

MINING NEWS.

GOLD.

Some time ago it will be remembered we stated that several claims had been taken up on the Camden river, in the vicinity of Mount Barrow, the indications being sufficient to warrant the belief that payable quartz reefs existed there. In our yesterday's issue we also referred to some discoveries in the same locality, and we are now in a position to state that a company is being floated on the Melbourne market to thoroughly test the field, which for some years past has been worked for alluvial with varying results. Some two or three months ago Mr Thureau was deputed to report upon the 800 acres of land owned by Mr Jas. Scott, at the junction of the Camden and St. Patrick rivers, and his report was of such a favourable nature that no difficulty was experienced in forming the Camden River Prospecting Association. This Association purchased the 800 acres from Mr Scott, and they are now dividing the property and floating companies to work various portions. Mr Peter M'Intyre is now in Melbourne engaged in the formation of a company to be called the Camden River Company, to work 200 acres of this estate for quartz or alluvial, and it is proposed to float another company upon the Sydney market. Several parties have been prospecting in the vicinity lately, and it is not unlikely that numbers will visit the place now that fine weather is setting in.

It will be seen from our telegraphic intelligence that the Victoria Co.'s battery, Salisbury, was started yesterday with considerable eclat, about 200 people witnessing the proceedings. The prospect referred to as having been taken from a handful of dirt from the reef was brought to town last night by Mr J. B. Curran, and it is indeed a first-class prospect. It contains two nuggets in addition to other smaller specimens. Victoria shares were in demand yesterday, and their value is steadily advancing.

Application is made to register the Campbell Town Prospecting Company, which has been formed to prospect in the Fingal district.

A call, the first, of 3d per share has been made in the Star of Beaconsfield Co., payable on 22nd inst.

The prospectus is issued of the West Native Youth Company, which it is proposed to form to work the sections at Lefroy formerly held by the Magnet and Reliance Companies, west of and adjoining the New Native Youth Company's property. The promoters retain 8000 shares paid up to 5s, and offer 12,000 to the public at a very low application fee, the

public at a very low application fee, the whole of the proceeds to be placed to the credit of the Company. Mr H. J. Dean is the broker, and the share-list will only be open till Saturday next.

Mining managers report as under :—

GLADSTONE.

Royal Tasman.—Aug. 13—Wednesday, the 24th inst., will be the best day for the directors to come and see the battery started for a certainty. Everything will then be ready for keeping steadily on. I could make a start sooner, but it would be a false one.

North Tasman.—Aug. 12—I have cut through the reef in the tunnel, and have got the footwall. The width of the reef is 7ft. Where I cut it in the tunnel the reef is much broken up at this place, but I intend to drive to the south, the stone to all appearance being more solid in that direction. I can get gold in the casing, but the stone has not shown any prospects as yet. Although poor at this point, I may not have to drive far to come on the shoot of gold, for the richest of reefs have poor patches in them. I have sunk No. 2 shaft 10ft for the week, the total depth being 64ft. I have met with a hard bar in the shaft, but I do not think it will be long before I get through it.

Lady Tasman.—Aug. 13—Since my last the drive has been extended 12ft, making 26ft through very nice country. While cutting on the surface recently I obtained some very good prospects of gold in the surface stone. I have since done a little more cutting, and yesterday evening got some stone, but cannot say anything as to the value of it yet. It is very near the line of the Royal Mint reef, where I expect to get the reef, and if it should be something the shareholders will soon hear, as in another fortnight the drive will be extended nearly the distance.

West Tasman.—Aug. 12—I have sunk the shaft 8ft for the week, and timbered up 20ft. The total depth from the brace is 39ft. It is good sinking, and seems to be country that a reef would live in. There is a little water making, but nothing to interfere with sinking. I am still trenching on the northern boundary, but have cut no lode as yet, although I have met with some favourable indications in the shape of some nice looking surface stone.

Deakford.—August 10—The quartz I opened out on in the north-east drive cut out, and I am satisfied it is not the Royal Tasman reef. As it is very much broken

and split up, I think we can again try it at a lower level at some future day. I recommenced to remove and put in timber, and opened out in the north end of the

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commenced to remove and put in timber, and opened out in the north end of the shaft. I have since driven 11ft. in a fine slate country, with a very small leader of quartz in the face. I think we can do no better than extend this drive to the boundary of the Royal Tasman claim, as I think we must find the reef on the creek side of the hill. There is a much more favourable stratum on the west side of the hard bar for the Royal Tasman reef.

Royal Mint.—Aug. 13—The boiler has been delivered on the claim, and was unloaded at noon to-day. I am making a chamber at the end of the tunnel at the foot of the winze, and expect the beginning of the week will see it finished. I have not done anything more to the winze. I am prospecting with two men on the new reef. I have sunk a shaft 27ft, and at present am driving to cut it at that depth. The tramway is getting on well.

