

FURTHER REPORTS

ON THE

GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.

I.—PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND.

II.—WESTLAND, TO 30TH JUNE, 1871.

III.—MARLBOROUGH, TO 30TH APRIL, 1871.

(Return to an Order of the House of Representatives, dated 3rd August, 1869.)

“That it is desirable that the Government should cause to be laid upon the Table of this House, during each Session, a Report embodying a general account of the present condition of the Gold Fields of the Colony, their advancement or otherwise during the preceding year, and their probable prospects; together with particulars showing the average price of provisions during the year on each Gold Field, the rate of wages, estimated population, and such other information as would afford a comprehensive idea of the general condition of the mining interest in the Colony; and that His Excellency be requested to forward a copy of such Report to Her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Colonies.”

(Mr. W. H. Harrison.)

WELLINGTON.

—
1871.

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND.

THE returns from the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields accompanying this Report will be found on inspection much more complete than those laid before the House of Representatives last year. Considerable care has been taken to bring them as near as possible up to the close of the year ending 30th June. The year just closed promised at its commencement to be one of depression, especially on that portion of the Gold Fields situated at the Thames. A large area of ground had been abandoned, the results being the loss of employment to numbers of working miners, the cessation of crushing operations, and general slackness of trade in the townships. The number of miners' rights issued in the year 1870 was only (on the Thames) 3,296, while in 1869 there were issued 9,438, and in 1868 there were 11,585. The population of the field also decreased. As near as could be ascertained, in January, 1870, the population on the gold fields was approaching 15,000, while the census taken in January, 1871, of the whole electoral district of Thames, does not much exceed 12,000. The cause of the depression thus briefly referred to is not far to seek. It is to be found in the wholesale taking up of supposed auriferous country, in the hope of selling it for large sums of money, and the formation of Companies based on value utterly fallacious, the country being entirely unproved, or rather unprospected.—The number of Companies in existence eighteen months ago, and the number now working and quoted on the share market, may also be for a moment glanced at. Companies with a nominal capital of about £7,000,000 were in existence at the beginning of the year 1870, while since then, through the action of the Official Agent in liquidation, 135 Companies have been or are in course of being wound up. The number of Companies is thereby reduced to 130, with a nominal capital of £3,030,719. Notwithstanding the depression, the old claims worked steadily on, and continued to pay handsome dividends. A large area of country was also being carefully prospected, as will be seen on reference to Table "C." As many as 194 Claims or Companies, not including small crushings, had crushings, with a total result, as far as can be ascertained, of 103,084 tons crushed, yielding 285,763 oz. gold, "melted" and "unmelted," or an average of about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. to the ton.—An alteration has been made in the form of the gold return. Work had been suspended for portions of the year on so many of the batteries, and some of them had changed owners, so that it was thought better to take the best published monthly returns available, and make a return from them. This has been done, and the result is as in Table "C." It may be said that the large yield of gold is the product of very few claims, but, as the return shows, the field is not idle. The money received from such claims is largely re-invested, and will result ultimately in a thorough prospecting of the field.

These facts, thus briefly alluded to, show that the tone of the mining community is restored in a large degree, and, with the increase of confidence, combined with the increased investment of capital, such improvement will doubtless continue. There has not been any great addition to the crushing power during the year, although Coromandel has added seventy-four stamps to the return. The present crushing power is quite inadequate to the demand, especially for the claims lying round the celebrated auriferous ground in proximity to the Moanataiari and Kurunui Creeks. Many machines were erected in out-of-the-way places, and have not been in work at all. Such batteries, there can be no doubt, will ultimately be removed to the foreshore; in fact the anxious desire of battery-owners and capitalists is to concentrate crushing operations on the beach, the convenience in obtaining water, and the lessening of expense in the cartage and freight of fuel on the tramways, being results most desirable to be attained. It is to be hoped that the vexed question of the ownership of the foreshore will speedily be settled, as it is a matter of supreme importance, not only to the mining community at the Thames, but to the Colony generally. It would not be desirable to have it understood that no other portion of the gold field is progressing except that above referred to; the Tararu District is advancing, many of the claims being a long distance from the beach, some of them as much as from four to five miles. The Karaka and Hape Creeks are also assuming a state of activity not seen for a year or two past. Coromandel, from the richness of its claims, will in next year's return doubtless stand second to no other section of the gold fields.

During the year some progress has been made in the districts in respect of public works. The tramway system has been commenced at Coromandel, and found to work most successfully; further extensions will be made as necessity may require. A wharf has also been erected at Coromandel, and some progress made in the formation of roads in the township. On the Thames it is intended to extend the Tararu Tramway, and concessions have been made to enable a public company to lay a rail or tramway from Tararu to the townships along the beach. Temporary water supply for the townships has been provided for, and surveys are in progress for a water supply to the townships and diggings, of a very extensive character. It is confidently expected that an ample supply of pure water for all purposes will be brought in from the Kaueranga Stream in the course of a few months. Private enterprise is now engaged on wharf extension at Grahamstown, a want greatly felt, not only by passengers to and from the gold fields, but also in the traffic in coals and general merchandise. The revenue received from Customs has steadily increased during the year; and were the harbour accommodation of a more convenient order, a large department would be required to meet the necessities of the district.

A return is rendered of the position of the townships. The townships of Shortland and Grahamstown are under the control of three Highway Boards, and from the return of expenditure an estimate

may be formed of the extent of work done by the Local Boards. Much remains to be done, and it is the intention of the Government to assist the local bodies, which will tend greatly to promote the trade and increase the convenience and comfort of the fixed trading population of the Thames. Considerable progress has been made in the formation of streets; but one of the most important departments pertaining to local self-government in towns—namely, sewerage—has not yet been touched.

These returns speak for themselves: there is a returning prosperity over the whole gold fields. Land is being fast taken up, under lease and otherwise—it is believed, with *bonâ fide* intentions of working it fairly, instead of selling it at a profit. If such be the case, the success of mining operations is secured, and the Auckland Gold Fields will be recognized as one of the most important permanent industries promoting the prosperity of the Colony of New Zealand.

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TABLE A.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Gold exported from the Province of Auckland, from 12th January, 1870, to 30th June, 1871; including also the Quantity of Silver exported during the same Period.

Gold.

Date.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£
Quarter ending 31st March, 1870	30,008	105,997
Quarter ending 30th June, 1870	23,334	85,449
Quarter ending 30th September, 1870	16,106	60,933
Quarter ending 31st December, 1870	16,086	66,767
Quarter ending 31st March, 1871	84,019	292,417
Quarter ending 30th June, 1871	65,216	236,981
	234,769	848,544

Silver.

Quarter ending 31st March, 1870	9,990	...
Quarter ending 30th June, 1870	15,207	...
Quarter ending 30th September, 1870	...	...
Quarter ending 31st December, 1871	11,766	...
Quarter ending 31st March, 1871	6,364	...
Two Months ending 31st March to 31st May, 1871	20,604	...
	63,931	19,585

Note.—The quantity of silver exported is given with the Gold Return as it is extracted from the gold produced in the Province of Auckland.

TABLE B.

RETURN of Gold Duty received from 1st January, 1870, to 31st May, 1871.

	£	s.	d.
Quarter ending 31st March, 1870	3,751	0	6
Quarter ending 30th June, 1870	2,916	14	8
Quarter ending 30th September, 1870	2,013	4	2
Quarter ending 31st December, 1870	1,924	0	0
Quarter ending 30th March, 1871	8,942	13	5
Two months from 1st April to 21st May, 1871	5,883	0	0
Total	£25,430	12	9

TABLE C.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Gold obtained from Claims and Companies on the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields, from 1st May, 1870, to 14th June, 1871.

Thames.

Claim or Company.	Tons.	Oz.	Claim or Company.	Tons.	Oz.
All Nations	2,390	9,549	Golden Anchor	79	62
Alburnia	2,616	4,107	Gold Spring	20	14
Atlantic	218	115	Great Britain and Brunswick	133	68
All Nations No. 3 Extended...	7	62	Guy Fawkes	27	17
Armstrong	43	31	Golden Cable	18	18
Ashley	211	167	Golden Lion	21	41
Alliance, Tapu	60	34	Harp of Erin	40	50
Argyle	20	12	Hope	20	11
Best Wrinkle	68	120	Havilah	200	146
Ballarat Star	106	109	Imperial Crown	244	605
Belfast	515	1,216	Jamaica	98	372
Berkeley Castle	165	159	Inverness	1,386	1,834
Ballarat and Rising Sun	56	126	Just in Time	597	928
Beehive	40	39	Junction	1,188	2,697
Beach	129	393	John O'Groats	107	215
Buoy Rope	27	30	Indomitable	35	16
Bendigo Independent	99	129	Kurunui	10,881	14,825
Californian	1,760	1,052	Kelly's	587	1,014
City of Dunedin	2,618	2,560	Lord Nelson	127	102
City of Glasgow and Black Angel	408	254	Long Drive	3,202	11,457
Cure	142	204	Lady Bird and Hand of Friendship	3,872	1,280
Conqueror	150	87	Macdonald's Lease	261	341
Clyde and Tyne	81	65	Morning Star	1,162	2,706
Castle and Galatea	50	25	Moanatairi	7,756	6,790
Candlelight No. 1	220	707	Mountain Flower	33	23
City of Chester	88	68	Manukau	713	945
City of London	221	293	Multum in Parvo	390	782
Colleen Bawn	33	20	Moa	421	244
City of Carlisle	54	57	Moanatairi No.	103	156
Child of Fortune	67	62	Middle Star	450	1,056
Claremount	22	65	Mount Vernon	19	22
Caledonian	5,956	134,577	Murphy's Long Drive	68	38
Cape of Good Hope, Hape	46	33	Mount Pleasant	25	12
Cape of Good Hope, Moanataiari	7	24	Montgomery Brothers' Claim	5	42
Christmas Box	20	20	Mary Anne	20	33
Cock-a-Doodle	90	158	Moanatairi Union	140	90
Crystal Palace	14	25	New May Moon	495	1,036
Coulabah	11	11	North Devon	138	98
Crinoline	6	53	Nonpareil	1,502	3,260
Deep Lead	80	136	Onehunga	228	156
Dixon's No. 1	1,231	1,968	Odd Fellows	117	69
Dauntless and Sink to Rise	572	1,197	Overland Route	25	12
Duke of Magenta	49	50	Point Russell	497	238
Don Pedro	28	27	Prince Imperial	48	140
Dawn of Hope	120	39	Providence	86	385
Eureka	328	566	Prosperity	16	24
Excelsior	99	115	Pride of Karaka	327	605
Earl of Erin	78	48	Pretty Nelly	178	128
Eldorado	152	312	Papakura	45	16
Eveline	40	33	Prussian	39	79
Exchange, Royal	15	11	Poverty and Charleston	400	578
Evening Star	21	22	Pride of York	16	29
First of July	45	26	President Lincoln	51	63
Flying Cloud	298	545	Primrose	10	12
Flag-ship	80	136	Queen of Sheba	96	39
Flag-staff	20	24	Queen of Beauty	292	456
Four Georges	79	54	Queen of May	23	63
French Republic	4	16	Queen of the Isles	46	18
Golden Age	528	650	Royal Blue	28	17
Golden Crown	8,376	20,989	Royal Charter	122	37
Goldfinch	84	130	Royal Standard	43	47
Gap of Dunloe	51	50	Ruby	87	40
Golden Spur	269	507	Royal Standard No. 2	96	87
Gibraltar	309	303	Red, White, and Blue	432	697
Golden Barque	15	14	Royal Exchange	41	88
			Rocky Bar	30	15

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE

RETURN showing the Quantity of Gold obtained from Claims at Thames, &c.—*continued.*

Claim or Company.	Tons.	Oz.	Claim or Company.	Tons.	Oz.
Rose and Shamrock ...	40	13	Vale of Avoca ...	1,038	1,364
Shooting Star ...	78	12	Vulcan ...	6	102
Shamrock ...	100	50	Whau ...	2,025	1,901
Success ...	190	174	West Coast ...	95	148
Star of the South ...	930	639	Waitemata ...	3,204	3,075
Shotover ...	12,129	11,141	Wade ...	66	43
Sons of Freedom ...	308	397	Wild Missouri ...	257	75
Sunbeam ...	518	358	Wandering Star ...	191	262
Southern Pacific ...	12	48	Waiotahi ...	550	191
Tweedside ...	121	306	Wheel of Fortune ...	20	12
Trafalgar ...	28	28	Wicklow ...	16	20
Twenty-third of June ...	26	150	Young Australian ...	68	40
Tookeys ...	587	986	Young American ...	44	43
Tapu ...	21	28	Young May Moon ...	32	88
Union ...	370	486	Yankee Doodle ...	756	761
Una ...	5,529	5,565			
United Service ...	82	55	Total ...	101,287	271,229
United States ...	43	48			

Coromandel.

