

No 3.

Mr. G. WILSON, Inspector of Mines, to the UNDER-SECRETARY of MINES.

SIR,—

Inspector of Mines' Office, Thames, 7th May, 1894.

I have the honour to forward the following report on mines and yield of gold and bullion in the Hauraki District for the year ending 31st March, 1894:—

COROMANDEL COUNTY.

TOKATEA RANGE.

Tokatea Mine (Seymour T. George, owner).—This mine is worked entirely by tributers, who are working on veins near the surface, and turning over the old mullock-tips, from whence rich specimens are sometimes obtained. Eight tributers were employed, and 5 tons of quartz crushed for 101oz. 11dwt. of gold.

The owner has in view a scheme of erecting machinery to crush the large quantities of low-grade quartz at the surface, and profitably treat the portions of the reefs left in past years.

Royal Oak Mine (J. H. Witheford, owner).—This mine is worked by two parties of tributers, five men in all, and 5 tons 10cwt. of quartz was crushed for 194oz. 15dwt. of gold.

Bismarck Mine.—Three tributers crushed 1 ton of quartz for 69oz. 17dwt. of gold. This mine is owned by Dunn and party.

Great Tokatea Mine (J. H. Witheford, owner).—One tributer crushed 13cwt. 14lb. for 9oz. of gold.

Harbour View Claim (Wells and party, owners).—Two men crushed 2 tons and 20lb. of stone for 31oz. 4dwt. of gold.

Queen of the North Mine (Carlo Blasch, owner).—A considerable amount of prospecting has been done. One reef was driven on for 103ft. in hard rock. Two men on the average were employed, and 1 ton 8cwt. of quartz yielded 5oz. 3dwt. of gold.

Try Again Mine (S. James, owner).—Three men were employed in this mine, and 8cwt. 14lb. of quartz yielded 45oz. 2dwt. 9gr. of gold.

Several other claims worked in this district yielded 100oz. 8dwt. of gold. The cost of conveying quartz from the Tokatea Range to the flat is such that only small parcels of picked quartz are brought down to the mill for treatment. There is, therefore, a quantity of quartz left behind which would pay if convenient to a battery where crushing would be cheap.

KAPANGA DISTRICT.

Kapanga Mine.—This mine includes an area of 68 acres 1 rood 33 perches (W. H. Argall, manager).—During the year prospecting was carried on at the 600ft. level, and reefs worked on at the 300ft. and intermediate levels.

The shaft is also being sunk; and at my visit, on the 8th of March, they had reached a depth of 645ft. It is intended to sink to 800ft., and then drive to intersect Scotty's and the Kapanga Reefs, which are supposed to junction at this depth. The pumping and winding machinery work well. An air-compressor has also been purchased to work a rock-drill. 288 tons and 180lb. of quartz and specimens were crushed for 512oz. 12dwt. 3gr. of gold. An average of thirty men are employed.

Scotty's Mine.—This mine was worked on tribute, one man only being employed. 7 tons 11cwt. of quartz was crushed for 15oz. 12dwt. of gold. This mine has been held in hope of obtaining fresh capital to work at a deeper level, as the upper levels have been exhausted; but, as owners were unable to collect funds, the land will be surrendered.

KAURI BLOCK.

Coromandel Mine (Kapanga Company, owners).—This mine has been worked on tribute. The workings are on both sides of the hill. At my last visit, on 10th March, there were eight parties employed—sixteen men in all. Average number for the year was, however, fourteen men. 32 tons 10cwt. 72lb. of quartz was crushed at the Kapanga battery for 348oz. of gold.

Iona Claim (Sullivan and McDonald, owners).—4 tons and 4lb. of quartz and specimens were crushed for a return of 11oz. 10dwt. of gold. The quartz was obtained from the surface portion of a leader near the old Iona shaft. A lower level is being driven, but as this mine is close to water-level there will only be about 15ft. of backs.

Premier.—W. Anderson, the owner, obtained 38oz. 14dwt. from 16 tons 9cwt. of quartz. This mine is now abandoned.

CABBAGE BAY DISTRICT.

Very little, if any, work has been done in this district during the year.

TIKI DISTRICT.

Vaughan's Mine.—A considerable amount of prospecting has been done by McLeod and party. 30ft. of driving was done on the main reef, and a winze sunk 56ft. to the intermediate level. 120ft. of driving was also done on Vizard's reef. No return of gold was obtained. An average of four men was employed.

A small parcel of 1cwt. for the Emily Claim was crushed for 5oz. of gold.

KOPUKAITAHI DISTRICT.

No returns during the year.

WAIKOROMIKO DISTRICT.

The gold obtained in this district is chiefly from leaders worked near the surface.

Lillis and party have done a considerable amount of driving in their claim at a low level, but the gold does not seem to continue downwards, and they are again prospecting on the surface.