

MINING NEWS.

GOLD.

In another column appears the prospectus of the Midlothian Company, which it is proposed to form to work a section of eight acres and a quarter at Gladstone, adjoining the Golden Age, and in the immediate vicinity of the Royal Tasman, Deskford, and Lady Tasman, and on the supposed line of both the Royal Standard and the Royal Tasman reefs. Forty out of 80 promoters' shares are offered to the public at £25 each, and £500 out of the £1000 raised will be placed to the credit of the company. Mr. J. R. Kemp is the secretary *pro tem*.

The prospectus is published of the Perth Company, which it is proposed to form to work two ten-acre sections adjoining the Dundee claim, which was recently floated so rapidly in Hobart, and which is situated on a branch of Brandy Creek, at the northern end of the Cabbage Tree range, Beaconsfield. The Dundee line of reef has been traced to the boundary of the Perth claim, and out of 20,000 shares 16,000, issued as paid up to 10s, are offered to the public at 2s, the remainder fully paid up, and £400 in cash being retained by the prospectors, £800 of the proceeds being thus placed to the credit of the Company. Mr T. C. Just is the broker for the Company.

The Tasmania Company (Beaconsfield) have declared a dividend, the 35th, of 2s 6d per 30,000 share, payable to-morrow. The total amount of this dividend is £3750, and the tax payable on it amounts to £140 12s 6d. The Company have now declared in 35 dividends a total of £144,000, equal to £48 per share on the old issue (3000 shares), and making 4s 6d per share paid since the capital was nominally increased. We may state that the reason this and the two previous dividends of the Tasmania Company have been somewhat less than their former average, is owing to the fact that the Company have out of receipts paid recently £4250 on account of the purchase of the Golden Gate Company's claim and machinery, and have also met increased expenditure for their new tramway, and for the iron rails, of which £900 would be remitted to London; and one shipment has already been received by the Berean, and the remainder are coming in the Lanoma. These increases of expenditure will amply account for the dividends not being up to former average, but it is satisfactory to state the reserve fund has not been touched, and now stands at the same amount as reported at the last half-yearly meeting.

The affairs of the Golden Gate Company, whose plant and claim were recently sold to the Tasmania Company

pany, whose plant and claim were recently sold to the Tasmania Company, having been wound up, the division of the capital amongst the shareholders, which will amount to 12s 7d per share, will be made early in the coming month.

Mr H. Copplestone, who resides at Glen Fern, near the Little Forrester River, publishes a letter elsewhere, from which it appears that the recent discovery of tin near the Great Forrester River is due to his son, not to the Messrs Laird and party, and was first made nearly three years ago.

A meeting of shareholders in the St. Leonards Company will be held at the office of Messrs M'Kenzie and Ingles at 3 p.m. to-morrow, for the purpose of forming the Company, etc.

Application is made to register the Tamar Mining Company (Gladstone), and the Beehive Company (Blue Tier). Shareholders in the Tamar Company are requested to sign the deed of association.

A meeting of shareholders in Wilkins's lease will be held at Mr T. H. Urquhart's office this afternoon, for the formation of a company.

A resident of Sandhurst last week received a letter from a friend of his who went to the Mount Browne diggings about five months ago. The writer says that "the diggings are pretty well played out, if nothing fresh is found. There have been some fair claims, but nothing to boast of, the best giving only about £120 per man. There are hundreds that have not paid for the miners' food. This is, however, principally on account of there being no water within nine miles. It is one of the driest parts of the colony. You can never depend on rain, even in the rainy season from November to August. Some time ago the people had a three years' drought, with not enough rain to make the grass spring. As for sinking for water, the men may have to go 300ft or 400ft. It is what I would call a good poor man's diggings if there was plenty of water, the same as there is in Victoria. A poor man would starve here. There is no permanency about the diggings, as the gold is principally got in small ravines or gullies—very shallow—so that a rush does not last above a couple of months at the outside. There is nothing new being found, so that the crowd will have to return home, for there is nothing to keep them here. The expense of working a quartz reef would, I think, take from 15oz to 20oz to the ton to pay. There is no timber within from 50 to 100 miles from here, except a little to be found now and again in the creeks. If a battery were erected, the cost for firewood would be something enormous."