A1 ...	25	20	Little Wonder ...	57	1,690
Bay View ...	54	124	Little and Good ...	32	79
Conquering Hero ...	48	30	Little Republic ...	30	66
Conqueror ...	20	15	Nonsuch ...	5	16
Christmas Box ...	10	36	Pride of the Hills ...	145	256
Erin's Hope ...	60	105	Peep o' Day ...	60	103
Excelsior ...	39	219	Queen of the Tiki ...	45	76
Emily ...	45	59	Royal Oak ...	46	743
Flying Cloud ...	87	94	Rainbow End ...	9	32
Golden Belt ...	77	119	Red Rover ...	21	18
Giant ...	12	22	Resaca ...	35	39
Harbour View ...	202	1,059	Swedish Crown ...	58	139
Homeward Bound ...	33	56	Tokatea ...	450	2,318
Hatters ...	25	17			
Independent ...	47	70	Total ...	1,797	7,656
King of the Ranges ...	20	28			

N.B.—All Returns under 10 oz. Gold are placed with Specimen and Sundry Small Crushings.

TOTAL RETURN of Gold obtained from Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields.

Result of Crushing.	Tons.	Oz.	Remarks.
Yield of Thames Gold Field ...	101,287	271,229	A considerable quantity of Gold was "melted" Gold. The smaller crushings were not "melted."
Yield of Coromandel Gold Field ...	1,797	7,656	
Crushings yielding less than 10 oz., Specimen and Sundry Small Crushings	...	6,878	
	103,084	285,763	

The crushing of quartz on the Coromandel Gold Field did not commence till late in the year, say, about February, 1871.

The Returns of Gold from Machines employed in extracting Gold from Tailings are not included in this Return.

TABLE D.

RETURN showing the Batteries erected on the Thames Gold Fields, Puriri and Tapu, but not Coromandel, with description of Machinery.

Locality and Name.	Stampers.	Berdans.	Buddles.	Concentrators.	Amalgamating Barrels.	Wheeler's Pans.	Chilian Mills.	Steam Engines.	Nominal Power.	Water Wheels.	Size of Wheels.	Remarks.
Hape Creek—									h.p.		ft.	
Groves' ...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	Working.
Greenaway's ...	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	Ditto.
Karaka—												
Lucky Hit ...	21	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	16	...	...	Not working.
Halcyon ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	Working.
Hokianga ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	1	30	Ditto.
Onehunga ...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	28	Ditto.
Coulabah ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	Ditto.
Atlas ...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	8	...	...	Ditto.
Perry's ...	10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	18 inch Turbine.	...	Ditto.
Una's ...	26	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	25	1	25	Ditto.
Bull's ...	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	Ditto.
Vickery's ...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	25	Ditto.
Waiotahi—												
Weston's ...	20	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	40	...	...	Ditto.
Australasian ...	20	...	...	...	2	4	...	1	30	...	...	Not working.
Criterion ...	17	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	12	...	...	Working.
Waiotahi ...	15	2	...	1	...	...	2	1	14	...	...	Ditto.
Souter's ...	16	1	...	...	2	...	2	1	20	...	...	Ditto.
Hauraki ...	24	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	...	...	Ditto.
Golden Crown ...	20	1	...	1	2	4	...	2	50	...	...	Ditto.
Girdwood's ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	Not working.
Moanatairi—												
Pioneer ...	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	Ditto.
Star of the South ...	10	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	12	...	...	Working.
Whau ...	15	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	10	...	...	Ditto.
Launceston ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	Not working.
Victoria ...	25	2	2	1	...	...	...	2	30	...	...	Working.
Morning Star ...	11	2	...	...	2	...	...	2	22	...	...	Ditto.
Middle Star ...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	...	Ditto.
Tramway ...	12	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	10	...	...	Ditto.
Thames or Manukau ...	41	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	40	...	...	Ditto.
Goodall's ...	23	1	...	1	...	4	...	1	16	...	...	Ditto.
Kurunui—												
Deep Lead ...	9	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	12	...	...	Not working.
Shotover ...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	19	...	...	Working.
Kurunui ...	48	7	1	2	2	...	...	2	35	...	...	Ditto.
Herald ...	15	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	22	...	...	Ditto.
Shell Back—												
Partington's ...	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	...	Ditto.
Clarkson's ...	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	...	Not working.
Bleazard's ...	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	...	...	Ditto.
Tararu—												
Wild Missouri ...	21	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	36	Working.
Russell's ...	30	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	45	Ditto.
Brown and Campbell's ...	40	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	40	23 inch Turbine.	...	Ditto.
Flora Macdonald ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 inch Turbine.	...	Ditto.
Ballarat and Clunes ...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	25	...	...	Not working.
Tapu—												
Nautilus ...	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 inch Turbine.	...	Working.
Halcyon ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	Ditto.
Golden Anchor ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	Ditto.
										1	30	
	719	50	3	39	29	12	7	39	631	15		

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE

RETURN showing the Batteries erected on the Thames Gold Fields, &c.—*continued.*
Coromandel.

Name.	Stamps.	Berdans.	Buddles.	Concentrators.	Amalgamating Barrels.	Chilian Mills.	Wheeler's Pans.	Steam Engine.	Nominal Power.	Water Wheel.	Size of Wheel.	Remarks.
New Zealand Company	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	...	...	Working.
Nil Desperandum ...	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	"
Ring ...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	30	Not working.
Matawhai ...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Turbine, 40 h.p.		"
Whakaroa ...	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	Working.
Perseverance ...	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	17	"
Pukauwau ...	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	26	"
										Turbine		"
	74	11	...	...	...	...	...	2	28	5	133	

TOTAL AMOUNT of Batteries, &c., on the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields.

Thames ...	719	50	3	39	29	12	7	39	631	15		
Coromandel ...	74	11	...	...	...	...	...	2	28	5		
	793	61	3	39	29	12	7	41	659	20		

The crushing of tailings from the batteries is carried on to a large extent on the Thames Gold Fields: about twelve establishments are devoted to this branch of industry. The process of saving gold from tailings is carried on in various ways, such as by means of Berdans, Wheeler's pans, Macky's pans, amalgamating barrels, all of which involve the water process. There are also establishments where gold-saving by fire, or calcining, is the process used. Some of these works are of considerable extent, and a very large amount of capital has been, and is being, expended by the proprietors. The saving of gold from tailings has, in fact, become a regular business, and the results obtained are most jealously guarded from the knowledge of the public. Into some of these mills it is impossible to penetrate. The principal batteries now save the tailings, and periodical sales are held, at which thousands of tons are sold at prices varying from £2 to £6 per ton. Several patents have lately been applied for, which it is expected will turn out successfully.

TABLE E.

RETURN showing the Number of Miners' Rights issued on the Thames and Coromandel Districts, from August, 1867, to 30th June, 1871.

Year.	Number of Miners' Rights, Thames.	Number of Miners' Rights, Coromandel.
1867 ...	2,946	Nil.
1868 ...	11,585	"
1869 ...	9,438	304
1870 ...	3,296	584
1871—six months ...	2,303	200
	29,568	1,088

Issue of Miners' Rights at Coromandel began on 23rd September, 1869.

This Return includes Rights taken out by Companies, and called "Leaseholders" Miners' Rights.

TABLE F.

RETURN showing the Number of Mining Claims held under Miners' Rights on the Thames Gold Field, Registered from 1st to 30th June, 1871.

Claims Registered ...	368
Number of Men's Ground ...	1,617
Area in Acres ...	552

This Return refers only to claims registered within the Hauraki field, including Tapu and Puriri, but not Coromandel.

A large number of these claims have been given up after working, and many have had no labour expended upon them at all; but to approach nearly to a correct estimate of the number of such abandoned claims has been found impossible.

The acreage ground taken up under Miners' Rights may be considerably reduced by the registration of claims.

TABLE G.

RETURN showing the Number of Claims Registered and held under Miners' Rights on the Coromandel Fields, up to 31st May, 1871.

Claims Registered	...	...	...	...	...	309
Number of Men's Ground	...	...	...	...	...	2,084
Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	695

The same remarks apply to Coromandel Gold Field with reference to the abandonment, non-working, and re-registration of claims, as are appended to the Hauraki return in Table F.

TABLE H.

RETURN showing the Number of Mining Leases in Operation on the Thames Gold Field, on 30th June, 1871; also the Number of Leases Surrendered, to 30th June, 1871; also the number of Leases Surrendered and afterwards Re-entered upon, up to 30th June, 1871, with the Area in Acreage and Men's Ground.

Leases.	Number.	Acreage.	Men's Ground.
In operation	135	660	1,940
Surrendered	68	316	936
Surrendered and afterwards Re-entered on...	61	361	1,084

This Return does not include Leases which have been applied for and which are still under the consideration of the Provincial authorities, and in regard to which the legal forms have not been fully complied with.

TABLE I.

RETURN showing the Number of Mining Leases in Operation on the Coromandel Gold Field, on 30th June, 1871; also the Number of Leases Surrendered, to 30th June, 1871; also the Number of Leases Surrendered and afterwards Re-entered upon, up to 30th June, 1871, with the Area in Acreage and Men's Ground.

Leases.	Number.	Acreage.	Men's Ground.
In operation	5	55	126
Surrendered	2	14	40
Surrendered and afterwards Re-entered on...	2	17	51

This Return does not include Leases which have been applied for and which are still under consideration of the Provincial authorities, and in regard to which the legal forms have not been fully complied with.

TABLE K.

RETURN showing the Number of Companies that have been or are in course of Liquidation by the Official Agent on 16th July, 1871.

Companies in actual process of Winding-up	...	...	...	69
Companies on which Dividends have been Paid	...	...	...	15
Companies in process of Liquidation	...	...	...	66
Total	...	...	...	135

Amount of Liabilities on the sixty-nine Companies in course of winding-up, £18,000.
In the fifteen Companies, Dividends of from 7s. 6d. to 20s. in the £ have been paid.

TABLE L.

RETURN showing the Number of Gold Mining Companies on the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields on 30th June, 1871, with the nominal Amount of Capital and Amount of Capital actually and nominally Paid up.