South Mint.—Aug. 12—The drive from the chamber is in 10ft 6in for the week. The country is still hard, and is making a little more water.

Progress.—Aug. 12—The newly appointed mining manager, Mr Ed. Healy, says :—I arrived on the ground on August 5th, and took charge the same day. Mr McCaveston had commenced to open out the drive, which I have extended 10ft from the shaft. I am getting very strong leaders, which carry a quantity of pyrites and mundie, very good indications of the reef being near, and carrying gold. From the line of reefs cut in the Royal Tasman and North Tasman mines, I have every confidence that the same reef will be met with in the Company's ground. Upon taking charge I found everything in good order, and a permanent shaft sunk and timbered to a depth of 80ft. I hope to strike the reef soon.

Royal Standard.—Aug. 12—During the week prospecting has been continued from the No. 2 cross-cut in No. 1 shaft. The stone has about the same appearance, although I have not washed such a good prospect as last reported. The No. 2 shaft has been sunk 7ft. Its total depth from the surface is 67ft, in hard country and with plenty of water. From its appearance I should be near the reef.

No. 1 South Royal Standard.—Aug. 13.—During the week the cross-cut has been extended a further distance of 4ft, making 34ft from the shaft and 17ft into the reef. The stone is very hard. I have crushed several pieces, some of them containing gold. No. 2 shaft on the west side has been sunk 10ft, through sandstone intermixed with cross-spurs. I have been a little delayed in starting to get logs for it, and new windlass ready.

No. 1 North Royal Standard.—Aug. 13.—I have driven 14ft for the week, making 27ft. I expect to get the reef in 32ft, and shall let you know at the first opportunity.

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Golden Age.—Aug. 13—The shaft on No. 2 line is now down 37ft. I have opened out on the east side of the shaft at 36ft from the surface, and have driven 6ft across the country. At 3ft from the shaft I have cut a gold-bearing leader 4in thick. The country is very favourable, and similar to that in which the shaft on the No. 2 Tasman reef has been sunk through. I expect to cut the reef in a few days.

Mount Cameron.—Aug. 13—The shaft has been sunk 16ft for the week, making the total distance from the surface 66ft. The ground is a little harder. The water is about 25 gallons per hour.

MUSSEL ROE.

Blue Bell.—August 12—Good progress has been made with the machinery this week. The poppet heads are up and stayed, and by this day week I ought to have everything ready to commence pumping. There has been some very rough weather this week, and it gave the battery building a great shaking. I was very much afraid it would have gone down. We had to put two sets of tackling on, and since the wind has eased off have put on some diagonal braces, which will prevent any further mishap.

LEFROY.

New Chum.—Aug. 13—The mine continues to look much the same as when I last reported. Gold is plainly to be seen in all the faces. For the week I have driven the western level 15ft, and the reef is 2ft wide. The eastern level I have driven 12ft 6in for the week, making the total length 150ft. This is 50ft further than I had quartz in the level above. The reef now is 2ft 6in wide, and carrying fair gold.

West New Chum.—Aug. 15—In No. 3 level the east drive has been extended 9ft for the week, making the total distance from the cross-cut 96ft. This drive has been very hard for some time, but there seems to be a change for the better. The west drive has been extended 11ft, and the total distance from the cross-cut is 94ft. The reef has been small for some feet, but is now opening out again. The stopes in this level look fair. In No. 2 level the stopes in the back and west of the cross-cut are looking pretty well. In No. 1 level the reef in the western drive is small. The bricks for the flues, stack, and other purposes are now burnt, and are, I believe, the best lot ever burnt in the district.

Great Extended West Chum.—August 15—I have finished the chamber, and the drive is in 20ft from the shaft, all timbered up. I have cut a leader four inches wide. There is not much water, and there are plenty of small leaders.

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East New Chum.—August 15—I have stopped sinking the winze, and am now preparing to resume sinking in the main shaft.

United Chums.—August 15—The shaft is down 162ft. The country continues favourable for sinking.

Chum Consols.—August 15—During the week I have sunk 2ft 6in through very hard solid rock.

Golden Era.—August 15—The reef averages in thickness 16in, showing gold. I will start crushing to-day.

East Golden Era.—August 15—Since last report a change for the better is perceptible, the ground being composed entirely of slate and much softer. I am making good progress, having sunk and timbered 14ft for the week, making a total depth from the surface of 187ft. I will sink 23ft deeper, and leaving 10ft for a well, open out at 200ft from the surface.

New Native Youth.—August 13—There is not much change in the western end for the last few days, beyond a little stone about 2 inches thick. The eastern stopes look about the same. The Excelsior shaft is down 75 feet below the plat, and shows signs as if the reef is not very far away.

