

Sharpe Bros., Harris, and Wetherston.—Prospecting and mining operations were carried out at the Gorge Mine in a heavy, faulted section of the reef. Prospecting drives failed to locate solid payable reef. All the ore in sight was stoped out and this section of the reef was closed down. In the spring three drives totalling 150 ft. were driven, but only crushed pug reef was located in this very heavy country. Operations are now temporarily suspended.

Groves Mine, owned and operated by J. R. Tripp and situated on the left-hand terrace of the Bonnie Jean, has been opened up by sinking and driving. A third connection to the surface has been made from the foot of the dip. Stopping operations have been carried out to right and left of main dip, and the mine has been a steady producer.

Bonnie Jean Crossing Reef.—Driving operations were continued intermittently in the Battery Gully reef exposure, and intermitten sluicing and driving operations carried out near the southern end of the exposed reef line.

Eureka Reef, near the Glenorchy Terminus of the Buckleburn Aerial Ropeway.—Ground sluicing, trenching, and driving operations were carried out at the north and south sections of this reef exposure.

The Valpy Buckleburn River Alluvial Mine has been in operation during the working season, but only low-grade gravels were exposed.

The Hercules or Ross Mine, on the right-hand terrace of the Buckleburn near the terminus of the Mount McIntosh Long Gully, has been operated steadily. Several hundred feet of development driving and rising were carried out, also stopping operations below the top level as the extension of the low level drained the seepage water from this stope.

Thompson's Reef, on the Southern Slope of Mount McIntosh.—A section of the reef outcrop in the creek has been stripped, but very little work was done.

Gollop and Veint continued to sluice a crushed section of reef on the slope of Mount McIntosh midway between Thompson reef and Long Gully.

Long Gully Mine, in the Big Slip near the Head of Long Gully.—Sluicing operations were continued intermittently when water was available, and good use has been made of flush-water periods in order to remove a large mass of slip debris off the reef exposures.

Mount McIntosh Mine (Hall and Ross Reef-line), on the South Side of the Mountain.—Driving, stopping, and sinking operations were carried out during the working season.

Black Peak and Precipice Creek Reefs.—Mining operations have been carried out on the south side of Black Peak and also in upper Precipice Creek.

Mid-Precipice Creek.—A sluicing plant was installed and an area of reef-bearing country tested, but no payable reef was located. A reef-line outcropping on the right-hand side of the lower Precipice Creek Gorge was also tested by trenching and driving, but values were low.

The Paulin Bros. and Scott Party have opened up a section of reef on the left-hand terrace of the Rees Valley about one mile north of the Precipice Creek Gorge. The reef-line was stripped by sluicing methods. Trenching, sinking, driving, and stopping work was carried out and good ore won. A small treatment plant has been erected at the mine.

Muddy Terrace, Upper Rees Valley.—Trenching and gravel-sluicing operations were carried out during the season and good ore was won with the low-pressure water-supply.

Very little work has been done in the alluvial gold-mines in the Moonlight, Skippers, Upper Shotover, and Arrow River districts, and none by the Mount Aurum Syndicate at Currie's Reef, Dynamo Flat, and Skippers Creek on account of shortage of labour due to war conditions.

Vincent County

Scott and Wells Mine, Kawarau Gorge.—Further prospecting failed to locate any payable auriferous gravels, and operations were suspended.

W. Thomas and Son, Lower Cairnmuir.—Sluicing and mining operations have been carried out steadily whenever water was available.

Shine Again Gold-mining Co., Upper Bendigo Creek.—No work was done at this mine during the year.

Nevis

The Williamson Alluvial Mine operated during the working season on the Upper Nevis deep lead near the stone huts.

The McLean Bros.' Alluvial Mine at the upper end of the old township workings, Mid-Nevis, operated steadily during the working season. Sluicing operations were carried on intermittently at Matakau and Gorge Creek.

DREDGING

Vincent County

On account of war conditions, the Nevis Crossing Dredge did not operate in the Lower Nevis.

Austral New Zealand Mining, Ltd.—The large electrically operated dredge continued to work on the Athenæum Reserve between Cromwell and Lowburn and dug 3,482,000 cubic yards of alluvial material during the year. During the company's annual period ending 2nd October, 1943, the dredge worked 5,887 hours, dredging an area of 42 acres and digging 3,541,000 cubic yards.

Molyneux Gold-dredging Co., Ltd.—The electrically operated river dredge ceased operations on the Kawarau River at Scotlands Point on the 5th March, and is now tied up in a stretch of river between the Bell Hooper and Bell Kilgour Mine entrances.

Clutha River Gold-dredging Co., Ltd.—The work of refitting as a paddock dredge has been retarded by the shortage of skilled labour, and was not concluded at the end of the year.

Southland

Rainbow Dredging Co., Maitland, Waikaka Valley, Southland.—This small Diesel-operated dredge was tied up during the year on account of shortage of labour due to war conditions.

ACCIDENTS

There were no fatal accidents at the mines in the Southern District during the year. On 20th July, there was one serious accident whereby two men were injured at the Paradise State Scheelite-mine through an explosion of gelignite during drilling operations. J. H. Thomson sustained injuries to his right eye, together with numerous wounds, abrasions, and burns on face, arms, and body; J. M. Wright suffered numerous wounds, abrasions, and burns on face, arms, and body.

STONE-QUARRIES ACCIDENTS

During the year there were two fatal accidents at the stone-quarries in the Southern District, resulting in the loss of three lives.

On the 3rd May Edward Charles Tippet, a shotfirer, was fatally injured at the Limehills Lime-quarry, Southland, through an explosion of gelignite in a shotfirer's canister he was carrying.

On the 15th November, Allan McIntosh, quarry faceman, employed by the Oamaru Harbour Board, and Frederick John Maynard, electrical inspector, employed by the Waitaki Power Board, were fatally injured through being hit by falling pieces of rock which had been blown into the air when a tunnel blast was exploded at the Harbour Board Quarry, Cape Wanbrow.