

GOLD.

Since the sudden cleaning up at the Royal Tasman Co.'s battery, Gladstone, after only crushing three days and a half, there has been a good deal of anxiety and desire to learn further particulars, which we are only now in a position to furnish, the assays and tests which the directors have had made during the past week of pyrites, tailings, blanketings, etc., forwarded by the mining manager, having only been concluded on Saturday evening, and the results laid before the directors at their meeting yesterday. The report of the mining manager for the past week, which appears elsewhere, is satisfactory, and we believe that the directors received a telegram yesterday stating that he had obtained from plates and ripples 209oz amalgam after four days' crushing. It will be noticed that Mr Anderson states in his report that he expects the 400oz amalgam obtained on Thursday last will retort as well as that from the trial crushing at Sandhurst. If it does, the shareholders will have a welcome surprise, for the 43oz amalgam obtained at Sandhurst from the crushing of one ton of quartz yielded no less than 20oz of gold. The assays of pyrites, etc., which have been made with great care by Mr E. W. Woodgate, and the results of which were submitted to the Board of Directors yesterday, are as follows. The pyrites yielded—

Oxide of tin	... 12.3 per cent.	} equal to metal 9.4 per cent.
Silica	... 7.7 "	
Arsenical pyrites	... 78.0 "	
Gold	... 1.152 "	
Silver	... 0.300 "	
Total	... 99.452	

This would give 376ozs 9dwts 16grs of fine gold, and 100ozs 9wts of fine silver to each ton of pyrites, which we need scarcely say is a most handsome return. The assays of the blanketings and tailings showed that very little free gold had escaped from the battery, nothing in fact worth saving, but they contained a good percentage of pyrites, which can readily be saved by the use of proper appliances, such as percussion tables. The various tests show that the Royal Tasman stone is highly charged with pyrites, the quantity of which, we are informed, increases as depth is attained.

The directors visited the Rising Sun Co.'s claim, Beaconsfield, on Friday last, and made a thorough examination of the lode for the purpose of selecting a place to commence the proposed tunnel. Five bags of ore, taken all through the lode, were crushed and tested by Mr W. L. Jenkin last week, with the following result:—Copper, 7.2 per cent.; silver, 2oz 19gr per ton of ore. A specimen of selected ore was assayed yesterday by Mr

selected ore was assayed yesterday by Mr E. W. Woodgate, and yielded at the rate of 26.5 per cent. of pure copper per ton.

A meeting of persons interested in the formation of the Neptune Silver-Lead Company (Mount Claude) was held at the Mechanics' Institute last evening. It was decided to form the Company under the above name, with a capital of £12,000 in £1 shares. The following gentlemen were appointed as directors:—Rev. J. H. Wills, Dr. S. R. Smyth, Messrs John Dunning, W. Gurr, Joseph Firth, W. Atkinson, and W. Hartnoll, jun. Mr R. T. Gunn was appointed manager, and Messrs Spotswood and Hayward, auditors.

A special meeting of shareholders in the Providence Company was held at the manager's (Mr T. H. Urquhart's) office last evening, to consider and approve or otherwise of the contract of sale and disposal of the claim and lease to W. C. Sleigh, Esq., for the provisional directors of the New Providence Gold Mining Company. Mr David Collins presided. It was unanimously resolved that the action of the directors in disposing of the property to the New Providence Company be confirmed. It was also decided that the particulars requested by Messrs Phillips and Cohen be furnished them.

A special meeting of shareholders in the Moonlight Co. will be held at the office of Mr T. H. Urquhart at 4 p.m. to-day, to consider the best method of prosecuting the development of the claim.

A call (the eleventh) of 3d per share has been made in the Eureka Co., payable on 19th inst.

A call (the first) of 3d per share has been made in the Kara Kara Co., payable on 19th inst.

The first general meeting of the Pactolus Co. will be held at the Mechanics' Institute on 20th inst., to receive reports and balance-sheets, etc.

