

GOLD.

The Commissioner of Goldfields, Bernard Shaw, Esq., will visit Beaconsfield to-day, and will remain there to-morrow and Thursday for the transaction of public business. On Friday he will proceed to Salisbury (Blue Tier), where a number of disputes await investigation.

Some specimens of stone from the Royal Mint reef, Gladstone, are on view at the office of Mr R. H. Price, and attracted a good deal of attention yesterday. Good gold can be seen in the stone.

The half-yearly meeting of the Providence Co. will be held at the office of Mr T. H. Urquhart this evening, to receive the usual reports and balance-sheets and transact other necessary business.

A call, the fourth, of 1s per share, has been made in the Royal Mint Co., payable on Monday next.

The first half-yearly meeting of the Golden Mount Co. will be held at Mr T. H. Urquhart's office on 29th inst.

The second half-yearly meeting of the Nine-Mile Springs Miners' Prospecting Association will be held at Lefroy on 25th inst.

GLADSTONE.

Royal Tasman.—Mr L. J. Anderson, the mining manager, reports as follows :—"Since my last report No. 2 shaft (on parallel reef) has been sunk and timbered 5 feet; total from surface 52 feet. Reef now in shaft. When this shaft is down about 65 feet (which will be about half the hill that can be tunnelled) I purpose starting a tunnel and connecting same with No. 1 pass and tramway to battery. I will start two shifts next week on No. 2. No. 1 is all ready for sending stone to battery. The other battery arrived here

last night. The batteries are fixed, and tables. Hopper for battery in advanced state, bob for tailings, pumps and framing for same, and frame for tanks will be completed next week."

West Royal Tasman.—The mining manager, under date of July 8th, reports that during the week he has extended the eastern drive 10 feet, making a total of 62 feet from the chamber. The country was getting harder. He had cut two small leaders, but could not obtain any gold or indications of gold from them, and they were not worth following.

Lady Tasman.—The manager reports on 9th inst. :—"Since last report I have extended the drive 13 feet, making a total of 52 feet. The water being too much for windlass work, I have started another shaft on the Mint line of reef, which is down 33 feet. The water is making, and I have had to timber the shaft from top to bottom; but the water makes me more confident about the reef being close at hand. I hope to be able to report in my next that I have come upon it."

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North Extended Tasman.—The mining manager, under date 8th inst., reports having sunk the shaft 9 feet for the week, making the total depth 56 feet. A considerable portion of the time was spent in timbering the shaft, etc. The last 12 feet passed through is a clean blue slate, rather tight and requiring occasional shooting. Towards the end of the week he anticipates being deep enough to open out to drive for the reef, which, from indications met with, he expects will not be far from the shaft.

Progress.—The acting mining manager reports on 8th inst. that he has sunk the shaft a further depth of 7 feet for the week—total depth 63 feet, and he advises continuing it to a depth of 80 feet, as the water does not interfere with the sinking at present, and the reef can be tested better at that depth.

Grand Centre.—Mr R. Perks, mining manager, reports on 9th inst. :—"We have slabbled up the new shaft 12 feet, and logged it up 6 feet, put a good windlass frame and cover over the shaft, and shall commence to sink on Monday (11th inst.)"

Royal Standard.—The mining manager reports under date July 8 :—"Owing to the heavy rains I have not got down with the new shaft as far as I anticipated, the carters not being able to deliver the slabs till to-day. I will put on two more men on Monday, and keep four driving the north level in No. 1 shaft, and four sinking the No. 2 shaft. During the week the level north has been extended 9ft., making a total distance from the shaft of 50ft. I am now taking about 5ft. in width of stone from the borings, from which gold can occasionally be obtained. I have got the new shaft logged up, the windlass made and fixed, and sunk 8ft."

Grand Standard.—The mining manager, under date July 8th, reports that the shaft is down 60ft., and he opened out at 56ft. for the reef, leaving 4ft. for the well. He had driven and opened out 6ft. from the shaft. The country is very hard, making progress slow. He thought the driving would improve, as it seems to be in a bar at present, and he estimates that in 15ft. or 20ft. the stone will be cut.

No. 1 North Royal Standard.—The mining manager, under date of July 9th, reports that the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 60ft. and timbered up. A drive had been opened to the east at 52ft., leaving 8ft. for the well. He expected to cut the reef at from 20ft. to 25ft. The water was heavy.