Number of Companies	...	...	...	130
Amount of Capital	...	...	...	£3,030,719
Paid or called up	...	...	...	£2,572,421
To be called up	...	...	...	£458,298

The above Return is made from public lists, and is as near an approximation to the state of the Mining Companies as can be arrived at.

TABLE M.

RETURN of Dividend-Paying Companies.

THE following Return shows the Number of Dividend-Paying Companies on the Thames Gold Fields, including Coromandel and Tapu, and has been prepared by Mr. Sholl, of Auckland.

Names of Companies.	Nominal Capital.	Amount per Share.	Amount of Dividends from 31st May, 1870, to 31st May, 1871.			Total Amount of Dividends from 27th May, 1870, to 31st May, 1871.			No. of Shares.
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
All Nations	54,000	10	3	4	6	17,617	10	0	5,400
Belfast	28,000	5	0	1	0	280	0	0	5,600
Dixon's No. 1	24,000	10	0	8	0	960	0	0	2,400
Dauntless and Sink to Rise	16,000	5	0	4	6	720	0	0	3,200
Golden Crown	192,000	1,000	201	7	0	38,592	0	0	192
Kuranui	127,000	10	1	6	0	16,510	0	0	12,700
Long Drive	6,000	5	13	0	0	18,000	0	0	1,200
Shotover No. 1	224,000	10	0	7	6	8,400	0	0	22,400
Thames	60,000	10	16	17	6	101,250	0	0	6,000
Unas	75,000	5	0	2	0	1,500	0	0	15,000
Vale of Avoca	9,500	1	0	6	6	3,085	0	0	9,500
Nolan's Candelight	18,000	5	0	2	0	360	0	0	3,600
Waitemata	21,000	5	0	2	6	571	5	0	4,200
Morning Star	30,000	5	1	0	0	6,000	0	0	6,000
Multum in Parvo	32,000	4	0	0	9	300	0	0	8,000
Tokatea	100,000	5	0	1	7½	1,625	0	0	20,000
Alburnia	37,000	10	0	5	0	925	0	0	3,700
Junction	36,000	5	0	2	6	900	0	0	7,200
Caledonian	34,320	12	108	10	0	310,310	0	0	2,860
Middle Star	36,000	25	0	5	0	360	0	0	1,440
Nonpareil	21,000	5	0	13	6	3,897	10	0	5,700
Providence	20,000	5	0	0	6	100	0	0	4,000
Californian	14,760	5	0	2	6	369	0	0	2,950
	1,215,580	1,162	348	10	4	592,632	5	0	...

This Return does not show the amount of gold obtained from claims worked under Miners' Rights, or Leases which may not have been worked by Companies.

The gold obtained from these sources does not appear in any public account.

TABLE N.

RETURN showing the Length of Tramways on the Coromandel and Thames Gold Fields, with the Rentals paid for each Tramway by the Lessees.

Tramways.	Length of Tramway.	Length of Wire Tram.	Yearly Rental.	
			£	s. d.
Hape Creek	75 Chains	...	63	0 0
Te Papa Creek	...	40 Chains	25	0 0
Hauraki Creek	161 Chains	...	240	0 0
Waihotahi	60 "	...	65	0 0
Moanatairi	111 " Double action Tramway	...	550	0 0
Madman's Gully	...	34 Chains	75	0 0
Tararu Creek	88 Chains	...		
Coromandel	136 " Double action Tramway	...		Worked by Government.

In addition to the above lines of tramway, there are on the field some private lines, belonging to Companies and Batteries, which are not included in the above Table.

It has been found impossible to obtain a correct return, or even estimate, of the quantity of quartz carried on these lines, no absolutely reliable account having been kept by the lessees.

TABLE O.

RETURN showing the Amount of Customs Duties, Arms Fees, and other receipts received at the Port of Thames, from 1st July, 1870, to 30th June, 1871, inclusive.

Date.	Customs Duties.	Arms Fees.	Miscellaneous Receipts.
1870.			
July	£ 777 17 8	£ 28 1 0	£ 15 2 0
August	867 9 5	27 17 0	1 4 3
September	852 16 9	23 4 0	2 2 0
October	620 3 6	24 3 0	2 6 3
November	701 16 5	15 13 0	...
December	655 15 11	13 13 0	0 4 6
1871.			
January	794 0 2	13 15 0	1 2 6
February	426 11 6	17 6 0	26 11 0
March	546 8 9	25 1 0	3 7 5
April	813 7 4	27 4 0	...
May	1,188 9 1	34 8 0	2 15 9
June	1,095 1 10	33 3 0	...
Total	9,339 18 4	233 13 0	54 15 8

TABLE P.

RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Vessels entered Inwards at the Port of Thames, from the 1st July, 1870, to the 30th June, 1871, inclusive.

Date.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1870.		
July	212	9,901
August	197	10,261
September	181	8,326
October	172	9,813
November	166	6,901
December	161	5,337
1871.		
January	194	9,710
February	166	9,847
March	181	10,572
April	191	10,398
May	212	11,194
June	221	12,057
Total	2,254	114,317

Numbers of Vessels entered with Bonded Goods included in the above as follows:—

September Quarter, 1870	...	49
December	...	37
March	...	47
June	...	48
Totals	...	201

TABLE Q.

RETURN of the Number of Vessels employed on the Coal Trade from the Bay of Islands Coal Company, with the Amount shipped to the Thames, from May, 1870, to 14th June, 1871.

Number of vessels employed	...	15
Tons of Coal shipped	...	13,700

Regularly employed traders make two trips at least every month.

There have been no coal vessels sent to the Coromandel Field, the supply to that place having been sent indirectly. Parcels of Newcastle coal have been sent to the Thames, amounting to some hundreds of tons.

TABLE R.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Blasting Powder, used for Mining Purposes, passed at the Custom House, at the Port of Thames, on which duty was paid, during the Year from 1st July, 1870, to 30th June, 1871.

Quarter ending			lbs.
September, 1870	...	...	14,192
" December "	...	...	13,572
" March, 1871	...	...	15,585
" June "	...	...	23,978
			67,327=30 tons 11cwt. 1qr. 8lbs.

Blasting powder on which duty has been paid at the Port of Auckland, and used on the Thames Gold Field, is of course not included in the above return.

TABLE S.

RETURN of the Price of Provisions and other articles in general use on the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields.

Articles.	Wholesale.	Retail.
Flour (Adelaide) per ton ...	£19	20s. per 100lbs.
" (Auckland) " ...	£18 10s.	19s. "
Potatoes " ...	£4	6s. "
Bread ... .. " ...	...	5d. per 2lbs.
Butcher's Meat per 100lbs. ...	30s.	4d. to 6d. per lb.
Hams (English) per lb. ...	1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.	...
" (Colonial) " ...	9d. and 1s.	1s. and 1s. 2d.
Bacon (English) " ...	10d. and 1s.	1s. and 1s. 2d.
Butter in kegs " ...	10½d. and 1s.	1s. and 1s. 1d.
" (fresh) " ...	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.
Tea (average) " ...	2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d.	2s. 6d. and 3s.
Coffee " ...	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.
Sugar " ...	5½d. and 5¾	5½d. and 6d.
Tobacco (duty paid) " ...	3s. 9d. and 4s. 6d.	4s. 6d. and 5s.
Biscuits (Lamb's) per ton ...	£20	3¾d per lb.
Candles (Sperm) per lb. ...	1s.	1s. 1d.
" (Mould) " ...	5d.	6d.
Hay per ton ...	£6	£7
Straw " ...	£3 and £3 10s.	£4
Oats per bushel ...	3s. and 4s. 6d.	4s. and 5s.
Maize " ...	6s.	6s. 6d.
Chaff per ton ...	£9	£9 10s.
Bran per bushel ...	1s. and 1s. 3d.	1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d.
Coals (Newcastle) per ton ...	...	...
" (Bay of Islands) " ...	25s.	30s.
Timber per 100 feet ...	10s.	13s.
Shingles per 1,000 ...	10s.	12s.
Palings per 100 ...	10s.	12s.
Slabs " ...	30s.	35s.
Props " ...	£3 to £7	£3 10s. to £8

TABLE T.

RETURN showing the Rates of Wages in the Thames and Coromandel Gold Fields, as also the Charge for Cartage.

Labourers' Wages, 42s. per week.
 Carpenters' Wages, 54s. per week.
 Mechanical Engineers' Wages, 60s. per week.
 Engineers (Drivers), 50s. per week.
 Stokers, 50s. per week.
 Miners, 36s. to 45s. per week.
 Man, dray, and two horses, 20s. per day.

It will be observed that the rates of wages on the gold fields have considerably increased since the last Return was presented.

TABLE U.

RETURN of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, from 1st April, 1870, to 30th June, 1871, for the Thames Gold Fields and Coromandel Gold Fields District.

						Thames.	Coromandel.
Births	...	...	...	...	...	594	21
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	162	6
Marriages	...	...	...	...	...	95	3
Totals						851	30

The District Registrars at the Thames and Coromandel report that there is considerable negligence existing on the part of many persons with respect to the registration of births, and that they have reason to believe that a considerable number of births take place in these districts which are not registered at all.

TABLE V.—HIGHWAY BOARDS.

RETURN of the Amount Expended by the several Highway Boards on the Thames Gold Fields, the mode of Assessment, the Amount received from such Assessment, the Sums received as Subsidy from the General and Provincial Governments, and from other sources.

Highway Boards.	Mode of Assessment.	Amount of Rates.			Amount Received.			Subsidy from Government.			Other Sources.			Total Receipts.			Expenditure.			Balance in hand.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Parawai Board:</i> From 24 Feb., 1870, to 30 June, 1871.	1½d. on value to sell.	161	5	2	142	9	2	197	11	0	30	17	9	370	17	11	362	5	1	8	12	10
<i>Waiotahi Board:</i> To 31 Dec., 1868 ...	1d. on value to sell.	502	1	0	474	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	474	15	10	474	15	10	...	...	...	...
To 31 Dec., 1869 ...	1 farthing on val. to sell.	269	11	9	228	15	11	150	0	0	184	2	11	562	18	10	562	18	10	...	...	...
To 31 Dec., 1870 ...	1½d. on value to sell.	759	4	9	636	8	0	378	6	11	104	4	0	1,118	18	11	1,118	18	11	...	...	...
Nine months, to 30 June, 1871.	1½d. on value to sell.	823	11	0	719	10	0	453	6	11	117	0	10	1,289	17	9	1,289	3	2	...	...	...
<i>Kaueranga Board:</i> Year ending 4 Oct., 1870.	1½d. on value to sell.	864	14	4	467	2	6	215	0	0	219	5	0	901	7	1	941	6	6	...	...	...
Nine months, from 1 Oct., 1870, to 30 June, 1871.	1½d. on value to sell.	740	0	0	367	10	5½	757	11	7	163	13	5	1,288	15	5	1,442	19	7½	...	...	...
Totals	...	4,120	8	0	3,036	11	10½	2,151	16	5	819	3	11	6,007	12	4	6,192	7	11½	8	12	10

By direction of the Provincial Government, the amount of the Waiotahi and Kaueranga Boards have been made up to 30th June, 1871, which is a return for the nine months from October, 1870, to 30th June, 1871.

I.—COUNTY OF WESTLAND.

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No. 1.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—
County Engineer's Office, Hokitika, 11th July, 1871.
I have the honor to report that, during the six months ending 30th June, 1871, the following works have been undertaken in the County:—

ROADS AND WORKS.

