quite so heavy. I would strongly recommend the sinking of the shaft a further depth of 60ft. I think from our present workings it gives a sufficient guarantee for the further permanency of the mine at a greater depth. The crushing which I have

greater depth. The crushing which I have now taken out is from the drive which I name No. 2. When I started my stopes from the back of the drive the reef was 2ft 6in thick, and also 85ft on the length of reef. On rising with the stopes towards No. 1, the reef kept gradually getting smaller and shorter in the length of the reef, in fact it came to 25ft. I also strongly recommend the purchase of a portable winding engine, which also could be used to drive a small battery if required.

**GLADSTONE (NORTH MOUNT CAMERON).**  
*Royal Tasman.*—The mining manager reports, on 21st inst., that the stone in No. 2 reef is looking the same as usual, and showing nice gold. The tunnel to cut the No. 1 or main reef has been driven 11ft for the week; total, 59ft. The balance of the timber required for engine-house, etc., would be up that day.

*West Royal Tasman.*—Mr Lamond reports under date May 21 :—I have during the last fortnight cut out the chamber and slabbed all up, and put in the cross-cut to the north 16ft. The ground is good for working but very wet, and I have to close timber it all throughout.

*No. 1 South Royal Standard.*—Mr Lamond reports that during the recent wet weather the ground gave way in the shaft on this claim, necessitating the shaft being re-timbered. The depth of the shaft from the surface is 17ft.

*No. 1 North Royal Standard.*—On this claim Mr Lamond also reports that the ground round the shaft has broken away owing to the wet weather, thus rendering it necessary to re-timber the shaft.

*North Tasman.*—The mining manager, under date May 21, reports that the shaft is down 40ft, and he has started to drive west. He is of opinion that he will soon cut the reef (No. 2 [Royal Tasman]). He is getting strong leaders in the tunnel.

*Progress.*—The mining manager, under date May 21, reports :—I have put in a cutting close to the boundary of the Grand Centre claim, but as yet have not cut any reef. The North Extended Tasman Company is sinking a shaft on the Standard line of reef, close to our boundary, and that will prospect our claim to the east. I intend to sink a shaft where I cut the three leaders, for it is my opinion they will make into one body of stone as they go down.

*Deskford.*—Mr Heslop reports, under date May 21, that owing to the influx of water through the late wet weather the drive going south has only been extended 9ft for the fortnight, with two shifts. He let, some time ago, a contract for building an office and blacksmith's shop, which is now being proceeded with. Mr Morgan, one of the local directors, writes under

now being proceeded with. Mr Morgan, one of the local directors, writes under the same date acknowledging the receipt of Mr Taylor's letter, dated May 17, informing him that the directors had accepted Mr Heslop's resignation, and requesting Mr Morgan to take over the Company's property, and to consult with Mr Gilham as to who should be given temporary charge of the claim. He had taken over all tools, timber, etc., on the claim. Mr Gilham and Mr Morgan had given the temporary charge of the claim to a man named Archibald M'Neir, who had been at work for the Company a considerable time, and who was very highly spoken of by several of the mining managers at Gladstone, and was considered by them to be a thoroughly practical miner.

*Royal Exchange.*—With reference to this claim, situated N.W. of and adjoining the Mount Cameron Tin Mining Co.'s ground, the prospector reports :—I have sunk on the leader found on the surface, but it cut out at a depth of 12ft. I have commenced sinking upon another good

looking leader, about a foot wide. I will report later on as to how it goes down.

*Golden Age.*—The mining manager reports having during the week extended the level 7ft along the course of the reef, making the total distance from the shaft 16ft. For the last 3ft the stone had been rather broken up in the level, but it was apparently solid in the back. The shaft had been sunk 6ft and timbered, making the total depth from the surface 56ft. The country was getting stronger under foot, which was favourable for getting an improvement in the reef. On the surface he was cutting a trench on the course of the reef.

*Royal Mint.*—The mining manager reports on the 21st instant :—The tunnel has been driven 22ft 6in for the past week, making a total distance from the entrance of 57ft 6in. The country is sandstone. The tramway cutting has been made from the tunnel end 190ft, the average depth of cutting being 2ft 6in, while it is 5ft wide in the bottom and 6ft 6in at the top. I am going to sink a winze to connect with the tunnel; I will sink on the stone, as it will prove every foot of stone sunk on, and it will be better for future workings. The Warhawk hauled up to the wharf last night (20th), and will at once commence discharging. The balance of the battery was delivered on the claim on Tuesday. Everything is going on favourably.

