

Halligan and Party.—Outside the ordinary sluicing and elevating operations, which have been continuous, there is little subject-matter of interest to report.

Shamrock Claim.—This property continues to be shut down.

Addison's Flat.—Messrs. Gould, Moran, and Carmody and parties continue to win very satisfactory results.

Virgin Flat Gold-mining Company.—This company has been liquidated, and a private party has taken over the property.

Golden Sand.—Another effort was made in the beginning of the year to further proceed with operations, but, values failing to meet expectations, utter collapse followed.

CHARLESTON.

Powell's Sluicing and Elevating Claim.—In connection with the treatment of these black-sand deposits, a party of eight men are constantly employed, whilst a pipe-line 30 chains in length is under construction to extend operations further northward.

MURCHISON.

In the Glenroy, Horse Terrace, and Matakitaki districts there are thirty-four Europeans and an equal number of Chinese working in small parties, who make average earnings.

Six-mile Terrace.—In connection with the development of this property there are twelve men presently employed in tail-race and water-race construction.

Neville and Perkins's Newton Flat Sluicing and Elevating Company.—These works are now effectually completed on a large scale, and sluicing is being actively carried on.

BOATMAN'S.

Alluvial mining is practically confined to a few old fossickers. The A1 and Reeves's Proprietary dredges are the chief sources of employment in the district.

GREY VALLEY.

Blackwater.—In accordance with the active developments under operation, a tone of activity is noticeable both among the Europeans and Chinese. The mining population averages sixty-three Europeans and sixty Chinese.

In the Ahaura River, Orwell Creek, and Callaghan's Creek, alluvial mining is practically confined to the Chinese.

Red Jack's and Kangaroo Creeks afford employment to twelve Europeans and thirty-six Chinese.

Upper Blackball Creek.—There are two parties of two men each hydraulic sluicing on the terraces, and when the water is low six parties of two men each find employment ground-sluicing in the bed of the creek.

Grey Valley Sluicing Company.—This energetic company push on their operations effectively and successfully. Water-races and plant are well maintained.

Great Public Company (C. Morgan, manager).—This company employ ten men on the various works. The water-race works are in good order.

The Montgomery Terrace Company are actively pushing on the development of their property.

In the Upper Blackball there are eleven men sluicing on various claims.

No Town Creek and tributaries furnish employment to seventy Europeans and thirty Chinese. Barrytown district was not visited.

KUMARA.

The sludge-channels and deep levels connected with the various mining properties were duly inspected, and the maintenance of same found efficient and in good working condition. Kelly's Terrace drainage-tunnel and ladder-ways were recently overhauled, and, where required, timbering was effectively replaced. The race is now in an effective state of drainage, but development of the areas drained cannot be said to be urgently pushed.

Waimea Hydraulic Sluicing and Elevating Company.—The newly erected sluicing and elevating installation is working satisfactorily, and the returns so far obtained are considered favourable. There are seven men employed.

Wheel of Fortune.—Recently the various important works connected with the development of this property have undergone extensive improvements and alterations, both in mechanical appliances and increased water-supply. The auriferous gravels are raised by two bucket-elevators, 95 ft. in length, with a lifting-capacity equal to 50 cubic yards per hour, while the water-race from Lake Mudgie is capable of supplying thirty-six sluice-heads at a head-pressure of 60 lb.

HOKITIKA.

Humphrey's Gully.—The extensive water scheme from the upper reaches of the Arahura River and its tributaries being now completed on very extensive lines, three nozzles have been operating continuously night and day, on faces 300 ft. in depth, during the greater part of the year. Light is efficiently furnished from electric installation, while each face is provided with powerful hydraulic winches for the removal of roots and other heavy *débris*.

Craig's Freehold.—This property is opened and worked by three responsible parties of tributers, employing four, five, and six men respectively. The consecutive workings are securely timbered and well ventilated throughout.

University Reserve.—James Perry and party are clearing out an old creek-bed.