Construction: Greek's Gully Track; Kokatahi Road; Bruce Bay and Haast River Track; Parts of Fitzherbert and Stafford Streets, as line of main road, Grey to Ross.
Maintenance: Sea Beach to Arthur's Pass, road; Staffortown to Greenstone, road; Coal Pits to Maori Gully, road; Arahura River to Hokitika, road; Ross to Woolhouses, road; Sea Beach to Lamplough, road; Lamplough to Brodie's, track.

Surveys: For Roads—Hokitika to Kanieri; Arahura to Staffordtown; Marsden to Hohonu; 17 m.p., Christchurch Road, to nearest point, Greenstone Road; Kanieri to Ross. For Water Supply—Waimea.

Construction of Roads.

Greek's Gully Track.—The contracts for construction of this track, amounting to £470, were signed on 26th April last. The total distance is 140 chains 65 links, giving an average of £3 6s. 10d. per chain, or £267 per mile, nearly. The track is to be cleared 17 feet wide, formed 7 feet, and metalled 4 feet, with culverts and drains where required. The work will be completed about 15th August.

Kokatahi Road.—Sections Nos. 1, 2, and 5 of this road, comprising 2 miles 7 chains out of the total length of 6 miles 46 chains, have been let for the sum of £807, to be paid in land. The estimate for the work included in these contracts amounts to £843, so that the land applied for has been rated at rather more than £1 per acre. The estimate for the entire road, finished as at present specified, that is to say, "33-foot clearings throughout, drained and formed 14 feet wide, with culverts where required," amounts to £5,340; metalling, 12 feet wide, would cost about £1,740 more, making a total of £7,080. It will be seen from the above that only one-eighth of the total work has been let up to the present time, and, as tenders have been called for almost continuously since the 16th of March, I fear that a long time must elapse before the whole work is undertaken for land payments.

Bruce Bay and Haast River Track.—This track was much required, as the nature of the bluffs between Bruce Bay and the Haast almost precluded travelling along the beach. The total distance is fifty-six miles, and contracts have been entered into for the construction, to be completed on the 16th February, 1872. The estimate amounted to £2,960, and the tenders accepted to £2,180, payable in land; so that here, as in the case of the Kokatahi Road, the value set on the land was more than £1 per acre. The work, when completed, will consist of clearing, 5 feet wide; benching, 2 feet wide, on sidings, with corduroy and culverts where required; and foot bridges over deep creeks. About thirty miles of this line has been let out by the District Surveyor from Ross (Mr. Browne), and the remainder will be explored as soon as the contractors are ready to undertake it.

Fitzherbert and Stafford Streets, Hokitika.—27 chains of 16-foot dray road in Fitzherbert Street, and 43½ chains of 14-foot dray road in Stafford Street, have been completed by prison labour, as part of the main road between Greymouth and Ross. The total value of the work, together with maintenance of Fitzherbert Street since its construction, as estimated by the Borough Engineer (Mr. Frew), amounts to £879.

Maintenance of Roads.

The roads at the commencement of the present Session having been in a state of thorough repair, the contracts set were for maintenance only, and are therefore good examples of the value of such work in Westland. The rates for the different classes of roads, as deduced from the current contracts, are given below:—

Christchurch Road.—18 feet wide, fifty-three miles, for six months, £1,875—£5 18s. per mile per month.

Arahura Road.—12 feet wide, two miles and three-eighths, for five months, £160—£13 7s. per mile per month.

Woolhouses Road.—8 feet wide, three miles and one-eighth, for five months, £200—£12 16s. per mile per month.

Greenstone Road.—10 feet wide, fourteen miles and three-quarters, for four months and three-quarters, £658—£9 7s. per mile per month.

Maori Gully Road.—8 feet wide, seven miles and a half, for five months, £283 10s.—£7 11s. per mile per month.

Chesterfield Track.—4 feet wide, five miles and a half, for five months, £45—£1 13s. per mile per month.

Surveys.

Road, Hokitika to Kanieri.—The survey of this road was completed during the last Session, with a view to its being constructed by prison labour; but, in accordance with instructions received from the Colonial Government, plans and specifications were prepared for contract, and tenders called on 1st instant, to be in by Monday, the 17th. The total length of the road is 1 mile 66 chains, and the work, as specified, consists of clearing, 50 feet wide; forming, 15 feet wide; and metalling, 12 feet wide; with one 40-foot bridge; culverts, and side-drains throughout. The tenders are to include maintenance for one year from date of completion.

Road, Arahura to Stafford.—The survey for this road was commenced on 17th June, by a surveyor and four men, and will be completed on or about the 15th instant, with all the necessary levels, &c. The distance from Thompson's Bridge over the Arahura to Camp Street, Staffordtown, is about 3 miles 30 chains. With the exception of an embankment over low ground at Arahura, about 8 chains of terrace in Flowery Creek Valley, and a bridge over Waimea River, at Staffordtown, the lines present no difficulties whatsoever, and can be cheaply constructed.

The Arahura Road Board have entered into contracts, some of which are completed, for the construction of about 137 chains of 9-foot road from Staffordtown to S.W. corner of section No. 1,001. It would doubtless be advisable to utilize this work as part of the main road, if the same could be done with advantage, but I find that to join their line would entail 35 chains extra length of road, and only effect a saving of £250. The present saving in money to so small an amount does not seem adequate to the loss which would be involved in the increase of distance.

Road, Marsden to Hohonu.—The exploration for this road was commenced on the 17th of June, and occupied seven days. The country is difficult, and the Blackwater route had to be adopted instead of the one at first proposed, which hit the Greenstone Road about one mile nearer Hokitika; and was therefore more direct as a main route, but would have involved the same amount of new construction. There will be grades of 1 in 10 in places for 15 chains at a stretch, but on the whole the

side cutting will not be as heavy as was anticipated. One of the surveyors engaged started with his party to lay out line from centre towards Hohonu, on 26th June, and the other from Marsden towards centre, on 30th June.

Road, 17 m.p., Christchurch Road, to nearest point, Greenstone Road.—This survey was commenced on 14th June, by a surveyor with three men, and the field work will, I expect, be completed about 20th instant. The country is exceptionally easy lines to follow, as it goes along a main ridge, nearly level, for about two miles, and then drops into Manuka Flat, which it follows to Greenstone Road. The total distance will be about five miles and a half.

Road, Kanieri to Ross.—A line was cut for this road in December, 1869, but it had to be cleared out and amended in places, as the gradients originally run were steeper than at present fixed by the Colonial Government—(one in thirteen where obtainable without great increase of cost). A line of levels has been run throughout since the 13th June, and the necessary alterations will, I expect, be completed about the 20th instant. The total distance from Hokitika River, at Kanieri, to Woolhouses Road will be about fourteen miles, and thence to Moorhouse Street, at town boundary, Ross, will be about one mile and a half.

Waimea Water Supply.—The detail survey for this object was commenced on 13th June, by a surveyor with three men, who have since been engaged in determining accurately the extent of proposed reservoirs at head, and running sections over low places. The contour line will be commenced about 15th instant, and will take about three months to complete.

BUILDINGS.

The votes for construction, maintenance, and repairs to Government Buildings, appropriated in February last, amounting to £360, have been expended on additions, repairs, and painting to the various buildings in the districts, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Hokitika	172	12	7
Waimea	37	17	6
Pouamou	27	0	0
Greymouth	98	15	2
Maori Gully	12	9	3
Kanieri	1	3	0
Toll House, Arahura	7	17	0
	<hr/>		
	£357	14	6

Many of the additions and repairs have been inefficiently carried out in consequence of the insufficiency of the vote, and I have therefore set down the amount necessary for this half-year at £400, besides particularizing minor construction works, which usually come out of the vote for maintenance of buildings.

NEW BUILDINGS REQUIRED.

Lunatic Asylum and Gaol.—The indoor accommodation at the gaol being entirely inadequate to the proper accommodation of the lunatics confined there, it will, I presume, be attempted, this Session, to provide the necessary funds for a lunatic asylum within the recreation ground lately erected.

The cost of a building capable of accommodating both male and female lunatics would be about £1,000, but if this sum is beyond the resources of the County at present, a dining-room, lavatory, two refractory wards, and a kitchen, could be constructed for about £300, which would temporarily meet the requirements of the males alone.

NEW TRACKS REQUIRED.

The tracks which I am cognizant of as being most urgently required are—

Maori Gully to Italian's (Arnold District), three miles, £900.

Greenstone Road to Italian's (Waimea District), one mile and a quarter, £370.

The necessity for the first of these has long been felt, and its construction would confer the greatest possible boon on the inhabitants of the back country near Maori Gully Township. The line was laid out by the direction of the County Council at its last sitting, and tenders were called for—payment in land—but none were received. If half amount of estimate were provided in cash, and payments made monthly on account, I think the miners or storekeepers in the vicinity would undertake the work. The track to Italian's (Waimea District) would also have been a great boon to the inhabitants in times past, but the necessity for it is peculiarly felt now, as good ground has been struck at a considerable depth below the surface, and machinery as well as food will, no doubt, soon be required.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES Y. O'CONNOR,

County Engineer.

To the Chairman of the County Council.

No. 2.

DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S REPORT on the Grey District, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

THE most prominent feature of the half-year which has just expired is the long drought, which continued for nearly three months at the commencement. So long a spell of dry weather had never been known on the West Coast before, and strained to the utmost its resources in regard to water supply, calling increased attention to the urgent necessity of larger races being constructed, to enable the district to hold its own. As time goes on, and the rich patches and shallow leads become gradually

worked out, the prosperity of this gold field will more and more depend upon sluicing operations on a large scale, for which large races or reservoirs will be required. This is well illustrated by the results which have taken place at the Greenstone.

In speaking of the different localities comprised in my district, most of the remarks I made in my last report will still apply and need not be recapitulated, but where anything fresh has occurred it will be noted below.

1.—*Greymouth and South Beach.*

Most of the water-wheel claims on the beach have been abandoned and the machinery removed, there being now only four wheels at work. A few claims are still being worked on the Stoney Lead, with very good results, and three or four parties are at work on ground within the portion lately excluded from the Borough of Greymouth. Two parties are at work on the Old Lagoon Lead, bringing up tail races in order to work the ground right before them, and put everything through; one of them has applied for a special claim. The Paroa Lead appears to be all but abandoned.

2.—*Rutherglen, Welchman's, and Limestone.*

Population about 130. Nothing fresh to report, except that the New River Race Company, mentioned in my last, are proceeding with the work, and have about three-quarters of a mile completed. When finished, the race can hardly fail to give a great impetus to mining in this locality. The road from Greymouth to Ross, if it is taken by the Omotumotu Saddle, will materially assist in developing its resources.

3.—*New River.*

Population about 750. If German Gully be included under this head, to which it naturally belongs, although it has hitherto been comprised in the Arnold District, the population has somewhat increased.

Italian's, Ryley's, and German have all suffered severely from the dry weather at the beginning of the year. Taking the district altogether, very little water supply has been secured; but as several good sized races are under way, the next half-year may show an improvement in this respect.

As a set-off against the loss occasioned to the miners by the drought, the cost of provisions has been greatly reduced through the keen competition of storekeepers, most ordinary articles of food and clothing being obtainable at Marsden and Clifton, at Greymouth retail prices; and meat has been actually cheaper, even in the more distant gullies, than in the butcher's shops in Greymouth. It can hardly be expected that this state of things can be permanent.

