

ANNEXURE A.

SUMMARY OF REPORTS BY INSPECTORS OF MINES.

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

QUARTZ-MINING.

Waihi Gold-mining Co., Ltd. (J. L. Gilmour, Manager).—The following is a summary of the principal operations carried out in this mine during the year:—

No. 15 Level (1,880½ ft.)—Edward lode: During the year a distance of 363½ ft. was driven south on the course of this lode, making a total of 391 ft. The lode was also crosscut at intervals. The assay results obtained were generally disappointing, and further work on the lode at this level has been stopped. North section of Martha lode: After driving 103 ft. east of No. 4 shaft north crosscut through layered country, the lode was intersected at the 235 ft. point; the full width is 6½ ft., and assay value £1 15s. 3d. per ton. From the point of intersection 213 ft. was driven eastward and 42 ft. westward, a total of 255 ft. Of this length, 195 ft. is payable ore of an average width of 11½ ft. In both ends the reef became small and low in value. This work has opened up about 13,000 tons of ore, and stoping is now in progress.

No. 14 Level—Edward lode: A stoping-block known as “Cod” has been opened up, commencing at 209 ft. south of Dunlop south-east crosscut and extending to the 321 ft. mark, a length of 112 ft.

No. 13 Level—Edward lode: Preparations are being made for the stoping of a block of ore estimated to contain 43,963 tons. Empire lode: Close to the east boundary, and at 58 ft. south of the Martha lode, a total of 102 ft. was driven west on the Empire lode where it connected to the Martha lode. The assay value over this length is £1 5s. 5d. per ton, and width of quartz about 5 ft.

No. 12 Level—Empire lode: Commencing from the east boundary a total of 109 ft. was driven west on the course of the lode, a connection being effected there to the level on the Empire section of Martha lode. The width of quartz over this length is about 5 ft. of good grade. Some prospecting-work was done on the Empire lode west, near its junction with the Edward lode, but the width was small and value low.

No. 11 Level—Edward lode: At 57 ft. below No. 10 level an intermediate level was driven a total of 101 ft. on the west section of lode without encountering any payable ore. Empire lode: East of Pistol north crosscut the drive was extended 32 ft., making a total of 136 ft. From this point a crosscut will be extended north with a view of locating the run of ore met at No. 12 level.

No. 10 Level—Edward cross-lode: A further extension of 51½ ft. was driven on this during the year, making the total distance from No. 2 shaft 1,979 ft. Assay results obtained were of little or no value. Some prospecting-work was done on two branch leaders but without result. The Piper east crosscut was commenced from the Edward lode at a point 570 ft. south from the junction with the Royal lode, and extended a total of 206 ft. Several small leaders of low value were intersected. For the first 150 ft. the country is favourable in appearance, but the last 56 ft. is much fractured. On the west lode south-west of Shark north-west crosscut the drive was extended a further 31½ ft., making a total of 125½ ft., and the face is now close to the western boundary. The formation is a very low grade mixture of quartz and country. 51½ ft. south-west and 18½ ft. north-east was driven on a leader situated at 273 ft. on Shark crosscut. The width of quartz varied from 1 in. to 9 in., and assay value was low. North section of Empire lode: East of Cow south-east crosscut was continued to 275 ft. the drive from 176 ft. point being in the Grand Junction area. Royal lode: Some good-grade ore was obtained from this lode in the Junction area close to the Waihi Co.'s eastern boundary.

No. 9 Level—Royal lode: Exploration work on both sides of the eastern boundary produced a substantial quantity of good-grade ore. North branch of Martha: Prospecting-work was carried out on this lode close to the East boundary. The drive was carried on in to the Grand Junction area, where sections of the Martha and Mary lodes were investigated. Work is now suspended.

No. 8 Level—North leader: The north drive was continued from 383 ft. to 400 ft., the width of quartz being about 12 in. From the end of this drive a prospecting-crosscut known as “Hopkins” was driven to the north 72½ ft. It is intended to further prospect the country to the north from this crosscut by diamond drilling.

