

Hape Creek, Thames, and have let a contract for its removal and erection at a new shaft. All available land on Kauri Block has been lately occupied, but very little work has so far been done. Dredging claims have also been marked out on the foreshore, and attention is being directed to Preece's Point, which it is proposed to float in the English market.

WAIKEROMIKO DISTRICT.

Lillis's Claim.—Two men are continuously employed in this mine, which is on the Kauri Timber Company's land. 2 tons 2cwt. 23lb. of quartz were crushed at Wayn's battery for a yield of 64oz. 18dwt. Several other claims are occasionally worked, and 2 tons and 133lb. of quartz yielded 24oz. 14dwt. of gold.

CABBAGE BAY DISTRICT.

No returns for the year.

PUKEMAUKUKU DISTRICT.

A discovery of gold was made in this district at a place situated near the head of the left-hand branch of the Karaka Creek and about two miles to the southward of the track where it crosses the Whangapoua Saddle. Murphy and party had been working for a considerable time when it was discovered that the land was private property, and not included in the goldfield. One ton of quartz was crushed for 18oz 10dwt. of gold, but as no terms could be made with the owner, Mr. W. Aiken, the party had to give up possession.

Power and party marked out a claim on the Crown land adjoining Aiken's property, and have met with encouraging prospects. Several other holdings have been marked out, but not much work done. This is an entirely new discovery, the land to my knowledge not being looked on as auriferous, although a few years ago a lease was taken up on a highly mineralised reef, but very little work done.

TIKI DISTRICT.

Very little work has been done in this district. Eccleson had a small crushing from the Castle Rock Claim: 21lb. were crushed for 3oz. 2dwt. of gold. Mr. George McLeod is still prospecting in the Vaughan licensed holding, but no return of gold has been reported.

MANAIA DISTRICT.

Ruffin and party are still prospecting in the neighbourhood of Blackmore's old claim, but the reef for which they have been searching has not yet been reached. Upwards of 100ft. of driving has been done.

Golden Hill Mine.—This mine was formerly known as the Victoria. A great deal of surface-trenching and prospecting was done by Barron and party. They afterwards induced other shareholders to join them. The old drive was cleaned out and the water baled from the winze; a small parcel of quartz was broken from the reef, and the return was satisfactory, inasmuch as the shareholders took up a licensed holding of 30 acres, and had a survey made of a water-race and storage-dam. In the meantime a Tangye's pump is to be used to keep down the water whilst further prospecting-works are carried on.

OPITONUI DISTRICT.

Very little work has been done during the year. A small parcel of 11 tons of quartz was crushed from Little's claim, which yielded 14oz. 18dwt. of gold; whilst from the Maiden Mine 27 tons of quartz were crushed for 28oz. 15dwt. of gold. It is the intention of the owner, Mr. Noble, to lay a horse-tramway from this mine to Lanigan's battery. If this is done, there is a considerable quantity of low-grade quartz in sight that may be profitably worked. Both of these mines are on the Kauri Timber Company's land.

OWERA DISTRICT.

The *Owera Mine* was worked on tribute for a few months by Jennings and party. 230 tons of quartz were crushed for 67oz. 10dwt. of gold; but this return not being payable the mine was again abandoned. This is also on the Kauri Timber Company's land.

MATARANGI DISTRICT.

Ocean View Mine.—Very little work has been done in this mine during the year. The battery, driven by steam-power, was erected by Mr. Charles Judd, of the Thames. Thirty tons of quartz were crushed for a yield of 9oz. 8dwt. of gold. This not proving payable, the mine has been shut down. Parties of prospectors occasionally do some work on the reefs, and it is to be hoped that payable quartz may yet be discovered, especially when a crushing-plant has been erected in the district, and is now lying idle.

OTUNGURU DISTRICT.

A parcel of 31 tons of quartz was conveyed to Mayn's battery at Coromandel, and crushed for a yield of 10oz. 8dwt. of gold, which was not payable.

MAHAKIRAU DISTRICT.

A considerable amount of prospecting has been done in this district, but the only crushing return was from Goonan's claim: 8cwt. of quartz yielded 5oz. 18dwt. of gold.

KUAOTUNU DISTRICT.

Try Fluke Mine.—This mine has been steadily worked during the year. The reefs worked on are two in number. No. 1 varies from 1ft. to 12ft. in thickness, and No. 2 from 9in. to 5ft. 945ft. of driving has been done on reefs at the different levels, and 1,379 fathoms shot out. 6,347 tons of