In German Gully the rush to Soldier's Terrace turned out fairly successful. A good lead was found high up on the flank of the range, and traced to Liverpool's in one direction and German Gully in the other. These gullies cut it in two, and it has not yet been found beyond them, though there is no visible reason why it should not continue on in both directions. It supports at present about 200 men, whose greatest drawback is the scarcity of water.

The discovery of this lead suggests the natural inference that there are probably many more similar leads scattered about in the spurs and ridges of this rough piece of country, and hitherto concealed owing to the difficulties of prospecting.

4.—*Arnold.*

The steady prosperity of this portion of the Grey District still continues, though it also suffered severely from the drought. It depends entirely upon frequent rain, and a week's dry weather leaves most of the hands idle. It is very unfortunate that the difficulties in the way of procuring a large and constant supply of water are so great, as nowhere would it pay better. Pryor and party's undertaking has, after something like two (2) years' labour in taking in a tunnel 3,500 feet long, turned out unsuccessful, the original prospect on which they built their hopes having proved only a patch. The outlying creeks and gullies still support about the same (if anything, a somewhat increased) population.

5.—*Greenstone.*

The main operations of this locality consist, as before, of sluicing, for which increased facilities are now given by the Hohonu Company having increased their supply of water from twenty to forty heads, by the completion of their large dam. Into this is turned the night water, most of which used formerly run to waste. The whole of the water lets readily, and the consequence is, an increased population and activity on "Duke's Terrace." The mass of tailings is now so great as to be treading close on the heels of the township.

The population in other portions of the Greenstone District remains about the same. Attention has lately been directed to the high terrace on the south side of the road to the junction, which it is believed would pay for sluicing if water were brought on to it.

ROADS, TRACKS, AND BRIDGES.

No works of this nature have been constructed during the half-year, with the exception of about 20 chains at the New River crossings, and a line cleared for a horse track by Mr. Montgomery, from Omotumotu Creek to the Coal Mines: the latter, not being metalled, is now impassable. A road line has been laid out, with good gradients, from Maori Gully to Italian's, and tenders were called for, but none eligible were sent in, owing probably to one of the conditions imposed being that the whole of the payment should be in land. If it had been half cash and the remainder in land, I believe no difficulty would have been found in letting the work.

Required.—On the supposition that the road from Pounamou to Greymouth will be made by the General Government, and that the route adopted will be *via* Marsden and the Omotumotu Saddle, in the limestone range, I shall confine my remarks to the subsidiary roads which are required to open up the district.

Dray Road.—The only dray road I should recommend is the continuation of the Arnold Road to Greymouth. This is not only necessary for the full development of up-country trade and resources,

but would tend to promote agricultural settlement, by opening up a large area of good land which is now nearly inaccessible.

Metalled Tracks.—Four-foot metalled tracks I should recommend to be made,—1st, from Maori Gully to Italian's, and continued to the New River, being a total distance of five miles, or to the Ross and Greymouth Road, say six miles; 2nd, from the Stillwater Bridge to Orima Township, in Maori Gully, *via* the Stillwater Valley, say six miles; and, 3rd, from the Ross and Greymouth Road at Stoney Creek, to the halfway station on the Marsden and Paroa Tramway, which would serve Welchman's, Limestone, and German Terrace diggings,—say five miles. After these in importance, would be a track from Clifton to German Gully, three miles, and one from Pounamou to the Paddock, *via* Lake Brunner, say ten miles,—the former is not at present a necessity as far as the supply of stores is concerned, as there is access to German Gully for pack-horses by Phillip's Track from Maori Gully, and from Clifton by Hamilton's or Faulkner's Track, and the bed of the New River and German Creek, except in time of floods; but to miners it would be a great boon, as the present route is always inconvenient and sometimes dangerous to travel.

Bridges.—Besides those which would be necessary in the construction of the roads already mentioned, a horse-bridge is required over the New River at Cockabulla, and also one over the Cockabulla Creek, close by. An application has been made by a private party for protection to bridges he proposes to construct at these points. In the event of his failing to do so, I suggest that the Government should at once supply the want which has so long existed for a bridge at that place.

Supply of Water.—As the best ground may be fairly considered to have been mostly worked out, and miners must, therefore, fall back upon the working of poorer ground on a larger scale, the importance of a large and continuous water supply becomes more and more obvious. In that part of the Grey District which lies within the County of Westland, the difficulties in the way of obtaining this desideratum are unusually great, owing to the formation of the country. It is completely surrounded by low valleys, which effectually preclude water being brought on to the high-level workings except at enormous expense. The only alternative appears to be the formation of one or two large reservoirs, somewhere near the head of the New River, at a sufficient elevation to command the auriferous deposits between Clifton and Maori Gully; and, if it is intended that this portion of the County shall participate in the General Government scheme for water supply to the gold fields, careful search will no doubt be made for suitable sites for such works. In the lower country the difficulties in the way are much less, and are being gradually overcome by private enterprise.

Besides the New River Company, mentioned in my last report as bringing a race from the New River, near Maori Creek, to carry ten heads of water, and supply the various diggings on the left branch and the Saltwater Creek, there are the Shamrock Race, six miles, bringing about three heads from the Arnold Creek to Maori Gully, at a good elevation, and which is completed; and Murphy's Race, five miles, from Cockeye Creek to Nemona, which will be finished shortly, and will command a large area of payable ground; besides several smaller races in other localities. In addition, several races are projected, which, if carried out, are likely to be of great service—for instance, a race, to carry ten heads, starting from the lower New River, to work the Old Lagoon Lead, say seven miles; and two to work the Terrace at Clifton, bringing the water, the one (four heads) from Eight-Mile Creek, say five miles the other (three heads) from Maori Creek, say three miles. And at Pounamou a party of men have expressed to me their intention of prospecting for a race from the northern tributaries of the Teremakau, to command the high terrace on the south of the road from the Hohonu to Pounamou, which is believed to be equally auriferous with the Duke's Terrace.

No. 3.

DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S REPORT on the Okarito and Totara Districts, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

ACCORDING to instructions, I proceeded to Bruce Bay on the 15th May last, for the purpose of exploring the country between there and Abbey Rocks, and fixing on the best route for the Bruce Bay and Haast River Track, and have the honor to report that, as was anticipated, no material difficulties have been found to exist on the whole of the line chosen, which line is also the only practicable route along which a good road can be constructed between the places named.

Although the estimated distances agree very well with the measured ones, it will still be seen by the map that a different route from the one indicated had to be taken, owing to the nature of the country, which is made up of very high mountains, swamps, rivers, and lakes. The lakes are four in number the largest of which is about five miles, and the smallest about one mile in length. The Paringa Lake is the largest, and is enclosed on nearly every side by very high and steep mountains. The track runs along the northern side of the lake for about two miles and through McGloin's Pass into Lake Rasselas, which is merely the end of a long swamp, commencing about three miles inland from the Abbey Rocks, and having an outlet leading into Lake Paringa at its southern end.

The pass between Lake Rasselas and Abbey Rocks is very narrow, averaging about 8 chains in width, the hills on both sides rising to a great height. At about half a mile from Abbey Rocks another pass commences, running south towards the Moeraki (Blue River), and at this point I found it necessary to end No. 2, as it would be impossible to take the track towards the Haast further inland, the ranges being so very high and steep.

As the survey on which I was engaged did not extend further south than the Abbey Rocks, I cannot give an accurate account of the country through which Section No. 3 goes; but, from what information I can gather, there will be no difficulty in extending the track to the Haast.

The distance from Bruce Bay to the forks of the Paringa River is sixteen miles, and the distance from the mouth of the Paringa River to the Abbey Rocks is about twenty miles, and it is a good route for a track throughout. The total number of miles surveyed and blazed, therefore, will amount to about thirty-six.

While exploring the country, I took every available opportunity of getting information relative to the topography and general formation of the country, and am in possession of enough data to compile a reliable topographical map from Bruce Bay to the Haast River south, and as far north as time will allow to compile from the field books used in the geodesical survey.

In nearly every creek gold has been found in small quantities, but it is evident that the country has never been properly prospected, as, in the whole distance over which I have been (about one hundred miles), I did not see a prospecting hole sunk deeper than three or four feet, and these very few and far between. In the whole distance between Bruce Bay and Abbey Rocks there are only three men, who live at the mouth of the Paringa River, but a few more are working further south, towards the Haast River.

At Bruce Bay there are only three miners besides Maoris, and at Hunt's Beach there seems to be a settled population of about thirty.

The difficulties of getting provisions packed round the Makawhio Bluff, at all times, from Bruce Bay, makes the rate of living high on this beach; but this also applies to all the beaches along the coast for a distance of about one hundred miles. The benefit of a water supply may be seen to advantage on Gillespie's Beach and Saltwater Beach, where, a year or two ago, scarcely a man was to be seen: there is now a population of about two hundred, and likely to increase. Numbers of diggers are scattered along the beaches, and nearly all satisfied with the results obtained.

I could not help noticing the marked change which has taken place in the Southern District within the last two years, which in a great measure is owing to the feeling of settlement which prevails throughout, and I am confident that many would avail themselves of the opportunities of acquiring land under the special settlement system if they could.

Very little change has taken place in the Totara District since my last report, but whatever change has occurred, I am happy to say, has been for the better. As I have, time after time, gone into detailed accounts of the vast amount of capital invested in this district, it will not be necessary for me now to go into particulars. There is one thing, however, in connection with Jones' Flat which I cannot pass over without noticing, and that is, the introduction of water power, which is likely to become a favourite way of working the deep leads.

The number of mining surveys for which fees have been received up to May has been very small as compared with former returns, but a great many were applied for and completed by the surveyor who acted in my absence in the South. Between January and May six extended claims and five other mining surveys were applied for.

In conclusion, I must say that in both the Totara and Okarito Districts the population seems more settled than I have ever seen it, and great hopes are entertained, by every section of the community, of the future wealth of these districts when properly developed by the construction of roads and water-races.

J. R. BROWNE,
District Mining Surveyor.

No. 4.

GREY WARDEN'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Greymouth, 4th July, 1871.

I have the honor to forward, for your information, a report, for the past six months, on the Greymouth District.

The general state of the district is healthy;—commercial and mining interests have progressed steadily, and will bear favourable comparison with previous half-years. In mining operations, several extensive water races, tunnels, tail races, &c., and other works in connection therewith, have been undertaken, whilst others are completed, and repaying the outlay thereon.

There is an increase in the population of the district, but it will be seen, by the last Census Return, that there is a large increase under the heads of "Females" and "Children" since the previous Census, and it is a noticeable fact that good substantial houses, with gardens attached, are now the rule, instead of calico tents, as formerly.

In the South Beach the Stoney Lead still maintains its reputation. Some of the claims, known as the North Star, Rising Sun, and others, are yielding handsome returns, after months of heavy labour and expense opening up the ground. The Leviathan and Great Extended Race supply many of the claims on the Stoney Lead and Front Lead, along the beach, at the rate of £1 per head per diem. The North Star have recently brought an engine upon their claim; and on the Beach Lead, Howison and three other parties are working with large water-wheels.

On the Lagoon Lead, two large tunnel tail races have been taken into the lead a distance of 1,500 feet to 1,800 feet. Some good ground has been opened up, and the owners are now working amalgamated claims, and have applied for water-races, some miles in length, from the Deep Creek and New River, which will take time to construct.