Application is made to register the Calder Company (Lefroy).

Mr J. G. Payne, the mining manager of the Royal Mint Company (Gladstone) having been compelled through ill-health to forward his resignation, the directors invite applications for the position of mining and battery manager.

A meeting of promoters and shareholders in the Brother Scots Company (Lefroy) will be held at the office of Mr A. Reid, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of forming the Company, etc.

Captain G. M. Jackson notifies that unless a certain transfer of 100 shares in the Royal Mint Company is lodged by noon to-morrow, it will be cancelled.

A correspondent informs us that at a meeting held at Beaconsfield on 9th inst. of shareholders in Rough's Lease, it was

of shareholders in Rough's Lease, it was decided to form a company, to be called the Ajax Company Limited, and Mr T. G. Williams was appointed manager. Amongst the rules adopted was one that is new, and might be found advantageous in other companies, viz., that all transfers of shares must be sent in to the manager within 21 days of the date of said transfer, or the manager is not empowered to transfer the shares in the Company's books. The property of the Ajax Company has been considerably prospected, a tunnel having been driven 200ft in search of a reef believed to run through the claim, and several promising looking leaders have been cut, two of which carried good gold. The country through which the tunnel has been driven is soft sandstone and slate, and from indications it is believed the reef is not far off.

The *Mercury* states that Mr A. A. Butler, manager of the Alpine Company, Mangana, has received a telegram from the mining manager stating that the reef in the lowest level was 4ft thick, showing good gold.

Mining managers and others report as under :—

BEACONSFIELD.

Blyth's Freehold.—Sept. 12—I have kept constantly baling since I started, and have lowered the water 9in. There is 2ft 3in of water on the well-board yet. It has lowered 3in in the last eight hours.

Leviathan.—Sept. 12—The tunnel has been extended a further distance of 38ft, making a total of 238ft from opening. There has been no change in the country since my last report. I have erected a blacksmith's shop on the claim, with everything ready for use.

Star of Beaconsfield.—Sept. 10—I have to report the cutting of a body of stone in the shaft at a depth of 30ft, measuring from 10in to 18in in width.

Ilfracombe.—Sept. 10—I have driven 6ft during the week, making a total distance of 19ft. I have also done a little prospecting on the surface, and hope shortly to obtain something good.

Florence Nightingale.—Sept. 12—I commenced pumping at 9 p.m. on Saturday. At 8 a.m. to-day the water is down to within 18in of the No. 1 plat.

Prince Consort.—Sept. 12—I have to inform you the contractors have driven 5ft for the past week, making a total length of 236ft. I am glad to say the country is improving every foot we go, and fully expect to tap something very soon. The hard country is cutting out, and I am now following a nice clean wall of slate on the west side of the drive, which, I think, will soon lead on to something.

SALISBURY.

Royal Exchange.—Sept. 12—I started

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Royal Exchange.—Sept. 12—I started the approach on the 8th inst. I will have about 60ft of cutting before I start the tunnel. I am in 40ft with the approach, and have cut down about 2ft of nice gravel and quartz wash, out of which I have washed a fair prospect. I will have the approach and the opening set of timber in by Tuesday night.

Pactolus.—Sept. 10—I have to report that we are progressing well with the tunnel. The country is improving, and we are passing through a great many small quartz leaders carrying pyrites; there is also a good quantity of water making in the face.

DENISON.

Royal Treasury.—Sept. 10—I have to report that the cross-cut is now in 15ft through good blasting ground, but I think the last bore yesterday evening was through the hard belt of country and into sandstone. I expect to be near the reef by Wednesday evening.

GOLCONDA.

Exhibition.—Sept. — 10 During the week we have extended the tunnel a distance of 14ft, making a total distance of 28ft for the fortnight. Entire length of tunnel from entrance to face 303ft; have not yet cut the lode, but from the appearance of the face, from which water is coming, I expect to cut it very shortly, in fact daily.

GLADSTONE.