No. 1 South Royal Standard.—The mining manager reports under date July 9th, that during the fortnight the shaft had been sunk 8ft. through hard sandstone, and timbered, making the total depth 60ft. He started the cross-cut on

stone, and timbered, making the total depth 60½ft. He started the cross-cut on Tuesday, and drove 6ft. 6in. through hard sandstone, with quartz veins inter-mixed. It was making very little water. He suggests prospecting being carried out on the west boundary, as he thinks the Royal Tasman No. 2 reef will traverse the ground.

Deskford.—The mining manager reports under date July 9th, that the country the drive is in has changed very much for the better, containing quartz leaders with nice looking quartz, and full of mineral. He is sending a sample of stone by Mr Meredith.

South Mint.—The mining manager, under date July 8th, reports that the shaft has been sunk a total depth of 60ft. 6in. The country still continues hard, and the water the same.

Fly-by-Night.—The mining manager reports on 9th inst.:—We have driven the western cross-cut 5ft. for the past week, making the total distance from shaft 41ft.; we have also driven the eastern cross-cut 9ft. for the week, making the total distance from shaft 43ft.

Golden Age.—The mining manager reports under date July 8th:—I have shaped a shaft on the new reef lately discovered, and am preparing the necessary timber for sinking. I have obtained gold from every piece of stone crushed out of the lode, which is about 2ft. in thickness, and will no doubt be solid when cut lower down. I sent you some stone up by the Avon, which is just as it was broken from the reef. Since sending it away I have obtained much better prospects from stone more into the reef. On the Standard line I have nearly finished the chamber, but have had great hindrance through the water. I will begin to cross-cut this reef on Tuesday.

MUSSEL ROE.

Blue Bell.—Mr Wm. R. Thomas, mining manager, reports on 8th inst. that he has sunk 8ft. for the week, making total depth 42ft. Timbered up 5ft., which makes 35ft. timbered. Ground getting harder, and a little more water making. It is now fully 300 gallons per hour. Mr Creelman reports:—"I have got the frame of main building up, and expect to have it soon covered in. I have got the pump shaft and bob finished, and am now putting pipes up for conducting the water from pump to feed tanks."

LEFROY.

New Chum.—The mining manager reports on 11th inst.:—I am happy to say that the mine is looking very well, all the faces showing very good gold. The western level has been driven 14ft. for the week, the reef being 3ft. wide. The eastern level has been driven 10ft.; country hard, and reef about 18in. in width. The reef in the stopes averages about 3ft. wide.

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West New Chum.—The mining manager, who came to town with the crank shaft of the portable engine, reports that the damage done to it is now repaired. It will be forwarded to Lefroy to-morrow morning, and he will be able to start pumping again about to-morrow night. The reef in the east drive of the No. 3 level is 18in. wide, and carrying good gold. The reef in the west drive of the same level is 4ft. wide, and carrying a little gold. From the stopes in this level he is taking about 4ft. of good crushing stone. In the No. 2 level west, the reef is 2ft. wide, and has greatly improved since last report. The stopes between Nos. 1 and 2 levels are still being worked, and from them he is getting very fair quartz. In No. 1 level the western drive is still being continued, and there is a decided improvement since his last report. The battery has had a thorough overhaul, and is now in first-class working order. The erection of the new pumping machinery is being pushed on. The bed-logs are all fixed

in, the loading, and the engine bed fitted in.

West Chum Extended.—The mining manager reports on 9th inst.:—I have driven 14ft. for the week, making a total distance of 126ft. The ground has been very hard and wet, and the reef pinched to about 3in. through the week, but I think it will soon make again, as the ground is better. The walls are 9in. apart this morning.

Great Extended West Chum.—The mining manager reports on 11th inst.:—We have sunk 10ft. for the week, making a total distance of 240ft.; the country is not so hard as it was.

East New Chum.—The mining manager reports, under date 11th July:—During the last week I have resumed operations in the east drive, which is now in 112ft. from the cross-cut. There is a little stone in the face, and the walls of the reef are about 4ft. apart.

East New Chum Extended.—The mining manager, under date 9th July, reports:—I have extended the cross-cut 12ft, making the total distance 89ft. from the shaft. There is no change in the country. The west drive along the leaders has been driven 10ft., making 47ft. from the cross-cut. There is no alteration to advise.

