

It may now be taken for granted that in every case the reef struck at the lower level has turned out to yield the best, and I believe that many of the claims will eventually be worked by main tunnels from Black's Point and Murray Creek; and from the elevation of the present workings, and the disjointed nature of the reefs worked, I think it very probable that the actual main reef has yet to be struck at a much lower level.

Some better means will have to be adopted for securing a constant supply of water, for with the exception of Anderson's, at Black's Point, who have brought in a large race from the Inangahua River, all the other machines have been obliged to suspend operations from time to time in consequence of the dry weather. If, as no doubt eventually will be the case, the majority of machine sites will be at Black's Point, it would be easy to enlarge Anderson's Race to command them all. The experience of the past summer points to the necessity of constructing reservoirs to fall back upon in dry weather.

Alluvial Workings.—Long before the discovery of quartz reefs, alluvial gold has been found in isolated patches throughout the entire district, in many cases water-worn and heavy, in other cases scaly, and closely resembling the gold obtained by the process of ground sluicing in the Province of Otago. The large rush of miners to the district upon the discovery of the quartz reefs, and the consequent necessity of many of them being unable to obtain employment in quartz claims, and the impossibility of prospecting for fresh reefs without funds, led to a new overhaul of abandoned alluvial workings, as well as prospecting for fresh alluvial deposits in the various creeks adjacent to the reefs. Had it not been for the exceptionally dry summer, these efforts would have been crowned with greater success than actually resulted, but with this drawback large quantities of alluvial gold have been brought in and disposed of. Amongst the alluvial claims in the district, there is one worthy of special mention, from the quantity of work done in it. It is situated in Redman's Gully, between Reefton and Boatman's, and is held by W. Lynch and party. They have constructed a tail-race 2,000 feet in length, the depth varying from 6 feet to 14 feet, covered and close lathed, besides bringing in two head-races for the purpose of ground sluicing. There is also a large amount of work done in Soldier's Gully, about a mile south of Reefton, and a great deal of gold is being obtained. At the Lyell some 150 miners are working alluvial ground, and the average yield is about 100 oz. per week; and in the scattered district of the Matakita some 100 miners are at work, the average yield being 75 oz. per week.

Fresh Discoveries.—So far as alluvial gold is concerned, I am not aware of any new workings; the miners are principally occupied in workings that were abandoned when the West Coast rush took place in the various creeks and gullies running into the Inangahua River.

Fresh quartz reefs have, however, been discovered at the Lyell, towards the Eight-Mile Creek, and which bid fair to rival in richness the Little Wonder Claim. This claim was originally taken up by Carroll and Cairns as two men's ordinary claim, and it was subsequently extended to five men's ground. It is really a piece of spare ground adjoining the Alpine Company's lease, and has an excessively rich leader running through it.

RESULT OF CRUSHINGS AT THE MURRAY CREEK REEFS.

Subjoined is as accurate a return as can possibly be obtained.

Date.	Name of Company.	Tons Crushed.	Yield—oz.
1872, March.	Energetic	10	42
1873, February.	Energetic	297	108
1872, May.	Ajax	603	970
„ July.	Ajax	190	400
„ October.	Ajax	300	600
„ November.	Ajax	1,000	606
1873, March 1.	Ajax	300	150
„ March 31.	Ajax	500	303
1872, July.	Westland	80	40
„ August.	Golden Fleece... ..	510	868
1873, January.	Golden Fleece... ..	683	1,121
1872, October.	Inglewood	27	55
„ October.	United Band of Hope	31	41
„ November.	Golden Hill	526	192
„ December.	Anderson's	515	581
1873, February.	Anderson's	150	168
„ January.	Victoria	317	149
„ January.	Wealth of Nations	120	92
„ January.	Wealth of Nations	210	161
„ January.	Invincible	121	132
Totals		6,490	6,779

POPULATION.

Locality.	Miners.	Others.
Reefton	100	400
Black's Point	50	75
Murray Creek Reefs	200	25
Rainy Creek	30	...
Soldier's and Devil's Creek	50	...
Painkiller and Redman's	60	...
Boatman's	80	20
Carried forward	570	520