*Grand Centre.*—The mining manager writes on the 21st inst. :—I have extended the drive 10ft for the week, making a total distance of 35ft. The

tended the drive 10ft for the week, making a total distance of 35ft. The country is looking much better.

*Fly-by-Night.*—The mining manager writes under date the 21st inst.:—I have sunk and timbered the shaft a further depth of 22ft for the week, with two shifts. The total depth from the surface is 32ft, and so far the country gone through is very favourable, with very little water.

*North Extended Tasman.*—The mining manager reports on 20th inst.:—I am now fairly at work, having commenced to sink a shaft 6ft by 6ft 3in in the clear, and sunk 9ft for the week, making a total depth of 18ft, and slabbled up. The shaft is making little water, and several leaders, two or three inches wide, have been cut in it.

*Royal Standard.*—The mining manager, under date May 20th, reports that during the fortnight the cross-cut has been extended 8ft, making a total distance of 17ft. The stone in the face is now showing signs of getting near the foot wall, and is not in such large blocks as it was.

#### BACK CREEK.

*Try Again.*—The mining manager reports under date May 21:—The shaft has been sunk 5ft for the week, making 17ft in all. It is slabbled to the surface, and puddled with clay to dam the surface water back. I have gone through three small leaders carrying gold in the rubble. I shall be able to make better progress in the shaft now, as nearly all the surface work is finished. I shall put four men in the shaft next week.

*Holdfast.*—The mining manager reports under date May 21:—I have sunk for the week 11ft, making 35ft from the surface. The country is getting hard, consisting of sandstone quartz and iron stone leaders, full of pyrites, dipping to the south. A little water is making. I shall keep on sinking as long as the water does not impede operations.

#### BRACONSFIELD.

*Rising Sun.*—The mining manager, under date May 23rd, reports:—The drive along the lode is now in over 30ft. The lode is widening very considerably, and is over 4ft in width, and still carrying a large amount of pyrites. The driving has been very hard.

*Prince Consort.*—The mining manager reports on 21st inst.:—The contractors have finished the second contract for driving 50ft to my satisfaction, and I would suggest that we drive 50ft further, to get into more settled country before opening out for the reef. I have got gold in the leader I spoke of in my last report. It pinches out in the roof of drive, but makes underfoot. The country is pretty hard just now, but I am almost sure we are close to a change. There is good pyrites in the leader, and gold can be

obtained from the pyrites by burning it.

*Florence Nightingale.*—The mining manager reports on the 23rd inst.:—The stone in the stopes is slightly increasing in size as we work up towards No. 1 level. The ground in the cross-cut north of the shaft has been very soft, also very wet. The country is now getting a little firmer, which will enable us to make better headway. The cross-cut is in 12ft from the shaft.

*Lefroy.*—The mining manager reports that the contractors have sunk only 11ft for the fortnight, owing to being engaged in puddling up the shaft. The shaft continues dry, saving a little alluvial drainage, and should it continue as at present they will make good headway.

#### BLUE TIER.

*Welcome.*—The mining manager writes on the 23rd inst.:—The tunnel is in from the mouth of the approach 150ft. I have struck pug, and I consider from its appearance it is the same run of pug they struck in the Victoria. It is running very flat. I pricked it on the back of the drive, and in 7ft of driving it has come down about 3ft, and I am not yet through it.

#### MUSSEL ROE.

*Blue Bell.*—The mining manager, under date May 20th, reports that the lode in the western drive is still narrow, but it seems to be widening as it goes down. In the eastern drive the quartz is the full width of the drive, three feet, and is also in the sides of the drive. There is a good footwall to the reef, but there is no sign of the hanging wall. He intended to drive about 10ft further, and then open out to see if he could find the hanging wall. The water was still a little on the increase.

#### GOLCONDA.

*Mount Wilson.*—The mining manager reports, under date May 19th, that he has driven the tunnel 8ft for the week, the total distance now being 120ft. The country is still hard.

#### DENISON.

*Royal Treasury.*—The mining manager reports:—About 3 tons 5cwt of stone have been carted and delivered at the battery of the West Chum, at Lefroy, for a trial crushing. Owing to the battery being otherwise engaged the stone cannot be put through till Friday next.