Royal Tasman.—Sept. 10—I will endeavour to be ready for cleaning up the crushing now in progress at the battery by the end of the month. Mr Meredith and I wired you the result of three and a half days' crushing, viz., 400oz. amalgam, which, I think, will retort about the same proportion of gold as at the trial crushing in Sandhurst. The amount of stone put through the battery was 40 tons, as near as I could estimate, and the boxes yielded about the same quantity of amalgam as the top plates and wells (or ripples). The level in No. 1 Tasman reef has been driven 30ft, the stone averaging about 5ft in width, and at this distance strong lava came from the south-west and crossed the reef at a right angle, displacing it eastward 4ft. The lava then turned on the east side of the reef, and is now lying on the footwall and going south. In displacing the reef, the lava dips south one foot in one. I have crushed some of the stone above the lava, and find it carries payable gold, but is full of pyrites, and the reef under the lava carries very good gold. The north level is in 10ft, the stone being of a good quality, and from 3ft to 6ft in width.

North Tasman.—Sept. 9—I have to report that the No. 2 shaft has been sunk 8ft for the week. The men are engaged

report that the No. 2 shaft has been sunk 8ft for the week. The men are engaged opening out under the shaft and getting timber ready for use when I break through. The shaft is down within 18in of the tunnel, in which there is a plentiful supply of air. I am still driving along the reef, the back wall of which is well defined, and its course bears direct to the No. 1 shaft, where I cut the reef close to the Royal Tasman. I intend to put some of the men to sink a winze in the No. 1 shaft in order to prove the stone as it goes down, that is, if the directors think it advisable.

North Extended Tasman.—Sept. 9—The tunnel has been extended 24ft for the week, making a total of 45ft and strongly timbered up to the face. The ground gone through is easy driving.

Lady Tasman.—Sept. 10—I have to report that during the week the drive has been extended 9ft, making a total depth

of 70ft. Last week we drove through 10ft of pug and stone, with hard country at either side. This in my opinion is the course of the Royal Mint reef, which will be proved at a deeper level some future time.

West Tasman.—Sept. 9—I have to report that I have sunk the shaft 8ft, making a total of 71ft from the brace. The country has changed into a solid formation, and I am sure when we get deep enough the lode will be reached. Judging from present appearances the country lying on the surface for a depth of 60ft is much broken, and the probabilities are a lode would not live in it. The country we are now in is more solid, and has not been disturbed. It is exactly the country likely to contain a lode.

Golden Age.—Sept. 9—I have to report that the depth of the shaft on the No. 2 line of reef is now 62ft from the surface, and the country is getting stronger and more settled. The water has not increased so much as to hinder sinking, and I hope to be able to sink 10ft or 15ft deeper before cross-cutting for the lode.

Deskford.—Sept. 10—The ground is now a trifle better for blasting, but still hard with a little quartz mixed up with sand and stone.

Royal Standard.—Sept. 9—During the week the No. 2 shaft has been sunk 11ft, making the total depth 98ft, also timbered 6ft. After sinking about 7ft I will be prepared to open out the cross-cut at 100ft, thus leaving a five feet well.

No. 1 South Royal Standard.—Sept. 9—I have to report that the No. 2 shaft has been sunk a further distance of 5ft, making the total depth 41ft, through bars of sandstone and slate. The ground is pitching very rapidly to the N.W. 3in in every 6ft. It will be advisable to take another week's sinking and then cross-cut.

every 6ft. It will be advisable to take another week's sinking and then cross-cut. The water is light. I sent 80 bags of quartz for trial per p.s. Avon.

Royal Mint.—Sept. 9—I have driven the tunnel 20ft for the week, making a total from the winze of 42ft. The stone has pinched, leaving two good walls, which I am driving on, and expect soon to have a new make of stone. The south winze is down 33ft; reef, 2ft wide. I have lined up winze, and put in shoot ready to receive stone from surface, and we are at present cutting a reservoir 35ft x 35ft about 100ft behind the battery-house. I have let a contract this week for cutting the first portion of the race, 100½ chains; work to commence on Monday next. The engine is all erected, and I am painting the woodwork of battery, engine, etc., and expect everything to be ready when the race is cut.

