

Imperial Mine.—Three men have been employed in this mine. The low-level has been driven 40ft. on a reef 3ft. thick, and a winze is being sunk from the upper level. Thirty tons of quartz are stacked; one ton crushed yielded about 2oz. to the ton.

Crown Mine.—Two men have been employed, 150ft. of driving has been done, and about twenty fathoms stoped from a reef 3ft. in thickness. Twenty-two tons of ore have been sent to Glasgow, Scotland, for treatment, the return from which is not yet to hand.

Several other mines have been occasionally worked, but no great amount of prospecting has been done in the district during the year. About forty-five miners have been employed.

OWHAROA DISTRICT.

Smile of Fortune Mine.—Farmers' Tribute: A drive was put in for 60ft. near the surface, and a body of crushing-stuff was cut about 6ft. in width. This can scarcely be termed a reef, as it is only a mass of mullock mixed with stringers of quartz. About 90ft. has been driven on the course of this body, and a block of ground stoped out towards the surface. A winze has been sunk for 50ft., carrying good crushing-stuff, and continued in blank ground for another 30ft. to the No. 1 Level. A large block of ground is now open for stoping. There have been 200 tons of stuff crushed for a return of 340oz. of gold.

Me and Rowe Mine.—A considerable amount of driving has been done on a large body of crushing-stuff, and about 60 tons crushed for a yield of 7oz. 10dwt. of gold. About 500yds. of tramway have been constructed to connect with the battery, but, so far, nothing payable has been found. About twelve miners have been employed during the year in this district.

WAITEKAURI DISTRICT.

Waitekauri Mine.—Hollis and party have worked the mine and battery on tribute. No new ground has been opened up. The crushings have been taken chiefly from the old workings near the surface. There have been 956 tons of quartz crushed for a yield of 288oz. of gold.

Eclipse Claim.—From a small leader 914lb. of quartz have been crushed for a return of 22oz. 10dwt. of gold.

Star of Hope Claim.—From this claim 10½ tons of quartz yielded 26oz. 10dwt. of gold.

Mangakara Mine.—Snelgar's Tribute: About 150 tons of quartz from different reefs yielded 25oz. 9dwt. of gold.

Welcome Mine.—Birney and party have constructed about 12 chains of a tramway to connect with the Mangakara tramway. They have worked a reef from 3ft. to 4ft. in thickness, and 65 tons crushed have yielded 38oz. of gold. Thirty tons of quartz are stacked ready for the battery.

Young New Zealand Mine.—Mason's Tribute: About 3½ tons of quartz from a small leader yielded 20oz. 10dwt. of gold.

Jubilee Special Claim.—Mr. E. K. Cooper, the owner of this claim, has had a parcel of 10 tons of quartz forwarded to England for treatment. It is his intention to offer the claim to an English company.

About sixteen miners have been employed in this district during the year.

WAIHI DISTRICT.

Martha Mine.—The surface portions of the mine have been worked by tributers. The reef at the low-level is 30ft. in thickness, but only 7ft. or 8ft. of quartz has been saved for crushing. There have been 1,414 tons of quartz crushed for a yield of 534oz. 15dwt. of gold.

Silverton.—The winze sunk on the reef is 60ft. in depth, and the reef is about 12ft. in thickness. About 5ft. of the reef has been saved for crushing. Ninety-seven tons have been crushed for a yield of 198oz. 6dwt. There is too much water to admit of further working this reef from the winze without the aid of machinery. The mine is now under offer to a Sydney company, and it is expected that the offer will be accepted. If such is the case machinery is to be erected to work the mine below water-level.

Union Mine.—Operations in this mine have been confined to sinking a shaft on the flat near the line of reef. This shaft has been sunk by hand to a depth of 130ft. The shaft was opened at 115ft. from the surface, and a drive put in to cut the reef. A reef 1ft. in thickness was cut 64ft. from the shaft, and the main reef at 78ft. When this reef was cut it was found to be impossible to bale out the water by hand, and all work was suspended. Mr. Walker, the manager, proceeded to England, and was successful in negotiating the sale of the mine to the Union Gold-mining Company. Mr. Walker lately returned to New Zealand, and is now busy transporting to Waihi extensive machinery to work the mine and for the treatment of the ores. The method to be adopted for the treatment of the quartz is—first to be roasted in a kiln, next to be put through a stone-breaker, thence to a globe-crusher; the fine crushed ore will then be amalgamated and chemically treated in pans and settlers. This method, it appears, has been adopted as the most suitable after carefully experimenting in America and England with ores taken from the mine for that purpose. The pumping-machinery from the Dart Mine at the Thames has been purchased, and is being conveyed to Waihi to be used for draining the mine, which will, together with the other machinery, be worked by steam-power in the first instance; but the company having, however, acquired a valuable water-right, it is intended that water-power shall in time be adopted. The Rosemont and Winner licensed holdings have been purchased by the company, and the whole area is to be worked as one mine on a very extensive scale. About sixty men are employed on works connected with the mine and plant.

About twenty miners have, on the average, been employed in this district during the year.