

Queen of the North Mine.—This company have had four wages-men and two tributers employed. The company's operations have been directed to driving and stoping on the Peep of Day and Queen of the North leaders, which vary from 3 in. to 10 in. in width, from which picked stone is occasionally obtained. Tributers who have a surface portion of the mine are also meeting with a fair amount of success. The company had 3 cwt. of ore and 30 lb. of picked stone treated, for 23 oz. 18 dwt. of gold, value £68 2s. 2d.; and the tributers crushed 3 tons 14 cwt. of ore and 92 lb. of picked stone, for 33 oz. 8 dwt. of gold, value £95 3s. 9d.

East Hauraki Mine.—Operations in this mine have been principally confined to developing the East Hauraki leader in the No. 2 level, where it was intersected as a cross-lode, and from which payable ore has been obtained. 12 tons 10 cwt. of general dirt and 81 lb. of specimens were treated at the Hauraki Associated battery, for 78 oz. 7 dwt. of gold; value, £223 5s. 11d. Five men have been employed.

Good Luck Mine.—This ground has been worked by a party of tributers, who have treated a small parcel of 3 tons of ore, for 57 oz. 1 dwt. of gold.

Golden Spark Mine.—Two men have been working this ground on tribute, who crushed 1 ton of ore taken from a small leader, which gave a return of 7 oz. 6 dwt. of gold.

Hauraki Gem.—A party of tributers are working this ground, who are meeting with very encouraging prospects. They had 3 tons of quartz crushed, for 30 oz. 9 dwt. of gold; value, £86 15s. 5d.

Prospecting operations were carried on for some time on the Golden Lead, Pigmy, New Hero, and Great Kapanga Mines, but no gold returns have been received.

Conquering Hero.—A little work has been carried on in this mine in the upper levels, and 1 ton of ore was treated at the May Queen Extended battery, for 2 oz. 15 dwt. of gold.

Scotty's Gold-mine (Limited).—A very considerable amount of work has been carried out in this company's mine during the year. The most important feature has been the discovery of Scotty's reef in the Golden Point level, close to the shaft. It has since been cut in the Corby level below, and is now the principal development work in the mine. Judging from its indications, and comparing its character to the Kapanga, there is every reason to hope that a rich discovery will be made here as the work proceeds.

New Hauraki Gold Properties (Limited).—This company now comprises an area of 224 acres, in which is included the Success Gold-mining Company's ground. The development of the mine is directed in prospecting the east and west reef, which varies from 6 ft. to 30 ft. in width, but it is low-grade ore, and only assays up to about 5 dwt. Still, there is a chance of meeting with a chute of payable ore as the work proceeds, which would be of great importance to this district. In the Success portion of the property work is being carried on on the Jubilee No. 2 reef at No. 3 level. There has been rich patches of gold obtained from this reef, and there are great probabilities of something important being discovered, as the reef in places looks well, and the country is all that can be desired.

Buffalo Mine.—This mine has been worked by a party of tributers for the greater part of the year. A small parcel of 3 tons 1 cwt. 9 lb. of ore from a small leader was crushed, for 93 oz. 12 dwt. of gold.

KARAKA BLOCK.

Poneke Nos. 2 and 3, Karaka Block.—A considerable amount of work has been done on this ground in development and proving the value of the reefs that traverse the property, but this claim so far has not turned out as well as anticipated. A crushing of 32 tons treated at the Success Battery only gave a return of 11 oz. 5 dwt. of gold, and the mine is now protected.

PUKEMAUKUKU.

Aitken's Freehold.—There have been from three to five men continuously employed on this property, who have been employed in prospecting the reefs, which vary from 6 in. to 18 in. in thickness, and tests taken from the reefs have given fair results, but not sufficient to warrant the erection of a battery to treat the ore.

Empress.—This mine has been worked at intervals with two men, and a crushing of 3 tons of ore was treated, which gave a return of 3 oz. 5 dwt. of gold.

KAPANGA.

Kapanga Mine.—This company are still pushing on with the development of their mine, and have done a very large amount of work above the 500 ft. level. During the time the operations of the company were directed in prospecting the deep levels the workings above the 500 ft. level were neglected, and in consequence the drives, passes, &c., required in many places to be retimbered, which entailed a considerable amount of labour and expense before a fair start could be made here. In the early part of the year a good many tributers were employed in working on leaders above the 500 ft. level, some of which did remarkably well, but the company decided to work the ground themselves, and as the tribute agreements ran out they were not renewed. The company also bought out one of the parties so as to get the mine to themselves, to prevent the works being hampered that they had decided to carry out. Communication has been effected between the 400 ft. and 500 ft. levels on Scotty's reef, thereby opening up an extension section of the mine. The prospects of this block of ground on Scotty's lead are exceedingly encouraging. The company treated at their own mill 303 tons 11 cwt. and 382 lb., for 1,103 oz. 5 dwt. of gold, value £3,217 16s. 3d.; and the tributers crushed 38 tons 4 cwt. and 1,236 lb., for 1,604 oz. 4 dwt. of gold, value £4,680 7s. 6d. There has been an average of fifty-five men employed in the mine during the year.

KAURI BLOCK.

Hauraki Gold-mining Company (Limited).—The operations on the various leaders and reefs in this company's mine are being energetically developed, and, although the return has not been