

BATTERY RETURNS, NELSON AND WEST COAST DISTRICT.

The following statement, compiled from the monthly returns furnished by owners of quartz-crushing machines, shows the quantity of stone crushed and the yield of gold from the various mines for year ending the 31st March, 1899:—

Name of Mine.	Ordinary Quartz.		Tailings.		Concentrates.		Approximate Total Values.	
	Tons crushed.	Yield to Amalgamation.	Tons treated.	Yield to Cyanide.	Tons treated.	Yield to Chlorination.		
Collingwood District— Australasian Gold Trust (Limited)	177	Oz. dwt. gr. 510 15 0	..	Oz. dwt. gr. ..	..	Oz. dwt. ..	£	s. d. 2,043 0 0
Lyell District— Alpine Extended	11,286	3,245 7 0	..	..	..	..	12,981	8 0
Kelly, Edge, and Smith ..	76	14 10 0	..	..	..	..	58	0 0
Reefton District— Progress	37,500	15,563 10 17	..	..	314	1,271 14	68,908	19 5
Welcome	60	33 0 0	..	..	..	..	132	0 0
Keep-it-Dark	2,184	911 9 0	..	..	..	..	3,645	16 0
No. 2 South Dark	12	4 7 0	..	..	..	..	17	8 0
Golden Lead	24	29 18 0	..	..	..	..	119	12 0
Sir Francis Drake	1,573	562 15 0	..	10 19 0	..	..	2,094	16 0
Merrijigs (Fleming and party) ..	20	24 3 0	..	..	..	..	96	12 0
Last Chance	350	148 16 0	..	..	..	..	595	4 0
Big River	730	1,355 5 0	3,734	823 1 11	..	..	7,703	7 5
Cumberland	..	..	6,335	1,700 10 0	..	..	6,802	0 0
A1 tributers	4	5 15 0	..	..	..	..	23	0 0
Sundries	..	..	800	147 0 0	..	..	588	0 0
Paparoa District— Cresus	750	589 12 0	..	..	..	..	2,358	8 0
Julian	110	129 19 0	..	..	..	..	519	16 0
Victory	77	82 19 0	..	..	..	..	331	16 0
	54,933	23,212 0 17	10,869	2,681 10 11	314	1,271 14	109,019	2 10
Estimated value for 1898	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,030	15 0
Increase for 1899	..	..	..	..	..	..	£81,988	7 10

REMARKS ON QUARTZ-MINING IN THE NELSON AND WEST COAST DISTRICT.

The return of gold from the Progress Mines has been most gratifying, and shows that the resources of this district are by no means exhausted. The quantity of ore operated on was 37,500 tons, which yielded gold to the value of £63,593 8s. 7d.; and the further treatment of 344·5 tons of concentrates by the chlorination process yielded gold of the value of £5,315 15s. 10d.; total value, £68,908 19s. 5d. A fair proportion of the ore was obtained from the deepest levels of the mine, the reef at No. 7 level improving in appearance and in the value of the quartz as operations are being extended. It is therefore apparent that deep mining in this district has so far proved a great success, and this, with the recent discoveries made in other mines, gives promise of a continuation of further dividends.

The returns from the Aorangi Mine, which forms part of the Taitapu Estates Freehold Property, show that, with the conduct of extended exploration, future satisfactory yields may reasonably be expected.

In the Lyell district the consolidation of the Alpine Extended Mine has led to more systematic development, which will probably result in future success.

The fresh developments in the Keep-it-Dark have been the means of an increase in the return from that mine.

In the Big River Mine highly profitable yields have followed the recent development works.

On the whole it may be assumed that the large returns for the past year will be equalled, if not exceeded, by the produce from next year's operations, especially as the prospects in other mines are of a very favourable character.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND DISTRICTS.

Quartz-mining is carried on in those localities which in the past have yielded the bulk of the gold obtained from this source. There is no large centre of quartz-mining, and there are few places where more than three or four mines are being worked in the vicinity of each other. The yields of gold have not come up to the previous year's returns. There are, however, indications of an improvement when the development-works now in progress are fully completed in North Otago and at Preservation Inlet.

The following list shows the special claims and licensed holdings in existence on the 31st March, 1899:—