

ANNEXURE A.

SUMMARY OF REPORTS BY INSPECTORS OF MINES.

NORTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (Mr. M. PAUL, Inspector of Mines).

Quartz-mining.

Waikī Gold-mining Company (Limited).—During the year No. 4 shaft was sunk 55½ ft.; total depth, 1,616 ft. It was intended to open out No. 13 level at 1,600 ft., but owing to the shaft passing through a soft carbonaceous seam between 1,588 ft. and 1,599 ft. it was decided to open out at No. 13 level at 1,578½ ft. On the south side of the shaft the north-west crosscut was extended 197 ft. where the Dreadnought lode was intersected, having a width of 23 ft., the assay value of the last 18 ft. being 8s. 3d. per ton. In the south-east crosscut the total distance driven was 319 ft. At 258 ft. a portion of the Royal lode, width 7 ft., was intersected, worth 6d. per ton; at 279 ft. another section of this lode, width 5 ft., was met with—assay value, 12s.; at 292 ft., quartz 3 ft. wide, assay value 1s. 1d. per ton. Driving east and west is in progress on the richest portion.

No. 12 level (14,447½ ft. below collar of No. 4 shaft).—Dreadnought lode: Total distance driven east of No. 4 shaft, 530 ft.; width irregular and values low. At this point the junction of the Empire lode was met with. Beyond the junction the drive has been extended 54 ft. over width of 5 ft.; assay values vary from 6s. 8d. to £1 7s. 2d. per ton.

Bath north crosscut extended 136 ft.; total, 269 ft. At 150 ft. for a width of 10 ft. the ore assayed at 4s. 7d. per ton. At 191½ ft. a crosscut proved the Martha lode to be 66 ft. in width, of which 8 ft., near the centre, has payable values; from 38 ft. to 46 ft. ore assayed £1 8s. per ton; balance low grade.

Drive east, 141½ ft. over width of 5 ft.; assay value varies from 5s. to £3 9s. 4d. Crosscut proved width of lode 58 ft.; values varying from 1s. 8d. to £1 14s. 10d. per ton.

Drive west, Martha lode: Distance driven, 104 ft.; assay values, of width of 5 ft., vary from 1s. 1d. to 19s. 9d. Crosscut at 95 ft. west proved the lode to be 60 ft. wide, and values from 1s. 5d. to £1 2s. per ton.

Empire lode west of Bath crosscut: Drive extended 152½ ft.; at 50 ft., lode 11 ft. in width, value £1 per ton; at 118 ft., lode 8 ft. wide, value £1 0s. 10d.

West crosscut from No. 2 shaft: Advance 168 ft. during the year, making a total distance 833 ft. At 652 ft. east part of the Edward lode was met with; assay value, 3s. 10d. At 705 ft. the main portion of the Edward lode was intersected; width, 25 ft.; average value, 1s. 5d. per ton. At 827 ft. a rise was put up and connected with the bottom of No. 2 shaft, which provided adequate ventilation.

No. 4 shaft, south crosscut, advanced 92 ft.; total, 487 ft. The Royal lode was met with at 414 ft.; width, 15 ft.; value, 4s. 6d. per ton. 23 ft. was driven east and 11 ft. west; values low.

No. 11 level (1,301 ft. below collar of No. 4 shaft).—Salmon west crosscut: This is being extended for the purpose of testing the Welcome and Martha lodes at this level; distance driven, 429 ft. At 237 ft. a lode 4 ft. wide was passed through; assay value, 11s. per ton.

No. 10 level (1,152 ft. below collar of No. 4 shaft).—North section of Empire: The level was widened out to full width from 41 ft. to 91 ft. west. At 75 ft. an irregular reef was found going into the south wall; width 8 ft.; value, £1 9s. 3d. per ton. The Soldiers' south-east crosscut was extended 87 ft. with a view of testing this lode, but nothing important was met with. North section of Empire lode: The level has been widened and timbered for a length of 200 ft. ready for stoping.

No. 9 level (1,004 ft. below collar of No. 5 shaft): Charters' south crosscut advanced 184 ft. Regina lode intersected from 25 ft. to 37 ft.; payable samples were obtained, but on driving east and west the ore proved low-grade.