United Chums.—The mining manager reports for the week that the contractors are down 92ft. with the main shaft, and sinking is favourable.

Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager reports on the 9th inst.:—I commenced sinking on Wednesday last, and have sunk 6ft., making a total from No. 2 plat of 13ft.

West Queen's Birthday.—The mining

West Queen's Birthday.—The mining manager reports, under date July 9 :—Since my last report I have driven 10ft., making a total of 20ft. from the cross-cut. I have cut the reef where the two walls came together. The reef opened out to about 6ft. wide, and then broke against a strong breasthead, which threw it over to the north. The country is greatly confused, but the wall I am driving on now is more defined, and also thrown off to its proper course.

Windermere.—The mining manager reports on 9th inst. :—The contractors for sinking main shaft 110ft. commenced operations on Thursday, 7th inst., and are down 10ft., timbered and puddled 5ft. from the surface, logged up the brace, fixed windlass, etc. The sinking is in a sandstone formation, good shooting ground, and if it continues they will make good headway.

Land o' Cakes.—The mining manager reports on 9th inst. :—During the past week I have extended the east drive 8ft. 6in., making the total distance from shaft 21ft. Work has been retarded owing to influx of surface water, and driving is also slow with such a large body of stone, the underlay being so slight it wants a very large drive to take it all out. The reef is 3ft. 6in. wide, and on overhauling the stone in the paddock I can see a good deal of gold.

Chance.—The mining manager reports, under date July 10th, that he has made fair progress with the drives. The south cross-cut in his last was in 52ft., and since then at 66ft. he cut the reef 1ft. 6in. wide, and drove through it, continuing the drive to 70ft. He then opened out west and drove for 14ft. When he opened out the reef was very much broken up, but in driving it got more defined, and carried more mundic. It had two good walls, and looked well for gold, but he had not been able to obtain any. He recommended that the reef be further driven on. The north cross-cut was in 84ft. from the shaft, and passed through nice looking country and a good many leaders.

East Golden Era.—The mining manager reports, under date the 11th instant :—During the fortnight ending the 9th instant the shaft has been sunk 14ft., making a total depth from the surface of 124ft., timbered throughout. The ground is composed of alternate layers of sandstone and slate, the last 10ft. being the latter, and very good picking ground. I have every reason to believe that I am now through the unsettled country.

Chum Consola.—The mining manager reports under date July 11th :—I am down 63ft., and have no bottom as yet. I am now in a hard basaltic rock, with plenty of water. I intend putting down a bore to try the depth of the rock. I

plenty of water. I intend putting down a bore to try the depth of the rock. I am going to sink a new shaft on the East Chum boundary, where I expect the ground will be shallow.

Caledonian.—The mining manager reports under date July 11th :—Since my last report the 80ft. level has been extended 10ft. The lode still looks very well, being very much like that in No. 2 level. The lode is from 2ft. to 3ft. wide. In No. 2 level there is not much change from last report. The lode carries good gold. We shall start to-day to cart stone to the battery. I expect to commence crushing on Thursday, and will let you know for certain by telegram.

BACK CREEK.

Holdfast.—The mining manager, under date July 9, reports :—I have driven for the week 12ft., making 52ft. from the shaft. I have nothing fresh to report; I am only cutting leaders every day, which are carrying any amount of water, but no gold. The country is very nice-looking, being composed of sandstone and black slate. It takes very nearly half a turn of every shift to bale the water, which has increased a great deal last week. The cause of the increase is that the drive is just under the old alluvial workings, and the water drains through the bottom. I think it advisable to sink another shaft, say 200ft. the other side, that is, on the south side, and drive towards the drive I am now in, as it is getting rather far in, and the air is not good.

Try Again.—The mining manager, under date July 9th, reports that the drive in the south shaft has been extended 8ft. for the week, making 43ft. The ground is getting harder, and the water increasing very much. The north shaft was down 35ft. from the brace, and he started to drive at 30ft., leaving 5ft. for the well. He had driven 10ft., and expects to cut the reef early this week.

East Try Again.—The mining manager, under date of July 8th, reports that he has sunk the shaft 12ft., and timbered up. He intended to sink 8ft. deeper, and then drive for the reef.

