

Eastern section: During the year 1927 a total of 22,169½ long dry tons—mostly broken ore from shrinkage stopes—was wound up Junction Co.'s main shaft and treated at Waihi Gold-mining Co.'s battery at Waikino. This supply of ore is approaching exhaustion. 274 ft. was driven on the Royal lode, the ore from this work being also sent up Junction shaft. The Waihi Gold-mining Co., operating from its Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 levels, also carried out a large amount of prospecting-work within this eastern section in search of branches of the main reefs and remnants of ore blocks. The total footage in drives and rises was 1,738 ft. A total of 6,164½ tons of good-grade ore was won from this work. It was wound up Waihi Co.'s shafts and treated at Waikino.

Western section: Junction Co.'s western section was not actually penetrated by Waihi Co. during the year, but the drive westward on the west reef met with in Shark crosscut at Waihi Co.'s No. 10 level was continued to the 125½ ft. from the crosscut. The reef consists in a broken mixture of quartz and country about 5 ft. wide and of low value. Work is being continued at this point.

Output: The total output for the year was—Fine gold, 9,662.20 oz.; fine silver, 28,436.32 oz.

The surface equipment has remained under the care of Junction Co., and has been maintained in good order. The electric-power plant was sold during the year to the Public Works Department, which is operating it as a stand-by plant.

Rising Sun Gold-mining Co., Ltd., Owaharoa.—This mine has been held under protection during the year, but I am informed that a new company has been registered and sufficient capital subscribed, and as soon as the shares are allotted work will be resumed.

New Zealand Crown Mines, Karangahake.—The area held by this company was forfeited by the Warden early in July.

Imperial Gold-mining Co., Ltd., Karangahake.—During the year further exploration work was done in Howard's level, adjacent to the Crown boundary, but as nothing encouraging was found the directors decided to prospect in the portion of the claim known as the Ballroom area. Considerable work has been carried out in this locality without disclosing anything of a payable character.

Earl of Glasgow Claim, Karangahake (J. B. Morris, manager).—A five-head stamp mill, one berdan and wilfry table were erected during the year, and 81 tons of ore treated yielded 97 oz. 4 dwt., valued at £144 14s. 7d. The ore treated is of a refractory nature and the return by amalgamation process has not been satisfactory. The values in the lode from which this ore was obtained occur in pockets, and a picked sample of 1 ton treated at the Thames School of Mines yielded bullion valued at £19 4s. 1d., included in the total.

Macwall Claim, Karangahake (J. Smith, Manager).—This syndicate has been formed with the object of endeavouring to locate the continuation of a lode carrying high values discovered in a slip in the early days of the Karangahake Goldfields. It is estimated that 250 ft. of driving should intercept this lode. Work is now in progress.

Moorland Gold-mining Co., Ltd., Waitekauri (G. Waite, Manager).—The No. 4 level has been repaired into the reef a distance of 1,280 ft. Two crosscuts were also driven off this level—one for 20 ft., and the other for 154 ft. A stope was carried along for a length of 50 ft. below No. 3 level, but so far the results met with have proved disappointing.

Majestic Gold-mining Co., Maratoto (J. A. J. McLaren, Manager).—The drive south on the United lode at the lowest level was extended 414 ft., making a total of 2,642 ft. from the main crosscut. The object of this work was to prove whether secondary enrichment had taken place at a depth of 140 ft. below the low-grade ore exposed in the United section. Operations disclosed that the sulphide zone had not been reached, and that probably from 200 ft. to 300 ft. of sinking would be necessitated before secondary enrichment could be expected. Over £40,000 was spent in development work and plant during the last five years. As the funds were exhausted, the company decided to go into voluntary liquidation.