No. 8 level (1,852 ft. from collar of No. 5 shaft): North branch of Martha lode advanced 124 ft.; at 122 ft., 4 ft. of hard quartz and country, mixed, assayed £1 17s. 7d. per ton. The level was heightened to 11 ft. from 36 ft. to 113 ft., and 5 ft. wide.

No. 6 sublevel: No. 2 reef driven 120 ft. in payable ore 4 ft. wide.

No. 6 level: Albert lode, south of the Martha junction, driven 140 ft. in payable ore, over 5 ft. wide.

The Jellicoe lode was found 94 ft. in the south-east crosscut from No. 2 shaft; width, from 2 ft. to 5 ft.; assays vary from £1 11s. 6d. to £10 8s. 1d.

No. 5 level: Jellicoe lode driven on for 242 ft.; width varies from 9 in. to 5 ft., and values from £1 18s. 3d. to £16 15s. 6d.

A considerable amount of payable ore is still being won from the arches at and above No. 7 level.

The new high-lift turbine-pumping plant commenced operations on the 1st September, and has run continuously since that date.

Waikī Grand Junction Mine.—No. 1 shaft was sunk 12½ ft., making the total depth below collar 1,473 ft. At 150 ft. below No. 8 level a crosscut was driven 39 ft. through quartz; value, 10d. per ton. The object of this crosscut was to tap the main body of the water 30 ft. below the random of No. 9 level. No. 9 level was opened up at 120 ft. below No. 8 level. A water-cistern (capacity 10,000 gallons) has been excavated at No. 9 level. The drainage-water from the level is directed into this cistern, and from here pumped to the main pumping-station at No. 8 level. This arrangement will enable the sinking of the shaft to proceed under improved conditions. During the year 205,823,855 gallons of water were raised to the surface.

No. 9 level: The main south-east crosscut was driven a total distance of 170 ft.; from 21 ft. to 33 ft. is quartz valued at 4s. 1d. per ton, from 32 ft. to 87 ft. country rock. At 87 ft. a lode, 45 in. wide, value 3s. 7d. per ton, was passed through; from this lode to 140 ft. is country rock. At 140 ft. the Empire lode was intersected, and proved to be 24 ft. wide. The first 7 ft. is quartz, value 7s. 3d. per ton; the next 10 ft. quartz and country rock, value 2s. 6d. per ton; and the next 7 ft. quartz, value £3 2s. 4d. per ton. From 164 ft. to 170 ft. is country rock.

Empire lode: East drive driven 146 ft. The average assay value is 15s. 8d. per ton for a width of 56 in.; south wall is exposed. A crosscut at 105 ft. east exposed both walls. The lode is 16 ft. wide; the first 5 ft. on the south wall is worth 10s. 8d., and the next 11 ft. £1 1s. 11d.

West drive driven 210 ft. Value from crosscut to 75 ft. west over width of 59 in., £2 17s. 4d. per ton; from 75 ft. to 107 ft. over width of 62 in., 7s. 2d. per ton; from 107 ft. to 125 ft. over width of 50 in., £1 13s. per ton; from 125 ft. to 190 ft. over width of 54 in., £2 1s. 9d. per ton; from 190 ft. to 205 ft. over width of 58 in., £1 4s. 10d. per ton. A crosscut at 65 ft. west exposed 14 ft. of lode, of which 5 ft. is worth £2 8s. 10d. per ton, and 9 ft. worth 1s. 7d. The north wall is not exposed. In crosscut at 150 ft. west the lode is 17 ft. wide; the first 6½ ft. on the south wall is worth £2 13s. 10d. per ton, and the next 10½ ft. 2s. 4d.

Early in February, acting on report given by Mr. H. Stansfield, consulting engineer, the directors decided to close down the battery, suspend stoping operations at the upper level, and confine expenditure to development work at No. 9 level and sinking the main shaft, which at that time of writing had reached a depth of 80 ft. below No. 9 level.

Rising Sun, Owharoa.—Work in this mine has been confined to sinking a shaft below the low level, which was started 20 ft. south of the main crosscut and sunk to a depth of 100 ft. The available capital, together with Government subsidy of £2,000, having been expended, work was suspended, and an effort is now being made to raise further capital to develop the reef system from the bottom of the shaft.