In the New River Subdistrict, sittings of the Court have been held fortnightly, with one or two exceptions. The ground from Nemona to Cockabulla, and, I may say, the whole of this part of the district, is principally worked by tunnelling. Water in many places is very scarce, and miners are often at a standstill for days in consequence. The special claims granted about two years ago to the Argus Company, of five acres, and the Independent Company, of five acres, at Liverpool Bill's Gully, after two years' work, have suspended operations. O'Connor and party have been engaged since February constructing a large race from the right-hand branch of New River, above Maori Creek, a distance of nine miles, to command the saddle and terraces between Marsden and Welshman's. Other races, varying from two to six miles, are being constructed to work the terraces about Clifton.

In the Arnold Subdistrict, sittings of the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts have been held monthly.

A rush set into German Gully about four months ago, a good run of gold having been struck. A large population have settled down, and several business premises have been erected. The other portions of this part of the district continue to maintain an average share of the population.

The special claim held by Pryor and party has been abandoned, after two years' labour constructing their tunnel from Maori Gully to Riverton Gully, to drain and work the ground, which did not prove in any way equal to the prospects first obtained. In the Township of Greymouth several new buildings have been erected, and several cottages have been put up along Tanui Street South. The works of the Gas Company are fast approaching completion, and the Company hope to be in working order next month. The Court House is in good repair, but the rooms recently added to the Court require to be lined and furnished, especially those required by the District Court.

The local gaol is unsuitable, and too small for the present requirements, especially as regards debtors and females. At Clifton, the Court House requires some slight repairs, and more accommodation is required for the police, so that a married constable might be stationed there to assist the sergeant, who, besides his police duties, has to perform the duties of Resident Magistrate's and Warden's clerk, and it is not advisable that the premises should be left for one or two days without some person in charge. The road from Marsden to Clifton, upon which there is a toll-bar, is not kept in such repair as it ought, considering the amount of tolls collected are about double that of the wages paid the toll collector, who is the only person employed to keep it in repair, the balance of tolls being paid over to the Road Board of the district.

The Maori Gully Township has been greatly improved within the last six months by the erection of large stores and hotels in lieu of the old shanties, and the filling up of the great chasms in the street. The Court House and Police Camp are of the most wretched description, consisting of small buildings 10 feet by 12 feet, with a calico tent for the sergeant, and totally unfit for the due performance the business of the Courts.

It will be necessary to make provision for the erection of a Court House, with quarters attached for the sergeant of police (who is married) and a constable. The sergeant performs similar duties to the officer at Clifton, and in each district there is a population of 800, scattered over such a large area that it is almost impossible for one man to perform his police duties efficiently, with those required of him in the Warden's Court. A good lock-up will also be required.

The road from Maori Gully to the Coal Mines is kept in fair repair. Two drays are constantly employed carting goods along it, besides pack-horses.

The completion of the road to Greymouth would be a great boon both to the district and Greymouth.

The present Licensing Ordinance and Amendment Acts are anything but satisfactory to the applicants or creditable to the country. Immorality has got to such a state that it is unsafe for parents to permit their children to go to service, and our streets are full of the larrikin tribe, all of which may be traced in a great measure to the defective Licensing Acts, the almost indiscriminate granting of licenses, want of reformatories, and, I regret to add, the encouragement given by respectable citizens letting their premises to be converted into brothels. The first and principal duties of the authorities should be a careful and vigilant exercise of its powers in granting and withdrawing or withholding licenses, instead of being looked upon merely as a source of revenue. It is imperative that steps should be taken at once to amend the Licensing Acts, and grant licenses to persons of known respectability, for a great number of the present licenses are only low pot-houses, frequented by the lowest characters, where the vilest liquors are sold. Young girls are enticed from their homes to fill the bars and dancing saloons, and immorality in all its phases is permitted and encouraged, until many, finally, become inmates of the hospital, or lunatic asylum and gaol, or the lowest outcasts of society.

The number of children throughout the district, a large percentage of whom never go to school, demands that some provision should be made for establishing good schools in the centres of population.

The population of the district is estimated at 4,500, and are located as follows:—

Greymouth	...	...	...	...	2,250
Paroa and South Beach	...	...	...	...	420
Rutherglen	...	...	...	...	130
Teremakau	...	...	...	...	66
Clifton and Maori Creek	...	...	...	...	300
New River	...	...	...	...	150
Mosquito and Cockabulla	...	...	...	...	200
Marsden and Nemonia	...	...	...	...	170
Maori Gully	...	...	...	...	250
German Gully	...	...	...	...	250
Italian Gully and Riely's	...	...	...	...	120
Liverpool	...	...	...	...	30
Waimea Stillwater	...	...	...	...	180
Total	...	...	...	...	4,516

The revenue for the six months, from all sources, is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Warden's Department	1,997	8	6
Resident Magistrate's Department	689	16	6
Publicans' Licenses paid to County Treasurer	900	0	0
Gold Duty	2,055	1	3
Customs Revenue	18,937	14	4

FURTHER REPORTS ON THE

The number of cases heard in the Warden's and Resident Magistrate's Courts in the District are as follows:—

Court.	Civil.	Criminal.	Warden.
Greymouth	486	225	30
Clifton	65	14	22
Arnold	23	21	78

Total of all Cases, 902.

The following number of rights, licenses, registrations, and leases, have been issued or applied for, and forwarded for consideration:—Business licenses, 27; half-yearly licenses, 49; quarterly licenses, 22; 5s. registration, 107; 2s. 6d. registration, 455; 1s. registration, 296; leases, 3; special claims, 2; extended claims, 3; agricultural leases, 21; retail licenses, 8; conditional licenses, 11; half-yearly licenses, 16; wholesale, 7; bottle, 3; miners' rights, 612.

The new mining regulations appear to give general satisfaction throughout the district, with one or two exceptions, namely, that the rent charged for claims under leases are too high, and that mining surveys are excessive when compared with those charged for agricultural leases. Several of the leases applied for have since been abandoned, after six or twelve months' work; and some loss has accrued to the revenue owing to the delay in preparing the leases.

Herewith are attached a return of the current prices of provisions at the various centres in the district, and of the customs revenue and gold duty collected at Greymouth.

I have, &c.,
W. H. REVELL,
Warden.

RETURN showing the Current Prices of Provisions and Weekly Wages at the different centres in the Greymouth District, June, 1871.

Articles.	Greymouth.	Paroa.	Marsden.	Clifton.	Liverpool Gully.	Maori and German Gullies
Tea	3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	3s.—3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	3s. 6d.
Sugar	6d.	6d.	6d.—7d.	6d.—7d.	7d.—8d.	8d.
Coffee	2s.	1s. 9d.	1s. 6d.—1s. 8d	1s. 9d.	2s.	2s.
Flour	18s.	24s.	28s.	28s.	30s.	30s.
Butter	1s. 3d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
Cheese	1s.	11d.	1s.	1s. 3d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 7d.
Bacon	1s. 3d.	...	1s. 6d.	1s. 8d.	1s. 9d.	1s. 3d.
Beef	8d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.
Mutton	7d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	6d.	5d.
Potatoes	9s.	10s.	12s. 6d.	14s.	17s.	15s.
Milk	9d. to 1s.	9d.	1s. 6d. pt.	1s. 6d. pt.	1s. 9d. pt.	1s. qt.
Preserved Fish	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.—2s.	1s. 9d.—2s.	2s.	1s. 9d.
Salt	3d.	3d.	4d.	4d.	6d.	4d.
Soap	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	2s.	2s. 6d.	2s.
Candles	1s. 6d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 3d.
Kerosine	5s. \mathcal{P} gal.	4s.	4s. 8d.	5s.	5s.	5s.
Sawn Timber	12s. \mathcal{P} 100ft.	...	16s.	20s.	25s.	20s.
Firewood	25s. \mathcal{P} cord	23s. 6d.	20s.	30s.	30s.	15s.
Cartage	3s. \mathcal{P} load	£1	...	...	...	£4
Packings	...	...	£3 from Grey	£5	£7	£2
Storage	1s. 6d.	...	...	...	...	£1
Mining Wages	...	£2—£3 10s.	£3—£3 10s.	£3 10s.	£4	£4
Servants	£2—£4 7s.	£2	£3	£3	£3	£3
Female Do.	25s. to 30s.	20s. to 30s.	£1 10s.	£1 10s.	£1 10s.	£1 10s.
Barmaids	30s.	30s.	£2	£2	£2 10s.	£3

RETURN of Revenue Collected at the Port of Greymouth, for the Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

	£	s.	d.
Customs Duty	18,937	14	4
Gold Duty—			
Westland	2,055	1	3
Nelson	3,284	3	5

£24,277 19 0

W. H. REVELL,
Warden.

Greymouth, 4th July, 1871.

No. 5.

GREENSTONE WARDEN'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,— Warden's Office, Greenstone, 5th July, 1871.
 With respect to the Greenstone District, I have the honor to report that the population is estimated at about 600, distributed as per Return marked A. There is a decrease of about 100 since the previous half-year.

The gold fields revenue and fees and fines of Courts during the last six months amount to £845 3s., which, I am glad to say, shows an increase of £375 3s. 6d. over that of the half-year ending 31st December last, as per Comparative Return marked B.

Return of prices of provisions and rate of wages is also attached, marked C.

Having been but a short period in charge of this district, which I visit only once a week, I do not feel in a position, on this occasion, to give any lengthened report, from actual personal knowledge, respecting its state and requirements; but from all I can gather, I may safely assert that it will compare favourably with the previous half-year.

It is apparent to me that the great drawback is the want of water to work what is evidently a vast amount of ground, which would support a large mining population for years to come.

I cannot help remarking on the unfavourable position of the Greenstone Township, situated in the bed of the creek, and subject to serious injury, even to destruction, from floods, to say nothing of the tailings from the working on Duke's Terrace approaching very inconveniently the back of the town. It would therefore be desirable to find a more suitable site for it.

It is gratifying to observe the many small settlements and pieces of ground under clearing on the road from the Teremakau Junction to the Greenstone, which evidently evinces a desire on the part of the public to become permanent settlers, when they have an opportunity of obtaining land fit for ordinary cultivation.

I have, &c.,
 MATTHEW PRICE,
 Warden.

TABLE A.

POPULATION RETURN in Greenstone District, Estimated on the 30th June, 1871.

Pounamou Township	...	...	...	...	...	150
Duke's Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	130
Township as far as Maori Point	...	...	...	...	...	100
Argus Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	50
Shed Flat	...	...	...	...	...	70
Greenstone Road	...	...	...	...	...	50
Hohonu Junction and Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	50
Total	...	...	...	...	...	600

TABLE B.

COMPARATIVE RETURN estimating Population and Revenue for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1871, and the same for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1870.

Half-year ended 30th June, 1871.

Estimated Population—600.

	£	s.	d.
Gold Fields Revenue of all kinds	772	0	0
Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts	10	1	0
Fees and Fines, Resident Magistrates' Courts	63	2	0
	£845	3	0

Half-year ended 31st December, 1870.

Estimated Population—700.

	£	s.	d.
Gold Fields Revenue of all kinds	371	3	6
Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts	15	1	0
Fees and Fines, Resident Magistrates' Courts	73	8	0
	£459	12	6

TABLE C.

PRICES of PROVISIONS, also Wages of Miners, Servants, &c., in the Greenstone District, for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1871.

