

## MINING NEWS.

### GOLD.

From two Launceston gentlemen who visited Lefroy on Saturday, and through an order courteously supplied by the manager, Mr J. R. Kemp, were enabled to carefully inspect the United Chum Co.'s mine, over which there is at present such excitement, we have received an account of what they saw. The United Chum claim, as many of our readers are aware, is on the Chum line of reef, having between it and the New Chum Company, the Great West Extended Chum, the West Chum Extended, and the West New Chum, and the reef has been struck in the shaft at a depth of 220ft. The visitors were the first admitted down the shaft since the discovery, and they found that the shaft is going down diagonally through the reef being now about four feet on this course with about 22 inches of rich stone on the floor of the shaft. The lode will measure about 18in in width so far, and has every indication of being a considerable thickness. There are no signs of the footwall yet, and the reef, which is very solid and well defined, unless the underlay considerably alters, will not be out of the shaft for the next 16ft. They saw the stone broken out themselves, and nearly every piece—and some as small as a pea—contained gold, the stone at present in view being good five ounce stone. There was, they believe, about ten tons of stone in the paddock, and although considerably picked over, it showed splendid gold, one piece of stone about 10in square being estimated to contain an ounce of gold. The shareholders can be congratulated upon having a most valuable property; all the miners at Lefroy are in raptures with the prospects of the Company, and estimate this the best show ever cut on the Springs. The stone on view at the manager's office last week is not to be compared with what can be seen at the mine. The Springs is all activity again, and the Chum line of country has been pegged off for miles. We understand at Lefroy on Saturday evening sales of United Chum shares were made at from £3 up to £4, and that £5 was offered for a parcel and refused.

A meeting of persons interested in White and O'Shea's sections, Lefroy, will be held at the office of Mr R. H. Price on Wednesday evening, to arrange for prospecting the claim.

A call, the first, of 6d per share has been made in the Imperial Company, payable on 3rd October. A working mining manager is wanted for this Company.

The prospectus is published of the United Chum Extended Company, which it is proposed to form to work the next

United Chum Extended Company, which it is proposed to form to work the next claim but one west of the United Chum Company, on the Chum line of reef. There are no preferential shares, but 40 out of 100 promoters' shares are offered to the public at £25 each, £500 of the proceeds to be placed to the credit of the Company. Mr T. C. Just is the agent for the promoters.

The first half-yearly meeting of the following companies are advertised for to day:—East Grand Flaneur Company, 4 p.m., at Mr Owen Meredith's office; Prince Consort Company, 8 p.m., at Mr Andrew Reid's office.

The directors of the Royal Tasman Company leave for Gladstone by the p.s. Avon at midnight this evening, in order to be present at the cleaning up from the first crushing at the Company's battery, which takes place on Friday next. The Avon is expected to reach Ringarooma Port about 2 p.m. to-morrow, and a vehicle will be in waiting to take the party on to Gladstone.

Mining managers and others report as under:—

#### BEACONSFIELD.

*West Tasmania.*—Sept. 23—I have driven 5ft for the week, the country being hard. I have cut two small leaders this week full of pyrites. There is 63ft yet to drive to the Tasmania boundary.

#### DENISON.

*Royal Treasury.*—Sept. 23—We have struck a body of stone 2ft thick at the 39ft level. From what I can see of it at present it appears to be the reef. I have only had time to try a dishful of the casing, and there was no prospect in it. The stone broken through this morning has all the appearance of the stone in the old workings. It has the same bearings, but is 10ft further south than its course in the 20ft level. The formation we crossed at 29ft is the proper course, but I think the hard country has split the stone. The water is very heavy.

#### LEFROY.

*West New Chum.*—Sept 24—I have crushed 186 tons of quartz for the week, and obtained 217 ounces amalgam from the plates and ripples.

*New Chum.*—Sept. 24—I have crushed for the week 125 tons of stone, and obtained 180ozs of amalgam from plates and ripples.

*New Native Youth.*—Sept. 24—There is a change for the better coming now. In the western drive the walls are about 6ft apart, with hard quartz and sandstone. Water is making freely from the face. In the hanging wall a small vein of good looking stone has come in, about 3in wide with gold in it, and from its appearance I fancy it will widen as we drive on it.