South Mint.—Sept. 9—The drive has been extended 6ft during the week. The ground is hard, and the country passed through is clean sandstone. The total distance sunk from the shaft is 34ft.

North Mint.—Sept. 9—Since my last letter I have extended the cutting to the western boundary, and have cut several good-looking leaders. I opened a large body or surface blow close to No. 1 reef, and extended it south for 100ft. There is a great amount of good-looking stone, but much broken, and it evidently required sinking on to give it a fair trial. I therefore commenced to sink a shaft on the 7th inst., and in the surface I obtained some loose quartz, from which I got several splendid prospects of coarse gold. I hope soon to report the discovery of No. 3 reef.

Fly-by-Night.—Sept. 10—I have started a tunnel on the eastern side of the creek, and it is the general opinion now that the Royal Tasman line of reef will go much further east than was expected. If so we will have to drive 100ft to 150ft before striking it.

MUSSEL ROE.

Blue Bell.—Sept. 9—Everything is working well and we are making good progress with the shaft. During the week we have sunk 12ft and timbered up 14ft, making the total depth of shaft 78ft, 76ft of which are timbered up. We have intersected several quartz leaders in the shaft, all dipping to the north, and every one we strike increases the water a little. We now have about 1600 gallons per hour, but as we are equal to 6000 gallons I do not think there is any fear that we cannot go to the depth proposed. Horses would be no good for the water we have now, therefore I think we did well to get the pumps.

LEFROY.

Rob Roy.—Sept. 10—I have extended the drive north 7ft for the week, making

Rob Roy.—Sept. 10—I have extended the drive north 7ft for the week, making the total distance driven north 16ft. The ground passed through is very hard. I have driven south 13ft for the week, and the country is very favourable to all appearances, consisting of black slate, intermixed with quartz veins very much like the ground passed through in the Land o' Cakes claim close to the reef. The veins of quartz passed through are all trending south, indicating that we must be in close proximity to the reef, as the water is increasing daily.

Land o' Cakes.—Sept. 10—I have nothing fresh to report. The shaft sinking for the past week has been slightly harder, passing through a quantity of sandstone. Sixteen feet have been sunk since my last report, making in all 60ft, and timbered up.

Waverly.—Sept. 12—Since my last report the shaft has been sunk a further depth of 15ft, making a total depth of 75ft, and timbered. Close to the bottom progress in sinking has been slower since we sunk through the reef, as the ground is much wetter. I propose to continue sinking to the 100ft level before opening out, as the water is not heavy enough to impede the work.

New Monkland.—Sept. 12—I have to report that I have driven 25ft for the week, making the total length 45ft; the reef being about 2ft wide, and does not show gold, but by crushing I can obtain colours.

Chance.—Sept. 12—I have to report that the south cross-cut has been driven 18ft during the week. The ground is a little better, and a large quantity of water is coming in from the end. We are getting into more leaders of quartz, and during the past fortnight the country passed through has been clearer and more solid than formerly. I hope soon to report a change in the state of affairs.

New Chum.—Sept. 10—I have to report that there is an improvement in the mine this week. I have driven the western level 11ft since my previous report, the reef being 2ft 6in in width. Have driven the eastern level 13ft 6in. The reef is 12in wide and shows gold. The total distance driven east is 200ft. I have started to sink the western winze again, it being perfectly dry now. The reef here is 5ft wide, showing gold. The total depth is 45ft. The total driven of No. 3 cross-cut is 20ft, and the country passed through is hard.