Mining managers report as follows :—

GLADSTONE.

Royal Tasman—Aug. 26.—I suppose

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Royal Tasman.—Aug. 26—I purpose making a start crushing for good on Monday, 29th. The new reef is about four feet from the surface, and is a strong one, and Mr Chaffey says he has got a nice prospect by crushing. I cannot say what the width of the reef is yet. The locality is this side of the creek, in the line of Mr Chaffey's first shaft, and the course is apparently east and west. The stone looks very promising.

North Tasman.—Aug. 26—I have sunk the No. 2 shaft 9ft for the week, and put in the ladders. The total depth is 22ft. I have opened out south on the reef, and intend to drive along the back wall of the reef. I also intend to break through the reef. As I drive along it it is getting more defined in the south drive. When I break through I intend to drive north on the reef. I expect to meet with a shoot of gold before I drive far along it.

North Tasman Extended.—Aug. 26—No work has been done in the shaft since the 20th, on account of the large quantity of water being tapped on that day, and the buckets being too small to keep the water under. I have therefore recommended the driving of a tunnel under the hill, which will prove the ground in the most substantial manner. The tunnel will intersect a reef shown on the cap of the hill at a distance of about 130ft, also the No. 1 Royal Tasman reef at 270ft. In the west cross-cut from the shaft several quartz leaders were intersected underlying to the west. I opened out a cross-cut to the east of the shaft to seek for the No. 2 Royal Tasman reef. The drive is in 18ft from the shaft. A nice leader was cut in this drive, charged with mundic. I am now driving in the tunnel with all possible strength.

Lady Tasman.—Aug. 26—I have extended the drive 14ft for the week, making 50ft. I cut a nice-looking leader about 10in wide on Wednesday, but I am beginning to think I am not deep enough. Aug. 27—I struck some stone again last night. It ought to be very near the right stone.

West Tasman.—Aug. 26—I have sunk the shaft 8ft, making 53½ft from the brace. I have cut through the strings of quartz underlying to the west, but they are of no size. The country still continues the same, and is making a little more water. I do not anticipate getting heavy water until I get down over 100ft. In the trenching on the northern boundary I continue to get some very fine-looking surface stone.

Progress.—Aug. 26—I have touched a body of stone this evening in the end of

Progress.—Aug. 26—I have touched a body of stone this evening in the end of the drive, which I suppose to be the reef. It shows a quantity of mineral. I have not broken into it as yet, but will be able to give all particulars in my next.

Royal Standard.—Aug. 26—Driving in the north level, No. 1 shaft, was continued till Wednesday last, when I removed the men to No. 2 shaft in consequence of the water becoming too heavy for two men in each shift. The shaft has been sunk and timbered 6ft during the week, and its present depth is 79ft. It is in hard jointy ground, with quartz seams running through it. We should be getting near the reef, as the shaft was commenced only about 12ft from where it appears a little below the surface.

No. 1 South Royal Standard.—Aug. 27—The cross-cut has been extended 2ft 6in for the week, and the footwall of the reef has been cut. The reef is 22ft 6in wide. The total length of the cross-cut is 39ft 6in. There are about 40 loads of quartz broken out. The west shaft has been sunk a further depth of 8ft, making the total depth 28ft, and securely timbered. The ground sunk through is sandstone, with veins of quartz.

No. 1 North Royal Standard.—Aug. 27—I got the reef this morning in the back of the drive, and as I cut it on the footwall I have not been able to open out on it. It is 50ft from the shaft on the western boundary. The water is very strong.

Golden Age.—Aug. 27—I am still sinking on the line of No. 2 reef. It is down 34ft, and the indications are encouraging. I intend sinking as deep as water will allow before opening out for the reef.

Mount Cameron.—Aug. 27—The shaft is down 100ft, and I have started to drive. The country is favourable for the existence of a reef.