#### GLADSTONE.

on it.

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*Royal Tasman.*—Sept. 21—I have not cleaned out the boxes since you left. I think I have over 1000oz of hard amalgam (from plates and ripples). The north level is still opening out wide. The reef this day is close on ten (10) feet wide, all good stone. This looks well for No. 2 tunnel, which will soon be in. The diorite dyke is giving the contractors a grand lift. The battery is constantly going, and working well. The amalgam is coming on the plates faster.

*North Mint.*—Mr T. M'Gregor reports:—I have to report that I have taken charge of the North Mint Company's claim on Monday, 19th inst. On looking over the claim I find that a trench has been cut across the ground from east to west for a distance of five chains. This trench has bared what can hardly be termed a lode, it being more a dyke than a quartz lode. It is of immense size, and its apparent course is south-east and north-west. It is totally unprospected as yet, but some portions of it must be very good, as the surface stone found in trenching below it carries gold of a good quality. I will prospect this at once, and when I get the best shoot of gold will sink on it. Six chains to the east of this formation there is another lode running through the claim. The Royal Mint Company, while excavating for their battery site, which is on the North Mint claim, first discovered this, and there has been nothing done on it since then. I had a look at some of the stone, and it very much resembles the No. 1 lode of the Royal Tasman that they are now crushing from, and the gold has the same appearance. In fact I am of the opinion that this is the continuation of that lode, as it seems to line out with it, and moreover that lode cannot be found after it breaks from the Tasman spur; but I shall know better in a few days, as I am opening out upon it at a spot where I will not interfere with the Royal Mint machinery site. On the whole I am very

well satisfied with the claim, and I am certain that it will develop into a valuable property with a very small expenditure.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The Royal Tasman battery continues to crush without any stoppages, excepting the necessary ones for cleaning the tables, etc. Everything is working smoothly and well, and all the machinery is in splendid order. From what I have seen and know, I have no hesitation in asserting that there will be a return of from 3 to 5oz to the ton. This is really a splendid result, and fully bears out all that has been said about this extraordinary claim. This crushing is in no wise a picked one, as the stone that is being crushed is taken from the stopes and level, and no attempt whatsoever is being made to select

crushed is taken from the stopes and level, and no attempt whatsoever is being made to select it. Not an ounce of the quartz where the trial crushing of two tons was taken from has gone through the battery as yet. If a few tons from that particular spot were to be put through, it would greatly increase this extraordinary yield. One thing is certain, that this crushing is a fair criterion of what the claim is likely to be, as a like return and probably some far better will be got from all the stone now in sight. At present the lode in the northern end of the upper level is from 8 to 10ft thick, and showing some really splendid gold. It was with feelings of astonishment that we learnt of the panic and depreciation of Mount Cameron stock. We could think of nothing that would cause it; in fact down here everything was hardening owing to the favourable appearances of the crushing, as it was fully realising all our expectations.

The Royal Mint have nearly finished their handsome plant, there being only the steam pipes to connect to complete it. All that they now require is the water to enable them to start crushing, and that will soon be in as they are busily engaged in cutting their race from Deep Creek. I then hope to be able to chronicle another successful mining on Mount Cameron.

The West Tasman are still engaged in sinking, and are in fine country for a lode. I believe that it is their intention to go down over 100ft before they open out. This is a step in the right direction, as it is ridiculous to open out at shallow levels, because they never give satisfaction. This Company deserves every success, as it has spared no expense, and has gone in for mining in a proper manner. It has decidedly the best shaft on the Mount, and all the appointments are complete.

The North Tasman have connected their tunnel with their shaft, and have now plenty of air. I had a look at the reef in their south drive yesterday, and I see that it is making into a defined lode and coming into nice strong walls, and the stone has a far better and more solid appearance than where they first cut it; it is also making its true course, and now lines out exactly with the No. 2 Royal Tasman lode.

The Standard line is carrying on operations vigorously, but have a great difficulty to contend against in the shape of water, which is very heavy on this line. They are anxiously waiting for the result of the trial crushing sent by the South Standard to Victoria. This will be a fair test of the value of all this line, as there was no attempt to pick it. It was bagged out of the paddock of stone that came out of the shaft. If it only goes 7 or 8 dwts it will warrant this line in at once procuring machinery, as there will be a first-class profit at that return.

