

Non-fatal.

29-1-1903.—E. Eaton, engineer, Perseverance No. 1 Alexandra : Foot crushed by elevator against the side causing lacerated wound of the heel.

5-2-1903.—F. Cameron, engine-driver, Teviot dredge, Roxburgh : Fracture of leg—crossing bucket-belt in motion.

9-3-1903.—J. White, engine-driver, Waimumu dredge, Waimumu : Right hand scalded when forcing in one of the mudhole-doors before the steam-pressure was off the boiler.

16-3-1903.—John O'Brien, engine-driver, Gold King dredge, Roxburgh : Hand caught (necessitating amputation of two fingers) while cleaning governors with a bit of waste.

16-3-1903.—A. Andrews, cadet, Lower Enfield dredge, Waipori : Bruised leg and arm—while oiling machinery in motion, foot caught between belt-pulley and friction.

11-4-1903.—J. Maxwell, labourer, Oceanic Steam-dredge, Waipori : Fracture of left thigh and bruised calf of leg—fell on the bow of the pontoon.

1-7-1903.—H. Leicester, dredgemaster, Waimumu Extended dredge, Mataura : Right leg broken above ankle—pinned by bucket which had fallen when the tumbler was raised, at which work Leicester was assisting.

21-7-1903.—G. Pettigrew, Gold Bank dredge, Glenore : Left chest squeezed between belt and housing by engine taking a turn after being centred.

25-9-1903.—J. Ford, fireman, McGeorge Bros.' Freehold dredge, Waikaka : Fingers crushed under the rope between fair-lead and sheave while putting on a string of new buckets. Found necessary to amputate thumb and third finger of left hand.

28-9-1903.—J. Melvin, winchman, Lady Roxburgh dredge, Roxburgh : Slight concussion of brain—fell off ladder on to deck while attending to winch-lamp.

9-10-1903.—V. Morris, fireman, Junction Electric No. 1 dredge, Cromwell : Foot injured by a bucket falling on it, while assisting to remove bucket and set of links.

10-10-1903.—G. Scoles, blacksmith, Electric No. 1 dredge, Cromwell : Struck on forehead and right arm by handle of hand-winch which suddenly reversed while using it.

10-11-1903.—Henry Tucker, Spec Gully dredge, Charlton, Gore : Thumb of right hand crushed on ladder-roller.

I have, &c.,

E. R. GREEN,

Inspector of Mines.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

REPORTS OF WARDENS.

Mr. Warden HUTCHISON to the UNDER-SECRETARY for MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Auckland, 11th February, 1904.

I beg to transmit herewith the forms of return for Warden's Court at Whangarei.

There is nothing to report as to the condition of mining in the Puhipuhi District, mining there having long since ceased.

I have, &c.,

T. HUTCHISON,

Warden.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

Mr. Warden BUSH to the UNDER-SECRETARY for MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Thames, 6th June, 1904.

I have the honour to forward the usual annual report on mining matters for the past year for the district under my control.

Although the production of gold in the Hauraki Mining District is increasing yet it is a matter for regret to be forced to write, that some of the mines which for some years past have added considerably to the gold-yield, are at present not only non-producers but have ceased to exist. Notwithstanding this, the production for three weeks in the month of May last totalled over £65,000, the Waihi Mine being responsible for something over £50,000 of this. Even if this amount represented the month's return, the yearly total would be £780,000, but the last Waihi return to hand is over £52,000 for the month. If this can be maintained and other mines add a more fortunate quota than was the case during the past year, I see no reason why £1,000,000 should not be reached during the ensuing twelve months.

Unfortunately, mining in this district is uncertain inasmuch as, in portions of it the gold-deposit is patchy, but when found is very rich ; while in other portions without the expenditure of much capital the reef-system cannot be reached, consequently, unless means are at hand to make a claim into what may ultimately prove to be a remunerative speculation, money-owners are not forthcoming, hence many of our mines which have had several thousands spent upon them, are languishing and in an unproductive condition, no one knowing what their future may be.

Great hopes are entertained that in the event of the Grand Junction properties proving gold-bearing, an inducement will be offered to investors to assist other properties in the locality with capital for development purposes. Many are living in hope of ultimate assistance reaching them, chiefly built upon the expected results from the Grand Junction Mine. It is the general opinion, that if this company is successful in securing fairly good results after starting crushing, the present tightness in the money-market will be much relaxed. Capital judiciously spent, would, I feel sure, prove of great benefit to the field.

It is anticipated that the boring operations now in progress in this district, will eventually result in locating some gold-bearing reefs which can not otherwise be discovered except at very great cost.