

the first five months some of the accumulated tailings were treated, but during the latter seven months the sands treated have been exclusively from the battery. The yield from the cyanide-works is valued at £5,745 0s. 4d. The extraction at these works was equal to 6s. 11·961d. per ton; of this amount only 2s. 8·844d. per ton was absorbed in treatment charges, leaving a profit of 4s. 3·117d. per ton. The cyanide plant now consists of ten treatment-tanks, 25 ft. in diameter, and another is shortly to be built. The total working-cost (excluding capital and development expenditure and cyanide-works account) amounts to—working-costs, £46,838 18s. 2d., at 16s. 8·824d. per ton; profit, £54,415 17s. 8d., at 19s. 5·311d. per ton. Cyanide-works—working-costs, £2,247 7s 4d., at 2s. 8·844d. per ton; profit, £3,497 13s., at 4s. 3·117d. per ton: making total cost (excluding capital expenditure), £49,086 5s. 6d.; total value yield, £106,999 16s. 2d.; total profit, £57,913 10s. 8d.: which must be considered as a very satisfactory balance-sheet. The whole of the plant has been maintained in a thorough state of efficiency, the only new plant added during the year being an 18 ft. diameter tailings-wheel, and classifying arrangements to separate the sands from the slimes. A strong-room has been built into the solid rock in the battery-house for the reception of amalgam, &c. The canvas plant has been extended by the addition of twelve new tables, 10 ft. by 15 ft. long, all housed in. Since these tables started (last October) a large increase in the amount of slimes made is noticeable. The milling-time during the year 1902 was exceptionally good, seeing that the mill ran for the full theoretical time, with the exception of 10·98 days. This loss of time represents the total delays caused by the monthly clean-ups, daily scrapes, and incidental stoppages. We confidently look forward to a successful and prosperous year for 1903.

Welcome Gold-mining Company (Limited).—Early in the year a small cyanide plant, consisting of two 20 ft. diameter treatment-tanks 5 ft. deep, and one sump of the same dimensions, were erected to treat the tailings as they came from the battery. The battery started crushing again on the 12th February, and has continued to run steadily since, consuming the quartz as mined. By covering a lot of ground in the mine 1,781 tons of quartz was stoped, the average stoping-width being absurdly small. However, the stone produced was of good value, as the 1,776 tons crushed yielded bullion to the value of £3,492 19s. 8d., and the 1,324 tons of sands which was cyanided yielded bullion to the value of £1,109 17s. At the end of the year the stopes were looking very mean, and cannot be relied on to yield much more mill rock. The following figures show the costs incurred and profit won: Cost of working, £2,688 6s. 4d., at £1 10s. 3·29d. per ton milled; profit, £1,914 10s. 4d., at £1 1s. 6·71d. per ton milled.

New Inkerman Mines (Limited).—Mr. Norman Dudgeon, manager of the New Inkerman Mines, reports as follows: The following work has been carried out on this company's property for the twelve months ending the 31st December last: Driving on lode, 888 ft.; sinking on lode, 100 ft.; uprising on lode, 497 ft.; crosscutting, 541 ft.: the total footage being 2,026 ft. The reef driven on has varied in width from 3 ft. to 27 ft. 6 in. The tonnage of ore blocked out by this work approximates 20,000 tons, the value of which is very variable. Fifteen head of stamps in the old thirty-stamp mill are being put in order. Frue vanners are being installed, and a cyanide plant is being erected. Crushing will commence in April next. The average number of men employed during the period was twenty-four. The total expenditure on this property in development up to the end of 1902 was £57,044 16s.

Last Chance.—This private company has during the year 1902 been principally engaged in prospecting. 300 ft. of driving and 50 ft. of rising has been done, but very moderate success attained. 3 tons of ore, to the value of £24, was the extent of the yield for the year.

STATEMENT showing the RETURNS from the QUARTZ MINES in the REEFTON DISTRICT from the 1st April, 1880, to the 31st March, 1901, and for the Years ending 31st December, 1901, and 31st December, 1902.

Year ending 31st March.			Calls made.			Dividends declared.		Quartz crushed.		Yield of Gold.			Value of Yield.		
			£	s.	d.	£		Tons.		Oz.	dwt.	gr.	£	s.	d.
1881	...	...	10,218	17	6	19,650		25,926		17,597	14	10	68,630	13	10
1882	...	...	25,504	3	4	37,643		14,894		20,154	0	0	78,600	12	0
1883	...	...	64,345	0	0	32,600		18,928		19,194	0	0	74,856	12	0
1884	...	...	49,456	0	0	16,500		23,433		16,547	0	0	64,533	6	0
1885	...	...	29,333	0	0	34,100		34,349		23,997	0	0	93,588	6	0
1886	...	...	24,565	0	0	14,500		27,198		14,591	0	0	56,904	18	0
1887	...	...	21,596	0	0	33,450		23,930		21,143	0	0	83,171	15	5
1888	...	...	30,432	0	0	17,550		24,403		16,775	0	0	66,030	11	5
1889	...	...	38,919	0	0	16,688		28,564		18,663	0	0	72,720	18	0
1890	...	...	27,531	0	0	18,250		32,394		17,780	0	0	69,676	12	1
1891	...	...	20,404	0	0	27,325		39,643		23,347	0	0	91,998	8	10
1892	...	...	25,956	0	0	30,743		35,562		23,390	0	0	95,885	5	1
1893	...	...	18,800	0	0	16,900		37,693		20,171	0	0	80,894	5	1
1894	...	...	14,350	0	0	18,832		34,518		18,413	0	0	73,752	14	11
1895	...	...	10,153	0	0	11,012		26,602		13,426	10	0	53,509	5	1
1896	...	...	8,418	0	0	25,925		29,816		22,025	0	0	87,935	18	4
1897	...	...	9,033	6	8	4,900		13,270		8,365	4	20	33,824	7	1
1898	...	...	7,859	3	4	50		9,751		4,266	7	1	18,253	7	3
1899	...	...	5,920	6	8	900		42,305		21,487	18	15	87,587	1	0
1900	...	...	10,747	8	9	47,050		58,277		26,693	3	18	108,455	17	8
1901	...	...	5,826	9	7	35,300		82,618		33,979	5	5	134,557	7	11
Year ending 31st Dec., 1901			6,233	6	8	58,199		97,870		46,066	16	12	186,719	6	7
" 1902			6,900	0	0	63,974		98,485		46,561	9	9	188,655	2	5
Totals	...	...	472,501	2	6	582,041		860,429		494,634	9	18	1,970,742	12	0