I see by the Press that there is great excitement all over the colony regarding tin mining on the West Coast of the island, and any venture, no matter what it is, receives great support in Launceston and elsewhere, simply because it is in that locality. If the public were only aware of the legitimate ventures that are known to exist in tin mining in this district they would not be so willing to support those chimerical shows that they now run after, because the country is little known, and it is the fashionable mining centre for this season. Between the Mussel Roe and Ringarooma rivers, there are actually thousands of acres of tin bearing country. There are immense deposits of wash, and the country is splendidly situated for carrying on sluicing operations on a large scale, there being plenty of fall into both rivers. That it is undoubtedly rich in tin has been plainly demonstrated by the prospecting done by the Tamar and Eak T. M. Companies, who have secured the

scrutinized by the prospecting done by the Tamar and Eak T. M. Companies, who have secured the pick of this splendid country. Mr Thureau, who is down with us at present, will bear me out in this statement when he has had a look at this country. This gentleman is quite capable of forming an opinion of what can be done by sluicing operations conducted on a proper scale. He has had an opportunity of viewing and reporting on the Californian gravel mines, where hydraulic sluicing is carried out on a gigantic scale. All that is requisite for the development of tin mining in that portion of the country is a really good water scheme. Several schemes are talked about and projected, but they have all got the fault of not being high enough to command the principal part of the ground; in fact, the richest portion of the Tamar and Eak, and several 100-acre lots of good ground surrounding, is fully 100ft higher than any of the schemes that have yet been projected. There is a splendid field for a company to bring water on to this ground. The tail water would be available for use afterwards, and would thus bring in double revenue. That the water can come I have no doubt, and not at an unreasonable cost for so extensive a country. It is to be hoped that a company will be formed to go into this in a thorough manner, and I will prognosticate a future for them as great as the Bischoff or any other mining company in the colonies.

I was present at a very pleasant ceremony on Saturday evening, the 10th, when Mr Payne, manager of the Royal Mint Company, who is leaving this district, was presented by his employees with a handsome gold albert chain, and an address stating their appreciation of him as a manager and a gentleman, and wishing him well wherever he went. It is pleasant to see a feeling of cordiality between workmen and their employers, and it is always a guarantee that wherever this feeling exists that thorough work will always be done, and this case is no exception to that rule, as any one can see that in the operations carried on by the Royal Mint Company, both the manager's and the workmen's hearts were in it.

Sept. 21.

#### MANGANA.

*Alpine.*—September 16—I have finished washing up to-day. I put down the number of tons at 80, although we have crushed a little more, but it was stuff in which there was little or nothing, and I would have thrown it away could I have done so, but it got mixed with the other. The yield is considerably more than I expected a few weeks back, and the stone we are now sinking on is of better quality still. The shaft is down nearly 20ft. from the floor of the drive, or about 50ft. below the tunnel level, and 25ft. south of the first shaft we sunk. For the last 10ft or more of this week's sinking, the reef has been 5ft. wide of solid-looking stone of good quality, there being no difficulty in seeing gold in it. This level has been driven 92ft. along the stone, 50ft. north and 42ft. south of the first shaft, and the stone has averaged about 18in. the whole length of the level, and is that size now in each face. The whole of the stone that came out of the level has been crushed, with the yield above stated. As the work done since I took charge of the mine has been merely prospecting below the tunnel level, and

prospecting below the tunnel level, and is, in a manner, dead work, I would propose to stop sinking in this shaft in the south, and start in the north end of this level to test the stone a little deeper there. A main tunnel ought then to be commenced some 400ft. to the north of the present tunnel, and over 250ft. below it. During the time the tunnel is going in there should be taken out all the stone that is payable above the present tunnel, either by contract or tribute. In the first shaft we sunk there was no stone to speak of below the level we are working in, and by the look of the stone in the shaft and in the tunnel, it bears every sign of dipping to the north; but since we have struck this large body of stone in the south, and the size of the reef all along this level being uniform, I can form no other conclusion than that the shaft went down on a thin part of the reef, or else has gone down on north and south legs. September 21:—We are still sinking in the south shaft, and the reef keeps about the same as stated in last report.—*Mercury.*