Royal Mint.—Aug. 27—The chamber at the bottom of the winze will be finished to-night. I only had two men on it until yesterday. The winze south has been sunk 7ft for the week and timbered, logged up, and the windlass, etc., fixed. The reef is about the same as it was last report, and seems inclined to get wider as we sink. I think another week will finish the earthwork for the tramway. The boiler is in position and half built in; Mr Hicks is getting on first-rate and making a good job.

North Mint.—Aug. 26—I started operations on the 15th, and commenced to open out a large reef on the surface, where I can get good prospects from the surface stone. I am also extending a cutting east and west, and getting stone showing gold. I have also opened another reef close to the Royal Mint battery, but could not continue work there at present, as it would interfere with operations. The reef is about 3ft 6in wide and shows gold.

would interfere with operations. The reef is about 3ft 6in wide and shows gold. I think it is the Royal Mint reef, as the stone is similar in appearance.

South Mint.—Aug. 27—The drive is in 22ft 6in, and up till to-day the ground has been very hard indeed, but a change for the better is noticeable in the face, and I hope to report better progress during next week.

MUSSEL ROE.

Blue Bell.—Aug. 26—Everything is working well. We started the pumps on Monday, and on Tuesday morning commenced sinking, and up to this morning sunk 6ft. The total depth of the shaft is 56ft. Should the ground continue as at present we ought to be able to sink 10ft per week and timber up. The water is no trouble to keep down with the shortest stroke.

LEFROY.

New Chum.—Aug. 27—For the week, have extended the eastern level 16ft. The reef is 1ft wide, and showing gold. The eastern stopes look very well. The western level has been driven 12ft for the week. I have got three sets in at No. 3 level for the chamber, and have started to draw in for the cross-cuts.

West New Chum.—Aug. 29—During the week the western drive in No. 3 level has been extended 14ft, making a distance of 124ft from the cross-cut. The reef in this end is 18in wide, solid, and well defined, and carrying gold. The eastern drive is also in 124ft from the cross-cut and water is coming in freely from the face. Quartz is making. This is about the distance we struck the quartz in No. 2 level. The stopes in the back of this (No. 3) level are looking pretty well. In No. 2 level I have started to drive the western end. The ground is hard and the reef small. I am still stoping the back of this level (west of the cross-cut). The reef is small and carrying gold. In No. 1 level I have driven close on the western boundary. The reef is small. The masons have started to build the stack. I will soon be ready to start the pumping engine, and after the plunger is fixed will commence to sink the main shaft. I have crushed 170 tons for the week, and the plates are looking as well as usual. The machinery is all in good working order.

Great Extended West Chum.—Aug. 27—I have driven the cross-cut 7ft for the week, making a total of 37ft from the shaft. The country is sandstone, mixed with quartz.

South-West Chum.—Aug. 29—During the week there has been good headway made in driving, and I am happy to inform you that there is every indication of a reef now in the south cross-cut, more so than there ever has been. The cross-

cut now in the south cross-cut, more so than there ever has been. The cross-cut is in 174ft from the shaft, making 34ft driven for the fortnight. The work progressing very satisfactorily.

United Chums.—Aug. 27—The shaft is down 193ft.

Queen's Birthday.—Aug. 27—I have driven the cross-cut for the week 15ft, making the total distance from the shaft 186ft. I have passed through the channel of the country previously reported on. It forms a small leader about 4in thick; the wall is well defined. I tried a dish of rubble and got a prospect of fine gold. I took the distance from the shaft to the reef on the spur of the hill, and find it to be 275ft, which leaves 89ft further to drive. I also took the levels, and find the position of our cross-cut where the lode will be met with will give us 140ft of backs.

West Queen's Birthday.—Aug. 27—Since last report I have sunk the shaft a further depth of 14ft, making a total of 26ft from the surface. I shall commence to open out on Monday next, to see if the lode has made any improvement while going down.

Brothers Scot.—Aug. 27—The distance driven for the past week is 12ft. Until the last 3ft the driving was good, when a strong sandstone wall came in, with a

leader of solid quartz about 8in in thickness. The stone looks well, and I believe I am in the vicinity of a reef, as all the leaders are tending one way in the underlay. I will commence another shaft to-morrow, south from the one I am now at work on.