West New Chum.—Sept. 12—I have to report that the west drive in the No. 3 level is in 152ft from the cross-cut, making the distance driven for the week 14ft. The reef is 2ft 6in wide. The east drive is in also 152ft from the cross-cut, and the reef is 1ft 6in in width, well defined and carrying very rich quartz. The eastern

winze has been opened out into this level. In No. 2 level the western drive is in 231ft from the cross-cut, the distance driven for the week being 13ft. The reef is small, and the stopes in the back of this level are still being worked, and are carrying a little gold. The winze

west of the cross-cut is down 15ft. The reef is 2ft in width.

South-West Chum.—Sept. 12—The contractors have finished their contract, which makes the south cross-cut 208ft from the shaft; there has been quartz leaders met with in driving, but I think the cross-cut ought to be extended further.

Great Extended West Chum.—Sept. 12—I have extended the drive 11ft for the week, making a total of 58ft from the shaft, and have got the reef 6ft wide, with good clean stone, but I have not seen any gold yet. I will soon start to drive on it.

Queen's Birthday.—Sept. 10—I have driven the cross-cut 11ft, making a total of 211ft. On Friday last we came on a change of country. The country is making in full of breast heads, intermixed with small leaders. I am of opinion there is another reef not far away.

West Queen's Birthday.—Sept. 10—Since my last report I have costeened the surface, and found the same channel of country that has been worked on the spur of the hill in the Queen's Birthday, and also sunk a shaft to the depth of 18ft. I will commence on Monday next to open out and cross-cut for the reef.

Brother Scots.—Sept. 10—I am still driving south, and have gone a further distance of 14ft; the driving has improved the last few feet, but as its getting too far to get away the stuff, I will commence another shaft. The formation at present is a nice blue slate, with small leaders.

Windermere.—Sept. 10—The contractors for the past week have sunk a further depth of 9ft, making altogether 105ft 6in, and 4ft 6in more will complete their contract. I expect about Thursday to be able to start to open out and drive for the reef. The country gone through for the last 20ft has much the appearance of a strong wall, but unless the reef has a deal more underlay than it had in the upper level, I reckon having from 30ft to 35ft to drive before cutting it.

Caledonian.—Sept. 12—During the week the east drive has been extended 6ft. The lode was small until the last day or two, when it opened out, and its width now between the walls is 3ft, and apparently increasing in size. The western drive has been extended 9ft, the lode being about 2ft wide, but slightly better

tern drive has been extended 9ft, the lode being about 3½ft wide, but slightly intermixed with sandstone. The country has now changed from sandstone to slate. I expect to start to work the whim on Tuesday.

East Golden Era.—Sept. 12—I have driven and timbered 20ft, making a total distance from the shaft of 30ft. The country gone through is all that could be desired for a gold-bearing reef. Water is steadily increasing in the last 10ft, and running freely from the face of the drive. I am satisfied there is a large body of stone at no great distance ahead. According to my bearings of the Golden Era reef I shall have to drive about 25ft before cutting the reef.

BACK CREEK.

Try Again.—Sept. 10—I have to report that the new shaft has been sunk 10ft for the week, making a total depth of 38ft. At 30ft we came on an irregular body of stone, but at the present depth it is more solid and has the appearance of a large reef. It is all over the bottom of the shaft, and I find as we go down that the stone is getting more charged with pyrites. I shall put two shifts on next week. In regard to the shaft next to the Holdfast I have driven a cross-cut to the south 18ft without meeting anything fresh.

Holdfast.—Sept. 10—The south cross-cut has been extended 24ft for the week, the total distance from the shaft being 66ft. I have no change to report.

East Try Again.—Sept. 10—I arrived at the claim on the 9th inst., and found no persons engaged working it. Everything is full of water, and I cannot see what work has been done. The water will be baled out next week, when I will furnish further particulars.

Just in Time.—Sept. 10—I have driven a further distance of 15ft for the week, and sunk the third shaft 9ft. The country has changed now to more of a sandstone formation, and there were several nice leaders on the surface on commencing the shaft. As the sinking is good I will go down a few feet deeper with this than the others before opening out. I will cut the leaders again in the driving. I have not driven far enough south yet by 35ft. The distance driven from the north is 177ft.