

44½oz. of gold per man; while for the previous year there were 117 men employed, 16,514 tons of quartz crushed, yielding 7,550oz. 10dwt. of gold, being equal to about 64½oz. of gold per man. One of these claims has since suspended operations on the low levels, from which most of the gold last year was produced.

*Waiotahi.*—There has also been a large falling-off in the yield of gold from this locality. During last year there were eight claims producing gold, comprising an area of about 120 acres, on which 128 men were employed. There were 6,365 tons of quartz crushed, which yielded 5,848oz. 8dwt. of gold, being equal to nearly 46oz. of gold per man. For the previous year there were 155 men employed, and 8,170 tons of quartz crushed, which yielded 9,398oz. 9dwt., being equal to about 60½oz. of gold per man.

*Waiokaraka.*—There was only one gold-producing claim in this locality last year, comprising an area of nearly 30 acres, on which there have been twenty-five men employed, and 2,482 tons of stone crushed, which yielded 2,068oz. 9dwt. of gold, being equal to over 82½oz. of gold per man employed; while for the former year there were thirty-one men employed and 1,583oz. 17dwt. of gold produced, being equal to about 51oz. of gold per man.

*Karaka.*—There were six gold-producing claims in this locality last year, comprising an area of 55 acres, on which twenty-five men have been employed and 723 tons of quartz crushed, which yielded 1,183oz. 2dwt. gold; while for the former year twenty-four men were employed and 1,017oz. 19dwt. of gold produced, showing an increased yield last year of 165oz. 3dwt.

*Una Hill and Te Papa.*—There has been a falling-off in the yield of gold from this locality last year; nevertheless the prospects of the place are equally as good as in former years, and it is expected that next year's gold returns will bear this out. There were eight gold-producing claims in this locality last year, comprising an area of about 114 acres, in which fifty men were employed. There was 1,639 tons of quartz crushed, which yielded 2,189oz. 14dwt. of gold, being equal to 43½oz. of gold per man employed, while for the former year there were forty-two men employed and 3,331oz. 18dwt. of gold produced, being equal to about 79½oz. gold per man.

*Hape Creek.*—There were more men employed in this locality last year than for the previous year, and, although there was an increased yield of gold, the quantity produced per man was nearly the same in both years. During last year there were two gold-producing claims, comprising an area of about 45 acres, on which twenty-nine men were employed and 372 tons of stone crushed, which yielded 333oz. 2dwt. of gold, being about 11½oz. gold per man; while for the former year fourteen men were employed and 171oz. 5dwt. gold produced, being equal to about 12oz. of gold per man. This is by far the lowest average of gold produced for the number of men employed in any locality in the Thames District. The inference is that there was a large amount of dead-work done last year.

*Puriri.*—Gold was discovered in this district many years ago, but it is only within the last three years that the mining operations have been continuously carried on. There are now two small crushing-batteries on the field, which afford ample facilities for prospecting operations to be carried on in this district, as prospectors can get their quartz tested on the field, instead of having to send it to the Thames as in former years. Taking the quantity of gold obtained last year—220oz. 16dwt.—for the result of six men's labour, being 36½oz. per man, while for the former year three men only got 51½oz., or 17oz. per man, the yield of gold last year may be said to have given the men employed small wages.

*Tairua.*—There has been a small quantity of gold obtained from this district for many years past, but the difficulty of access, there being no passable roads, especially during the winter months, prevents people coming to this locality to prospect. Some very rich stone was obtained here several years ago, when a crushing-battery was erected, and which is still being used. Were it not that there is a crushing-machine on this field there would be no mining carried on, for the roads are in such a state that the expense of getting trial crushings sent away to either Thames or Kuaotunu would be so great that it would require very rich stone to pay for working. During last year 124 tons of stone was crushed, which yielded 91oz. 19dwt. gold, only three men being employed.

The following statement will show the comparative results of mining operations in different localities in the Thames District for the last two years, ending the 31st March in each year:—

| Name of Locality.       | 1890-91.                                      |                         |                    |                          |                |                                | 1891-92.                                      |                         |                    |                          |                |                                | Gold Increase.    |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                         | Number of Wages-men and Tributaries employed. | Tons of Quartz crushed. | Yield of Gold.     | Tons of Mullock crushed. | Yield of Gold. | Bullion or Gold from Tailings. | Number of Wages-men and Tributaries employed. | Tons of Quartz crushed. | Yield of Gold.     | Tons of Mullock crushed. | Yield of Gold. | Bullion or Gold from Tailings. | 1891-92.          | 1890-91.        |
| Tapu ..                 | 9                                             | 179                     | oz. dwt.<br>164 15 | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 7                                             | 73                      | oz. dwt.<br>219 12 | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | oz. dwt.<br>54 17 | ..              |
| Tararu ..               | 25                                            | 1,167                   | 515 16             | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 56                                            | 3,500                   | 1,160 12           | ..                       | ..             | 9,864 0                        | 644 16            | ..              |
| Shellback ..            | 2                                             | 26                      | 35 11              | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 5                                             | 71                      | 104 16             | ..                       | ..             | 2,705 0                        | 2,705 0           | ..              |
| Kuranui ..              | 45                                            | 1,062                   | 711 10             | 19,228                   | 1,389 2        | ..                             | 69                                            | 2,835                   | 2,594 12           | 21,953                   | 1,170 5        | ..                             | 69 5              | ..              |
| Moanataiari ..          | 177                                           | 8,570                   | 7,767 12           | 1,401                    | 86 0           | ..                             | 183                                           | 16,858                  | 8,209 16           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 1,664 5           | ..              |
| Grahamstown ..          | 117                                           | 16,514                  | 7,550 10           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 115                                           | 11,891                  | 5,150 16           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 356 4             | ..              |
| Waiotahi ..             | 155                                           | 8,170                   | 9,398 9            | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 128                                           | 6,365                   | 5,848 8            | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | ..                | 2,399 14        |
| Waiokaraka ..           | 31                                            | 1,093                   | 1,583 17           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 25                                            | 2,482                   | 2,068 9            | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 484 12            | ..              |
| Karaka ..               | 24                                            | 868                     | 1,017 19           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 25                                            | 723                     | 1,183 2            | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 165 3             | ..              |
| Una Hill and Te Papa .. | 42                                            | 1,423                   | 3,331 18           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 50                                            | 1,639                   | 2,189 14           | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | ..                | 1,142 4         |
| Hape Creek ..           | 14                                            | 158                     | 171 5              | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 29                                            | 372                     | 333 2              | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 161 17            | ..              |
| Puriri ..               | 3                                             | 108                     | 51 10              | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 6                                             | 263                     | 220 16             | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 189 6             | ..              |
| Tairua ..               | 2                                             | 114                     | 24 0               | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 3                                             | 124                     | 91 19              | ..                       | ..             | ..                             | 67 19             | ..              |
| Sundries ..             | 65                                            | 1,037                   | 699 3              | 632                      | ..             | 3,613 13                       | 18                                            | ..                      | 1,343 12           | ..                       | ..             | 3,981 15                       | 1,012 11          | ..              |
| <b>Total ..</b>         | <b>711</b>                                    | <b>40,494</b>           | <b>33,023 15</b>   | <b>21,261</b>            | <b>1,475</b>   | <b>23,613 13</b>               | <b>724</b>                                    | <b>47,196</b>           | <b>30,719 6</b>    | <b>21,953</b>            | <b>1,170</b>   | <b>56,386 15</b>               | <b>7,555 15</b>   | <b>7,091 19</b> |

\* The 9,864oz. of bullion represents a value of £7,874 5s., which would be equivalent to 2,705oz. of gold.