Windermere.—Aug. 27—The contractors for the past week have sunk a further depth of 8ft, making since starting 88ft. The ground keeps very hard, and I am afraid it will take another fortnight before they complete their contract.

Rob Roy.—Aug. 27—I have sunk and timbered the shaft 12ft for the week, and the total depth is 66ft. I left 6ft for a well, and opened out at 60ft, and commenced driving both ways. The country south looks very promising.

Waverly.—Aug. 27—I have sunk the shaft 20ft (making 48ft in all), and timbered 45ft. I have gone through in the past week blue slate containing nice quartz leaders. I shall be able to go down a good way yet, as the shaft is perfectly dry, providing the reef is not got in sinking.

Land o' Cakes.—Aug. 28—The contractors are getting on fairly well with the shaft, being now down about 25ft. The country gone through has been rather hard, sandstone with flat quartz leaders. Yesterday a change appeared to be coming

hard, sandstone with flat quartz leaders. Yesterday a change appeared to be coming in, of a blue slate country.

Caledonian.—Aug. 29—During the week the western drive has been extended 7ft. The lode has very much improved in appearance lately, and also increased in size. The stone is very much like that in No. 2. There is no change in the eastern drive. The total distance in from the cross-cut is 40ft. The contractor expects to finish his contract during the ensuing week.

East Golden Era.—Aug. 29—I have sunk and timbered the shaft 9ft, making 210ft from the surface. I have opened out at 200ft, and have the opening set in. I am preparing trucks and cages for the shaft, and will put them to work as soon as the chamber is complete. When the shaft is finished the appliances will overcome three times the quantity of water that I have at present.

Chance.—Aug. 29—The ground is a little better in the cross-cut. It has been extended 16ft for the week, and the total distance from the shaft is 128ft. There is water coming out of the end, and I think there will be some stone struck before going much farther.

BACK CREEK.

Holdfast.—Aug. 27—I have opened out to the south of the shaft, and driven 20ft through soft sandstone. I cut a lot of nice-looking leaders to-day.

Try Again.—Aug. 27—I commenced to sink on Monday on the reef reported, but could make no headway, as the ground all about is full of water. The sinking has therefore been stopped awaiting dry weather. I commenced to clean out the shaft near the Holdfast boundary on Monday, and found a reef a foot wide in the bottom of the shaft, 11ft from the surface. I got fine gold from this. On further sinking the stone ran out, but at 18ft it made again. The shaft is now down 21ft, and the stone is fully 3ft wide, but I can't say much about it till it is further tested. I have commenced a shaft on the hill mentioned in last report. It is down 14ft, and slabbled. In the north shaft the cross-cut has been extended 8ft, and the total length is 42ft. This work has been stopped for the present.

GOLCONDA.

Exhibition.—Aug. 27—During the past week we have driven 17ft, making a distance of 30ft for the fortnight. Should the country continue the same as at present, I hope to cut the lode during the next fortnight.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—Aug. 27—The shaft has been sunk to a depth of 51ft. The whip keeps the water under easily. The country is softer, and the sinking easier.

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BEACONSFIELD.

Tasmania.—Aug. 29—The battery started crushing with 50 head last Friday evening on quartz from the Tasmania claim.

Lefroy.—Aug. 27—I will commence on Wednesday next to lift the poppet heads.

Ilfracombe.—Aug. 29—I have opened out and driven 6ft in hard country. I expect a change for the better soon.

Star of Beaconsfield.—Aug. 29—I have started the shaft and am working three shifts. The indications are favourable.

Blyth's Freehold.—Aug. 27—I have driven 9ft for the week, and the total distance is 67ft from the shaft. I am through the hard bar, and have gone through about 2ft of sinking, the same as that in the bottom of the old shaft.

Leviathan.—Aug. 27—The tunnel has been extended a further distance of 43ft for the week, making a total distance of 173ft from the opening. With the exception of a hard rib of sandstone coming in occasionally, the ground is much the same as last reported.

SALISBURY.

Blue Tier Tunnelling.—Aug. 27—I will have the blacksmith's shop ready to-day, and will have some of the fallen timber removed from near the approach to the tunnels, and will make a fair start to-morrow.