Just in Time.—The mining manager reports, under date July 9th :—The distance driven for the past week is 11ft., making 22ft. from the shaft. The drive is going north towards the Slate Quarry Company's ground, and is within 12ft. of it. Next week I will start to drive south. The country is much the same as I reported in my last, viz., a nice slate, such as one would expect to find a reef in.

Deep Lead.—The mining manager reports on 9th inst. :—"We are still sinking in the basalt rock, and are down 10ft. The rock is very hard in places, but has several soft seams through it which can be worked with a pick, and consequently we are making more progress with the

be worked with a pick, and consequently we are making more progress with the sinking. There is no increase in the water, and the machinery works well. I shall put on four shifts to-morrow, and push on with the sinking." From a report recently prepared by the mining manager for the information of the directors of the work done since the formation of the Company, we learn that operations at the claim were commenced on 20th November, 1880, and the first shaft was

bottomed at 25ft., with 5ft of wash, containing a little gold under the basaltic clay, and upon a slate bottom dipping rapidly eastward. On 8th December, 1880, No. 2 shaft was started two chains east of the first shaft, and after sinking 33ft. through basaltic clay, a drift carrying a little gold was struck and carried down to 70ft., when the water got too heavy for the windlass, and operations were suspended on 17th January, 1881. Machinery was procured, and on 21st February No. 3 shaft was started about eight chains E.S.E. of No. 2, and up to 30th June last this had been sunk 95ft., the strata passed through being as follows:—Clay, 10ft.; wash, 2ft.; basaltic clay, 44ft.; sandy drift with large quantities of timber in it, 20ft.; basalt rock, 19ft. It will be seen by the later report given above that the mining manager is still sinking through the basalt, and should the result of this Company's operations prove the existence of deep alluvial leads underlying the basalt, it will mark a new era in gold mining in Tasmania.

BEACONSFIELD.

Ilfracombe.—The mining manager, under date of July 11, reports that the shaft has been sunk 5ft. for the week, making 29ft 6inches. The country was very hard.

Britannia.—The mining manager reports on 11th inst., that the shaft is in blue slate, and a well defined and settled country; it is 95ft 6in. in depth.

Blyth's Freehold.—The mining manager, under date of July 9, reports:—I have sunk the shaft 9ft. for the week, making the total depth from the surface 180ft. The ground is sandstone and slate, and veins of a dark brown sand with quartz intermixed. The last drill put in the bottom of the shaft shows signs of water, and every indication of stone being very near.

Prince Consort.—The mining manager reports on 11th inst.:—The contractors will shortly have finished the last contract for 50ft., making the total length of tunnel 200ft. I would recommend the continuing of same, also the putting on two men to sink on the new reef for a few weeks, to further develop it and ascertain if it carries the gold down.

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Florence Nightingale.—The mining manager reports on the 11th instant:—We commenced to raise stone at four o'clock on Saturday, and during the shift rose 22 tons. When we began there was 2ft. 6in. of water on the plat, but we got it off the plat by eight o'clock, and have since kept it under. I will make preparations in a few days to commence sinking again.

Oliver Branch.—The mining manager reports under date July 11th:—Messrs. M'Donald and party have just cleaned up their crushing of 23 loads of stone, which yielded 17oz. 12dwts., or a little over 15½ dwts. to the ton. Bennett and party are now crushing at our battery, and will clean up on Tuesday. Dally is now cross-cutting the hill along the Tasmania Co.'s boundary.

SALISBURY.

Who Can Tell.—The mining manager reports under date July 9th:—The contractor has sunk 24ft. for the fortnight, and the total depth is 47ft. He has been favoured with good ground, consisting of a well-defined blue slate, carrying with it some quartz leaders. These contain a large amount of pyrites, indicative of some other stone being near at hand.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—The mining manager reports under date July 9th:—The shaft is now down 21ft. The ground sunk through has a southerly underlay towards the reef, and from some loose stone passed through 8ft. from the surface I obtained fair prospects. The water is rather troublesome, but I expect the contractors will be down their 50ft. by the end of the ensuing fortnight.

GOLCONDA.

Queensland.—The mining manager reports under date the 9th inst.:—During the week I have finished erecting the tressels of the bridge, and have also the greater portion of the stringers crossed. By next Tuesday I shall be in a position to commence laying sleepers and rails for a distance of 27 chains.