Ohinemuri Gold and Silver Mines, Ltd., Maratoto (A. McGruer, Manager).—During the year work has been concentrated upon the development of the Camoola reef at No. 3 level, approximately 400 ft. from the surface and at a point 457 ft. above sea-level. The drive south was carried along 88 ft., making a total of 309 ft. from No. 6 crosscut or 2,224 ft. from the Silverstream crosscut. Ore of payable grade was carried for the greater portion of the distance on the reef, and crosscuts will be put out to determine the full width and value. A triple-compartment rise was commenced at a point 80 ft. south of No. 6 crosscut, and connected with No. 2 level at a height of 186 ft. Payable ore was carried for nearly the full distance risen, and a stoping block 130 ft. in length southward was made available, which provides adequate ventilation. A drive north of No. 6 crosscut has been commenced and carried along 42 ft. through payable ore. A crosscut 96 ft. south of No. 6 crosscut exposed 38 ft. of ore. In the north section the drive is 732 ft. from the main crosscut, 564 ft. having been driven during the period under review. At 572 ft. a vein of high-grade ore was encountered. This is showing in the present face, and a junction with the Queen reef should be reached in another 130 ft. of driving. Operations have been hampered by dependence on water-power, and after considerable delay the installation of a 11,000-volt transmission line by the Thames Valley Power Board has been completed; also a more powerful air-compressor plant has been purchased and installed, capable of supplying power to work four rock-drills. The company owns a twenty-head stamp mill, and it is proposed to remodel the treatment plant during the ensuing year to make it capable of an output of 100 tons daily.

Hauraki-Alaska Gold-mining Co., Ltd. (A. Bird, Manager).—This property is situated at Neavesville, about twelve miles from Puriri, and the deposit it is proposed to operate is estimated to contain 100,000,000 tons, consisting of pyroclastic material, all more or less auriferous. In order to demonstrate that this deposit can be profitably mined and treated, a ten-head stamper mill is now in the course of erection.

New Waitohi Gold-mining Co., Ltd., Thames.—During the year mining operations have been directed towards endeavouring to locate the Waitohi Cambria reef hillward of the break. The face of the drive has now reached the estimated position of the reef, which is expected to be struck at any time now. The country penetrated has been a hard grey andesite bar, which made progress slow.

Alburnia Gold-mining Co., Ltd., Thames (T. Gillon, Manager).—The principal work carried out in this mine during the year has been the extension of the drive on the Orlando lode and cross-cutting to intersect the Sons of Freedom reef. At 424 ft. in the crosscut driven from the Orlando lode, a reef 15 in. wide was intersected, which has since proved to be a dropper out of the Sons of Freedom reef. At 457 ft. the Sons of Freedom reef was intersected. Driving is now in progress on both these lodes, the object being to get under points where rich bonanzas were obtained in the upper levels.

Nonpareil Gold-mining Co., Thames.—The drive on the Shamrock reef was advanced 70 ft. north and 40 ft. south; the drive on the Liverpool Boy reef was also extended 35 ft. The results proved most disappointing, and the claim is now under protection pending the raising of further capital.

Caledonia-Kuranui-Moanatairi Gold-mining Co., Ltd. (J. H. Benney, Manager).—The reef intersected at 670 ft. in the south crosscut has been driven on for a distance of 150 ft. from the tunnel level, showing an average width of 4 ft., and gold has been freely seen in the quartz broken out. Two winzes have also been sunk on this reef to a depth of 35 ft., and drives extended on the reef from the bottom of these winzes for a distance of 180 ft. Gold has been seen in the ore, and occasionally a few pounds of picked stone were got; 258 tons treated yielded gold valued at £643 3s. 4d.

Kuranui Gold-mining Co., Thames.—Work in this mine has been confined to driving on the Ross and Barry's lodes from the battery level, and although a considerable amount of work has been done the results met with have proved most disappointing.

Occidental-Una-United Gold-mining Co., Ltd.—No. 4 level has been cleaned out and retimbered for a distance of 1,500 ft. A small pumping plant and electric winding-hoist have been installed over what is known as Bruce's winze, and this winze retimbered down to No. 5 level, a distance of 70 ft. Work has been confined to driving and rising on the foot-wall dropper and opening up a stoping-block for a length of 150 ft. on No. 1 Occidental reef. The quartz won from both these lodes shows gold freely, and a few pounds of good specimen stone have been got.