Flour, per lb., 3d.; tea, per lb., 3s.; coffee, per lb., 1s. 9d.; sugar, per lb., 8d.; butter, per lb., 1s. 3d.; cheese, per lb., 1s.; tobacco, per lb., 6s.; bacon, per lb., 1s. 6d.; ham, per lb., 1s. 6d.; soap, per lb., 6d.; oatmeal, per lb., 8d.; rice, per lb., 8d.; candles, per lb., 1s. 6d.; potatoes, per cwt., 12s.; fresh meat, per lb., 8d.; bread, 4-lb loaf, 1s.

Wages of Servants.—Miners, 12s. per day, not found; labourers, 10s. per day, not found; domestic servants, male, £2 per week and found; female, £1 10s. per week and found; barmaids, £2 per week and found; storemen, £3 per week and found; mechanics, 15s. per day, not found.

No. 6.

STAFFORD WARDEN'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Stafford, 8th July, 1871.

My report on the state of the Waimea District for the half-year ending 30th ultimo will be somewhat brief, because, having but recently assumed charge, I am not yet sufficiently acquainted with it to justify my entering into an elaborate description of its various resources.

From all I have ascertained, I believe I may safely say that the progress and prosperity of the district has in no way retrograded during the past six months, and mining operations are steadily and vigorously carried on. The population is estimated at 2,373, distributed as specified in Return A., attached, and there does not appear to have been much fluctuation in it between this and the previous half-years.

The revenue collected amounts to £1,724 5s. 6d., which shows a decrease of £277 5s., as per Comparative Return B.

List of prices of provisions and rates of wages is annexed, marked C.

There is at the present moment the greatest interest taken in the mining operations now carried on at Italian Flat. The miners are anxiously awaiting the result of several shafts in the course of sinking. The prospectors' claim gave every indication of payable gold, upon which several shafts commenced to be sunk in its neighbourhood. One was bottomed a few days ago, and although it did not turn out as good as was expected, yet quite sufficient to give renewed energy to the others to continue their labours; and as three or four other shafts are expected to be bottomed within the next ten days, or so, a more decided opinion will then be formed of the Flat, and, should it be favourable, a considerable rush may be expected; but as the sinking is upwards of 100 feet, those who go into it will require to have a little money to carry them on until they reach the payable wash. In the meanwhile, the population is gradually increasing, and preparations are being made to put up buildings the moment satisfactory proof is ascertained of the ground becoming permanently payable. Should it turn out so, it will be absolutely necessary to make a good track to it from the Greenstone Road, as the present one is almost impassable.

The Stafford Town Prospecting Association have applied for a special claim of four acres in the vicinity of the town, on the old track to the beach. They have great difficulties to contend with in the way of water, and are expending a considerable amount to thoroughly test the ground.

This, with other prospecting claims in Callaghan's, Greek's, and other gullies, speaks well of the confidence the miners still have of these diggings; for, before any of these claims can make any return, they require several months' labour and no small amount of money to develop them.

As on every gold field in this country, the cry here is the want of water, and, looking at the mining operations that have been and are being carried on in this district, with the vast amount of auriferous ground still untouched, should a judicious scheme for supplying water be introduced by Government, there is not the slightest doubt that a great impetus would be given to the progress and prosperity of this district. It would do this further good,—conduce in a great measure to settle down the mining population, who, instead of always being on the look-out for a move or the chance of bettering themselves, would continue to work steadily, satisfied with fair wages, which a plentiful supply of water would insure them, and it appears to me that the rate of earnings from mining is now reduced to this all over this country. That the population is not disinclined to do so is evinced by the numberless half-acre residence areas taken up and converted into nice gardens, with comfortable dwellings erected on them; but until something is done to provide an ample supply of water, I foresee that mining operations, not only in this district but throughout the country, will decline, and the population leave.

It would be very advisable that the Township of Stafford should be sold without any delay. I find the residents have been expecting it for some time past, and a great deal of discontent is evinced at the delay. In consequence, they feel very averse to take out business licenses, and it is with great difficulty they can be got to do so.

I have, &c.,

MATTHEW PRICE, Warden.

TABLE A.

ESTIMATED POPULATION in the Stafford Town Sub district, on 30th June, 1871.

Stafford Town	...	...	224	Waimea Township and vicinity	...	400
Piper's Flat	...	...	150	Left-hand Branch, Waimea Creek	...	35
Ballarat Hill	...	...	72	Steward's Terrace	...	30
Scandinavian Hill	...	...	44	Shamrock Terrace	...	65
Auckland Lead	...	...	40	Italian Gully	...	100
Back Lead	...	...	9	Maori Gully	...	45
Sea Beach	...	...	48	German Gully	...	60
Waimea Track	...	...	33	Native Terrace	...	30
Chapel Terrace	...	...	59	Right-hand Branch and Big Dam	...	100
Arahura	...	...	14	Toker's Terrace, and Red Jack's	...	35
Chesterfield and Lamplough	...	...	110	Greek's No. 2, 45; Greek's No. 1, 35	...	80
Teremakau	...	...	45	Fox's Creek, 150; Hatter's Gully, 35	...	185
Pretty Woman's Gully	...	...	78	Callaghan's Gully	...	100
Fourth Terrace	...	...	65			
Liverpool Bill's	...	...	56	Total	...	2,373
Hatter's Gully	...	...	46			

TABLE B.

COMPARATIVE RETURN estimating Population and Revenue, for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1871; and the same for Half-year ending 31st December, 1870.

Half-year ended 30th June, 1871.

Estimated Population—2,373.

	£	s.	d.
Gold Fields Revenue of all kinds	1,582	10	0
Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts	35	9	0
Fees and Fines, Resident Magistrates' Courts	106	6	6
	<hr/>		
	£1,724	5	6

Half-year ended 31st December, 1870.

Estimated Population—2,293.

	£	s.	d.
Gold Fields Revenue of all kinds	1,833	7	6
Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts	44	12	0
Fees and Fines, Resident Magistrates' Courts	123	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£2,001	5	6

TABLE C.

PRICES of PROVISIONS; also Wages of Miners, Labourers, Domestic Servants, and Mechanics, in the Waimea and Stafford Districts, for the Half-year ending June 30th, 1871.

Articles.	Stafford.			Goldsborough.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Flour, per 100 lbs.	1	6	0	1	7	0
Tea, per lb.	0	3	0	0	3	0
Coffee, per lb.	0	1	9	0	2	0
Sugar, per lb.	0	0	7	0	0	8
Butter, per lb.	0	1	0	0	1	3
Cheese, per lb.	0	1	0	0	1	1
Tobacco, per lb.	0	6	0	0	6	0
Bacon, per lb.	0	1	1	0	1	4
Ham, per lb.	0	1	6	0	1	9
Soap, per lb.	0	0	7	0	0	7
Oatmeal, per lb.	0	0	6	0	0	6
Rice, per lb.	0	0	6	0	0	6
Candles, per lb.	0	1	4	0	1	6
Potatoes, per cwt.	0	11	0	0	12	0
Fresh Meat, per lb.	0	0	6	0	0	7
Bread, 4-lb. loaf	0	1	0	0	1	0
Wages.						
Miners (not found), per day	0	15	0	0	15	0
Labourers (not found), per day	0	9	0	0	10	0
Domestic Servants (female), per week	1	5	0	1	10	0
Carpenters, per day	1	0	0	...	...	...
Domestic Servants (male), per week ... ..	...	...	...	2	10	0

No. 7.

KANIERI WARDEN'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Kanieri, 7th July, 1871.

I have the honor to hand you herewith my report of the district under my charge, during the six months ending 30th June ultimo.

I am scarcely able to note any marked improvement since my last communication to you: it is, however, satisfactory to be able to state that the population continues to be profitably engaged, and mining operations in the Kanieri District are still carried on with great energy by all parties concerned; and, so far as I am cognizant of, there is no lack of capital, energy, and combination, to promote the general welfare of the district generally. These diggings, as a rule, having the advantage of unusually easy access from the port of supply, tends greatly to its prosperity, which, coupled with the excellent state of repair the Road Board keeps the tracks, &c., in, leading to the several localities contiguous to the Kanieri, renders the price of provisions exceedingly moderate, being almost on a par with town prices.

The construction of the road to Kanieri and Kokatahi, &c., will be an immense boon to the

district, and will much facilitate and promote both the agricultural and mining development of the country.

Victorian Co-operative Company.—Of the machine claims here, I must mention the Victorian Co-operative Company as continuing to reimburse the shareholders for their outlay. The manager speaks well of the returns, and the ground seems likely to hold good for some time.

The Shenandoah Flat are progressing well, and are reaping the benefit of their labour. This Company has recently added three acres to their special claim, and are very sanguine of their future success.

Overland Route Company.—The Overland Route Company, Commissioner's Flat, are pushing along quietly, and are receiving their share of the precious metal.

Albion Company.—Of the Albion Company I cannot state anything satisfactory. I fear the ground will never pay the speculators for their outlay.

Western Company.—The Western Company has ceased to exist, it having worked out their allotted ground. Some few are cradling on the old ground of the Company, and are making small wages—one party a very fair average. The water-power hitherto accorded to this Company is now utilized by a newly-started Saw Mill Company, recently erected on the engine ground of the Western Company. As a local industry, the promoters deserve every credit and support.

Tucker Flat still continues to maintain its population, who are working contentedly, and with a good will.

The Eight-Mile and Woodstock remain in much the same quiet way. The races in the locality are all doing well, water being eagerly bought up. The hydraulic claims at Arch Creek are paying well, and the miners speak well of the locality. Some few are still lingering about the "Old Brighton Lead," and three or four abandoned tunnels have been recently taken up, with a view of a further test.

The Blue Spur, Ho Ho, and Paddocks, &c., are very quiet just now. The crushing machines are fully employed, and prove a far better process than burning and pounding the cement. The machines save the whole of the gold, and when the tailings are tried, not a speck of gold can be found.

Arahura, German Gully, Greek's, &c.—From this part of the district there has been very little news, the great drawback to this (known to be an auriferous) locality being the want of a road, the present track being a wretched quagmire. This however will soon be obviated, at least partially, when the road now being formed is completed. It is then to be hoped the very enterprising shareholders in the Caledonian Water-race may be remunerated for their large outlay in the construction of this valuable race.

Of the country between the Kanieri and the Kanieri Lake, I can report very little. Smith and McArdle, of coal mine notoriety, have been compelled to leave their claim near the Lake—the difficulty of getting tucker up fairly beat them. They say the country about the mine looks well, and they intend again trying it in the summer.

You are already acquainted with the number of the population of this district, the census being so recently taken. I will however state that, notwithstanding the seductive mining intelligence conveyed here, both publicly and privately, from Sydney and Auckland, &c., the miners are not disposed to be lured away from where they know they can, by steadily keeping at work, depend upon a living, if not more. The number of miners' rights was 274 issued, whilst from business licenses a revenue of £179 was derived; the total revenue being £802 4s., giving an average, for the half-year of £133 14s. per month. This shows a slight increase on the receipts of the previous half-year. The number of cases tried in Court was 50, almost the same as that quoted in my last report. I estimate the mining population at 1,250.

I have, &c.,

JUSTIN AYLMER,

Warden.

No. 8.

WARDEN'S REPORT, ROSS DISTRICT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—

I have the honor to make the following report on mining matters in the district under my charge, for the six months ending 30th June, 1871. I regret to say that a great deal of ground has been abandoned on Jones' Flat, owing to the claim-holders not being able to pay the drainage rates. The Drainage Board have consequently been compelled to strike a very heavy rate on the remaining claim-holders, to enable them to meet their liabilities with the Drainage Company.

