

BALD HILL FLAT.

White's Reef, Bald Hill Flat (R. T. Symes).—(13/11/1902): The level is now in 650 ft. along the hanging-wall of the reef. Quartz leaders carrying gold are met with, but no main body of stone. Three men usually employed. Being a prospecting-drive, it is of small dimensions, but close-timbered. Rises are put up at intervals to connect with an upper level for ventilation. The present face is 40 ft. ahead of the last uprise, and preparations are being made to rise again 70 ft. to the upper level. Solid country has now come in at the face, and regular stone may shortly be met with. In the event of payable stone being struck, the drive will be improved in height and width. In the upper workings the best stone in the mine was obtained from the foot-wall. All the quartz met with in the prospecting-drive is put through the battery, and the stone, being partially decomposed, is very free-milling.

Excelsior Mine, Bald Hill Flat (F. W. Gray).—(13/11/1902): A cross-drive to the reef has been driven 300 ft. through the country to the foot-wall. The drive is strong and well timbered, while the timbering throughout the mine is exceptionally well done. Good stone has been obtained from this mine. Four men employed.

ROUGH RIDGE.

Rough Ridge Quartz Reef, Rough Ridge (F. H. Perry).—(10/12/1902): The owner has lately done some prospecting-work on the Great Eastern lode. A cross-drive was put in 45 ft. to prove a high-level block of stone left by the old company. A cross-drive has now been driven 95 ft. into the same block. This will give 50 ft. of backs. The lode runs about 1 ft. in width, and averages 15 dwt. of gold to the ton. Mr. Perry is also engaged cutting out a new machine-site in solid rock, the present site being over worked ground.

WAIPORI.

O.P.Q. (Waipori) Gold-mining Company (Limited), (A. E. Inder, manager).—During the past year quartz-mining in Waipori district has been at a standstill. For some months after closing down the O.P.Q. Mine was kept unwatered, and the levels kept open in readiness to resume operations should instructions to that effect be received from the London board of directors. No arrangements having been made to resume work, the pumps were stopped and a caretaker placed in charge of the mine.

Bella Reef, Lammerlaw Range, Waipori (R. McKeitch and party).—A sample of concentrates sent to Victoria for treatment appears to have gone astray, and since the death of Mr. McKeitch, one of the partners, nothing further has been done in connection with the mine.

Cox's Reef, Lammerlaw Range, Waipori (F. W. Knight).—Not working for a considerable time. A decided opinion as to the value of this reef is held locally, and the near future may see it receiving a further trial.

WAITAHUNA.

In this district quartz-mining has been almost at a standstill.

No work has been done on the Table Hill Quartz-mine for some considerable time.

Sutherland and party have been out prospecting on the Burnt Creek line of reef, and have taken out about 20 tons of stone for a trial crushing in Sturm's battery.

MILTON.

Canada Quartz Reef.—Since the death of Mr. Lawson this property has changed hands, but no further developments have taken place.

MACRAE'S.

Quartz-mining at Macrae's.—Quartz-mining in this district is progressing steadily. Consequent upon the success attendant on several of the mines more attention in the way of prospecting is being paid to the possibilities of the district as a reefing-field. Improved machinery is also being brought on to several mines, which fact alone speaks for the value of the several properties. Much of the earlier quartz mined in the district had been surface stone, quarried opencast, but as these deposits were worked back recourse was had to underground mining, as in the case of the Ounce, Golden Bar, and Golden Point reefs. The permanency and value of the reefs have been thus proved to a limited depth only, but the mines are being further developed.

Bonanza Mine, Macrae's (L. O. Beal, jun., owner; T. Kinvig, manager).—(14/8/1902): The low level is 1,550 ft. in length, is in good order, and the timber fairly well preserved, but the road is very soft underfoot. Timber in the top level is being repaired, and the level in good order. Since my previous visit this top level has been extended 200 ft. on the foot-wall reef, and two uprisings of 50 ft. each were put up to the surface. One block of quartz has been stoped out for a length of 50 ft., and stoping is being carried on in the next block. Some good stone has been recently taken out on the foot-wall reef, and in the rise to the surface a good block of stone has been met with. Stone has been stoped out on the foot-wall reef between the 60 ft. level and the top level, and this completes the work done below the top level. Four men are employed in the mine. The aerial tramway for conveying stone to the battery continues to work well. There is plenty of water available this season for crushing purposes. The 3 ft. Huntingdon mill and pyrites-grinding pan continue to give satisfaction. Rules posted, and care taken with explosives.

H. A. Mills and Sons, Macrae's.—(15/8/1902): For some considerable time the United battery has been supplied with surface quartz from the neighbourhood of Golden Point. At the time of my visit there were none of the party about, but I was informed that lately they have not been so successful and were prospecting another property. Mr. Mills has since informed me that the battery has been idle for the past twelve months. During the three years it was in active operation