No. 7 Level—Martha lode west (west of No. 2 shaft north-west crosscut): This drive was resumed and carried to 336½ ft. in a low-grade mixture of quartz and country. North branch of Martha lode (situated at 327 ft. in No. 2 shaft north-west crosscut): This was driven on to the west 92½ ft., where the lode split up into stringers. No payable ore was met.

No. 5 Level—North branch of Martha lode: In a sub-level at 56 ft. down a good deal of prospecting-work was done east and west on this lode. Although the width was small, the assay value was good, and further work will be done here.

Surface workings: From adit levels on the western side of the Martha Hill a good quantity of ore was obtained from the Martha and Welcome lodes and their branches. The supply of ore from this area is now almost exhausted.

Diamond Drilling: Two diamond drilling-machines were in commission continuously during the year. No. 1 hole (large machine; diameter of core, 1½ in.): This hole was commenced from No. 14 level at 290 ft. in Dunlop south-east crosscut. Direction 290 degrees, and inclination 63½ degrees from horizontal, its object being to test the Edward lode. At the close of the year 1926 the hole had been drilled to 130 ft. During the year under review drilling was continued, and at 316½ ft. the Edward lode was intersected. The point of intersection represents a vertical depth of only 155 ft. below No. 15 level, thus showing that the dip of the lode has considerably flattened. Drilling was continued in quartz to 407 ft., where boring was suspended owing to the extreme hardness of the quartz. The average assay value of twenty-nine samples of the reef from this borehole was 2s. 10d. per ton. No. 2 hole was commenced from the same chamber, the direction being north-west and inclination 15 degrees from horizontal. A total of 1,009 ft. was drilled. At 650 ft. the Edward lode was intersected, and the width (measured along the borehole) was 34 ft., the assay value being very low. The vertical depth of this hole below No. 15 level is over 800 ft. No. 3 hole was drilled horizontally from the same station as No. 2 hole on a bearing of 155 degrees, its object being to test the foot-wall country of the Royal lode. Beyond occasional stringers of quartz no quartz of any material width was intersected. With the small drilling-machine six horizontal holes were drilled in various parts of the mine, the lengths ranging from 197 ft. to 412 ft., but no new ore of any appreciable value was discovered.

Output: A total of 207,977 tons (of 2,240 lb.) dry weight, was obtained and crushed from the undermentioned reefs: From Waihi Co.'s area—Martha, 64,613-392 long tons; Edward, 40,763-392; Martha, north branch, 21,307-142; North, 8,485-714; Empire, 7,508-928; Royal, 7,096-428; Surprise, 6,280-357; Jellicoe, 5,976-785; Alexandra, 5,189-285; No. 2 reef, 3,046-428; Martha, south branch, 2,524-107; Welcome, south branch, 2,069-642; Empire, north section, 1,283-928; Dreadnought, south branch, 1,054-464; Bell, 739-348; Welcome, north branch, 514-285; Welcome, 371-428; H reef, 285-714; Dreadnought, 219-642; North leader, 174-107; Mary, 123-214; Victoria, 15-178; Total, 179,642-908. From Grand Junction area, 28,333-928. Grand total, 207,976-836—say, 207,977 long tons.

The total footage for the year amounted to 11,327. This includes 2,012 ft. driven in Grand Junction Company's area. In addition to this, a total of 3,402 ft. was bored by the two diamond drilling-machines. The quantity of water pumped to the surface from No 15 level was 469,539,900 gallons, or an average of 893 gallons per minute.

Waihi Grand Junction Gold Co., Ltd. (J. L. Gilmour, Manager).—The agreement with the Waihi Gold-mining Co. entered into in the latter part of 1926 has continued in force, and the Junction Co.'s claims have been worked by the Waihi Co.