Many miners have taken up claims, and are working them with great success, in Donnelly's Creek; also, a large number of men are scattered up the Totara River and other creeks in the district.

Gold Return, 15,368 oz. 2 dwts. 10 grs; value, £58,390 4s. 10d. This amount divided amongst 1,409, the male population, will give £41 to every man and boy in the district.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue, Gold Fields	1,421	19	2
Resident Magistrate's Court, Fees and Fines	221	3	6
Warden's Court, Fees and Fines	51	15	0
Export Duty on 15,368 oz. 2 dwts. 10 grs.	1,921	0	0
	£3,615	17	8

This does not include land sales or dog tax.

Population.—Male, 1,409; Female, 968. Total, 2,377.

Wages (per week).—Managers, £6; engine-drivers, £3 10s.; underground captains, £3 11s.; carpenters, £3 10s.; blacksmiths, £4; miners, £3. (10 hour shifts).

Timber.—Caps, 9 ft., £8 per 100; round props, 7 ft., £6 per 100; split props, 6 and 7 ft., £5 per 100; laths, 5 ft., £1 10s. per 100; firewood, £1 5s. per cord; sawn timber, 12s. per 100 ft.

Provisions—Flour, £1 4s. per cwt.; sugar, 6d. to 7d. per lb.; tea, 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb.; bacon, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; potatoes, 12s. per cwt.; oatmeal, 4d. per lb.; oats, 6s. per bushel; Coffee, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per lb.; chaff, 18s. per cwt.; butter, 1s. to 1s. 3d. per lb.; candles, 1s. 3d. per lb.; tobacco, 5s. to 6s. per lb.; soap, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

Freight from Hokitiki to Ross, £2 10s. per ton.

Number of cases heard in Resident Magistrate's Court—Civil, 341; Criminal, 72. Cases heard in Warden's Court, 66. Total, 479.

The proposed new line of road to Hokitika will be a great boon to the inhabitants of this district, both in reducing the cost of freight (and consequently the price of provisions) and enabling them to travel with greater ease and safety. Already numerous applications have been made to purchase land for cultivation. This work and the proposed Mikonui Water-race, if carried out, will be the making of the district, both tending towards settling a farming and mining population.

I have, &c.,

JUSTIN AYLMER,
Warden.

No. 9.

OKARITO WARDEN'S REPORT, for Six Months ending 30th June, 1871.

SIR,—

Warden's Court, Okarito, 30th June, 1871.

With reference to your Circular Letter No. 456, dated 2nd instant, I have the honor to report as follows:—There has been but little fluctuation in the population of the district during the past six months, for, as the inducements to dig in one part of the district declined, sufficiently good prospects have been presented in other parts to induce the miners to set in;—thus, a large number of men have left the Five-Mile Beach to go to work at Gillespie's Beach, as well as at the Saltwater Beach, to the north of the Waitaki.

There are about 560 souls in the district, located as follows:—Saltwater Beach, 60; North Beach, 11; Okarito Town, 74; Three-Mile Beach, 21; Five-Mile Beach, 200; Waiho River, 9; Sandfly Beach, 2; Waikapahupa River, 3; Moonlight Beach, 3; Gillespie's Beach, 120; Cook's River, 6; Saltwater Creek, 2; Karangarua River, 3; Hunt's Beach, 38; Bruce Bay, 5; Paringa River, 3. Total, 560. Deducting from the total 560 the women and children, and a few men engaged store-keeping, cultivating, &c., there remains a total of about 400 men actually engaged in mining in the district.

The quantity of gold shipped for Hokitika during the six months ending this day has been 3,035 oz., besides which about 700 oz., and probably more, has been carried overland, showing a total of 3,735 oz. The average of gold per head has therefore been 6'67 oz., that is, counting every man, woman, and child in the district, namely, 560; whilst the average for each miner, in all 400, has been 9'34 oz.

At the Five-Mile Beach, where the greatest number of people are located, the ground has not turned out nearly so well as was expected; and in the large claims, where water-power or horses were employed, the dividends remaining after the payment of necessary expenses has generally been small; but since the ground has been opened out, the miners have been able to work back with barrows, and so avoid a considerable amount of expense. Very few horses now work regularly in the claims, and the quantity of water used has much decreased, the total sale of the two Race Companies only averaging together about four Government heads. The competition between the rival Race Companies, whilst it has been disastrous to the shareholders, has caused some irregularity in the supply of water to some of the claims, but, on the other hand, has been beneficial to the miners generally, by causing a reduction in the price of water. Some of the claims on the Five-Mile Beach will afford profitable work for a long time to come, but should anything fresh be struck in the district, the greater part of the men would leave at once.

At Gillespie's Beach, two water-races have been brought in, and miners are able to do fairly; for, although the ground is generally poor, the claims can be worked with less water than at the Five-Mile Beach, and consequently at less expense. In dry weather there is a deficiency in the supply of water. The number of miners on the beach has increased considerably, and a full supply of water would be likely to induce more men to set in.

At the Saltwater Beach, to the north of the Waitaki, a large race has been brought in, but, as is unfortunately too often the case, the source of water supply has not proved adequate to the requirements of the place. Still, a number of miners have here found profitable employment, where otherwise none would have been at work; and should the new race from the Little Saltwater Creek be successfully brought in, many more miners than those now at work would find profitable employment on the beach. The claims on the other beaches are mostly worked by small water-races or by water raised by dams placed in the lagoons. In some cases, as at Hunt's Beach, success in a great measure depends upon the amount of surfacing thrown up.

In the river claims, occasionally, good gold has been got, but as the working generally depends upon turning a stream, this can only be done at certain seasons of the year, when the rivers are low, and then at the risk of a fresh carrying away in a few hours the labour of weeks. Such work is more in the nature of prospecting, nothing certain having yet been struck.

An organized party have been prospecting inland for some time past, but I regret to say up to the present time they have not discovered anything sufficiently good to induce any one to set in. Their next journey will be to the Lake, *via* the old track from Canoe Point, and I trust they may meet with more success, particularly as some amount of gold has been, from time to time, obtained in that direction. The formation of a track to the Lake has been commenced by the Road Board, a work which, when complete, will, I believe, lead to the country inland being thoroughly prospected, and also be a great benefit to the district, if special facilities be given to the miners to take up allotments adjoining it, suitable for cultivation.

The tracks to the southward of Bruce Bay, recently surveyed by Mr. Browne, will, when finished, be of considerable service to miners in prospecting, and likely to lead to more men working in that direction.

The quantity of land under cultivation is very small, mostly consisting of a few patches near the beaches and up the rivers, but the formation of a good road to the Lake would, I believe, open up land that men could be induced, as I before indicated, to settle upon.

The value of the river beds as cattle and sheep runs is fully recognized, all the beef and mutton consumed in the district being now fattened in them, the miners obtaining the advantage of a supply of the finest meat at a considerably less price than formerly obtained.

The two pressing wants of the district are a good water supply and good roads. Could these wants have been more fully met during the past six months, miners would have been more successful, and many more would have been at work.

I have, &c.,
E. F. TIZARD,
Warden.

II.—MARLBOROUGH.

No. 10.

WARDEN'S REPORT on the PELORUS GOLD FIELD, for the Year ended 30th April, 1871.

IN my last report the population on this gold field was estimated at about 120. During the past year that number has been increased to about 200, but it has fallen off of late to about the same.

There have been several large finds in the Wakamarina and creeks, reminding one of the early days on this river. There are parts of the river which would still pay for working, but the gold is difficult to obtain, laying for the most part in gorges, &c., where the working would be expensive, and can only be undertaken profitably by strong parties of monied men, the river being peculiarly liable, from the nature of the country, to sudden floods.

The Nelson South-west Gold Field Regulations have been adopted this year, and give great satisfaction as a whole; to encourage miners, and compensate in some degree the difficulty of working, larger areas than provided by the Regulations have been granted, viz., 100 feet per man.

The terraces of the Wakamarina, which I mentioned in my last report as being likely to afford employment to a large population, have in a few instances been tried, but were not found sufficiently remunerative for working in the ordinary manner. These terraces I feel confident would pay well if a supply of water were brought on at sufficient elevation to command them, and give water for ground sluicing, and I believe no insuperable engineering difficulty exists to prevent it being done. I cannot speak from personal examination of the country, as the business of my other offices prevents my giving time for such a purpose, but I have mentioned the subject to several practical miners, who are of opinion that a sum of £500 would bring water to command some of the most important; but even if it cost £1,000 it would, in my opinion, amply repay for the outlay.

Considerable improvements have been carried out on the road from Canvas Town to Deep Creek during the year, but beyond that, little or nothing has been done. The country is still difficult of access.

The yield of gold has been very considerable in proportion to the population, viz., 3,000 oz. The agents in Havelock have purchased nearly 2,000 oz., and I think fully 1,000 will have reached Nelson or remain in the miners' hands. That amount will give a fair average earning of from 20s. to 30s. per week.

Prices of provisions range about £12 per ton in advance of Nelson rates.

I feel confident that the work of bringing water on to the terraces is all that is required to make provision for a population of, say, 1,000 or 1,500 men for some years; but until that is done, and roads improved, I do not anticipate any difference in our population, the present number being for the most part old residents, and likely to remain.

W. WHITEHORN,
Warden, Pelorus.

No. 11.

WARDEN'S REPORT on the WAIRAU GOLD FIELD, for the Year ended 30th April, 1871.

THIS gold field was proclaimed in May, 1870, and in reporting thereon I am unable to give any very decided opinion. Alluvial gold has been found in several places, some of which are on private ground, and some in places on the hill sides, in positions which completely puzzle the most experienced miners.

A very small population is engaged in mining here, probably not more than fifty or sixty. They are principally, at present, working at the foot of the River Onamalutu, in some deep ground, some of it 50 to 60 feet sinking. The gold is distributed over a large area, some tolerable prospects, as I am informed, being found as high up the country as Ward's Pass, at the foot of the Red Hills, a distance of about thirty miles from Onamalutu, the lowest point known at present. The intermediate streams are more or less gold bearing. The gold found in the lower part of this field is of a heavy description, and the ground very patchy. The average earnings not very large.

In this locality several quartz reefs have been found, four or five being known at present. As to their productiveness, I should be afraid to hazard an opinion, but the matter will soon be determined, as the "Sutherland Gold Mining Company, Registered," have erected machinery to test one of the reefs, known as "Sutherland's," and crushing will commence in a few days. Several Companies have been formed, and leases applied for. Should the Sutherland mine prove productive, I have no doubt

these Companies will commence operations at once. Application for a lease of a reef at Onamalutu, near where the present alluvial workings are being carried on, has been made, and the parties are very sanguine of success, from the appearance of the stone. This reef is situate about ten miles east of the Sutherland, in the neighbourhood of which no alluvial gold is found.

Should these reefs prove payable, a very large population would no doubt soon be settled in this and the Pelorus Gold Field, as the reefs will probably extend into the Pelorus District, the Wairau field being situate almost due south of the Pelorus.

The prices of provisions in this district are reasonable, as a good road is obtainable to almost all parts of the gold field.

I regret being unable to give a more positive opinion as to the future welfare of this district, but I feel it would be rash to do so. There are certainly patches of country which will probably employ a few men for some time, already known, but a very large portion of the district has been but very imperfectly prospected, and very little is known respecting it, and at the present time attention is almost exclusively turned towards reefing.

W. WHITEHORN,
Warden, Wairau.