Queen's Birthday.—August 13—Since last report I have driven the cross-cut north 14ft, making a total of 156ft from the shaft. There is a great improvement in the last 10ft. The country is making in, with a mass of small leaders which underlay one foot in six feet to the north. It has every appearance of not being far away from the main back of the lode.

Waverly.—Aug. 15—Since taking charge of the mine I have run the bearing of the Land o' Oakes reef, and do not anticipate much difficulty in finding the reef in the Company's section. I have everything ready for a fair start. I have hung the windlass, and sunk about 8ft. The shaft is about 100ft from the eastern boundary.

Rob Roy.—Aug. 15—The shaft has been sunk 12ft for the week, making the total depth 43ft, all well timbered up. From the look of the country sunk through I will not have far to drive to cut the reef.

West Queen's Birthday.—Aug. 13.—Since my last report I have sunk another shaft north 16ft, and driven a cross-cut south 12ft. I have cut several leaders in the cross-cut, one of which carries a little gold. I will continue this cross-cut for a few feet, and if there is no improvement, I will sink the shaft deeper and cross-cut, to see if there is any improvement.

Caledonian.—Aug. 15—Since last re-

Caledonian.—Aug. 15—Since last report the eastern drive has been extended 8ft. There is a change in the ground. It is getting more settled, and I am in hopes of an improvement in the lode very soon. The western drive has been extended 8ft 6in. No change since last report. The contractor for the whim is getting his timber and other materials on the ground. He calculates that he will complete it in three weeks from date.

BACK CREEK.

Holdfast.—August 13—The cross-cut has been extended 17ft for the week, making a total distance from the shaft 60ft. I have crossed several leaders, all underlaying to the north.

Try Again.—August 13—The east drive on the reef from the north shaft has been extended 10ft for the week, the total distance from the cross-cut being 33ft. The stone is making small, but the walls are regular. The western drive has been extended 7ft, the total distance from the cross-cut being 20ft. The stone is small in this end also, and no gold. The south cross-cut has been extended 8ft for the week. The total distance from the shaft is 24ft. I have commenced work in Adams's shaft with two men, and have sunk 6ft. The total depth from the brace is 27ft. The ground is very hard and very wet. I want to sink another 5ft for a well if we can manage it.

Just in Time.—August 15—During the week the distance driven has been 17ft from the No. 2 shaft. The driving has improved a little, and the country is very promising for a reef, but we will have another fortnight's driving before coming into the run of ground, where I should expect the All Nations reef crosses. There is no water in the drive, and I do not think there will be at this level.

BEACONSFIELD.

Tasmania.—August 15—I have struck the reef at the lower tunnel eastward, and will break into it some time to-day. From the look of the country I think it will be good and large. The reef in the level from the Golden Gate is 4ft. wide, showing good gold from wall to wall.

Lefroy.—Augst 13—The shaft is completed to the bottom, i.e., 125ft, 83ft. of which has been cut down and re-timbered and is now a permanent shaft.

Blyth's Freehold.—Aug. 13—I have extended the drive 13ft for the week, making the distance from the shaft 47ft. I am in hard sandstone, the same hard bar met with in the old shaft. I expect to strike the stone a short distance on the other side of the bar.

Leviathan.—Aug. 13—The tunnel has been extended 50ft for the week, making the total distance 97ft 6in from the opening. The country passed through continues the same as last reported—soft slate with

the same as last reported—soft slate with an occasional leader.

Star of Beaconsfield.—Aug. 15—I have been busy during the week erecting a blacksmith's shop and store. I commence to sink the shaft on Wednesday.

SALISBURY.

Who Can Tell.—Aug. 13—The contractors have finished sinking, and they are about half timbered up. The shaft will be completed in a day or two. The contractors struck another small leader within 2ft of the bottom, from which there is a little water flowing. The ground has become softer in the bottom. I feel confident the reef is near. I intend to puddle the shaft next week about 16ft from the surface, so as to have it comparatively dry for opening out.

GOLCONDA.

Queensland.—August 13—I commenced crushing on the 5th inst., and worked 32 hours that week and full time this. During that time I have crushed 75 tons of stone, and the scrapings from the ripples and plates for that quantity is 87 ounces. This is not a very great weight of amalgam, but as it has been well squeezed in warm water it will retort well. The country is very hard, and I am not making so much progress as I could wish. I shall not be able to keep the battery going full time next week. I have not yet commenced rising, but will do so as soon as I can get a fair dig to work on.

Mount Wilson.—August 13—During the week I have sunk 8ft. The total depth from the surface is 63ft. I have got about 3 inches of quartz in the shaft.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—Aug. 13—The whip is erected, and I am all ready to resume sinking as soon as horses arrive on Tuesday.