

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND

(REPORT ON).

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.*)

To the Hon. the SECRETARY for CROWN LANDS.

General Crown Lands Office,

Wellington, 20th July, 1877.

SIR,—

I have the honor to forward the usual yearly report upon the Gold Fields, with Appendix, consisting of Wardens' reports and statistical tables.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Secretary for Crown Lands.

J. GILES.

REPORT.

IN submitting for the information of Parliament the usual statistics and returns, from which may be gathered some notion of the present state of the gold fields of the colony, and of their progress during the past twelve months, I propose to make my own report upon the subject as brief as is consistent with clearness; a course which is necessitated by the degree to which my time and attention have been absorbed by the unaccustomed duties of a new office. I shall therefore content myself with directing attention to the leading facts which indicate the increased or diminished prosperity of the gold fields, and with mentioning one or two points which offer themselves to notice with some prominence in the present transition phase of institutions of local government.

GOLD.

The first item which I shall notice is the return (No. 7) of the quantity and value of gold exported from the colony during the first quarter of the present year, as compared with the corresponding quarter of 1876. The total quantity reported for the three months ending 31st March, 1877, was 82,241 oz., value £330,167; whilst the same items for the corresponding quarter of 1876 were 83,276 oz., value £330,523. Although these figures appear to show a steady condition of the gold fields as a whole, this steadiness is the result of the fluctuations of the several parts, the exports from Auckland having fallen off to the extent of 3,742 oz., and from Otago 5,540 oz. This loss has been compensated to the extent of 1,063 oz. by Nelson, and 7,184 oz. by Westland, an increase which must be attributed chiefly to the new diggings which have been opened on the West Coast.

A similar comparison made for the two years 1875 and 1876 shows for the former of the years that the total quantity of gold exported was 355,322 oz., having a value of £1,407,770, and for the latter 322,016 oz., value £1,284,328.

MINERS' RIGHTS.

Another good index to the state of the gold fields is the number of miners' rights which are issued during the year. An examination of this item (Table No. 3) shows a diminution in the year 1876 as compared with 1875, the number for the latter period being 12,369, and for the former 10,527. Here again the falling off would have been more marked and decided but for the increase by more than a thousand of the number issued on the Westland Gold Field, and in which we again discern the compensating influence of the Kumara rush.

REVENUE.

The same general state of things is shown by a comparison of the amount of revenue (exclusive of gold duty) collected during the years 1875 and 1876 respectively, as well as during the first quarters of the years 1876 and 1877 (Table 4). The total revenue for 1875 was £53,640, and for 1876 £48,226. The amount for the quarter ending 31st March, 1876, was £11,892, and for the corresponding quarter of 1877 £11,407. On comparing the different items of increase and decrease respectively, we find that the principal decrease has taken place in the Provincial Districts of Auckland and Otago; and of increase in Nelson and Westland, particularly the latter.

It is perhaps a matter for congratulation that the falling off has not proved to be more considerable than we find it to be, when we consider the steady tendency to decline which is displayed by all alluvial diggings, and the comparative tardiness with which reef-workings are developed by the aid of capital and machinery in inland and almost inaccessible localities.

QUARTZ REEFS.

The condition of the different reef workings in the North Island will be ascertained by a perusal of the reports of Mr. Goldsmith, Mining Inspector; and of Mr. Warden Keddell. Of quartz reefs in the other island we find very little account, except in the report of Mr. Warden Shaw, for the District of Inangahua. The number of claims at work, the quantity of stone crushed and of gold extracted from it, and the dividends which have been paid, justify the expectation that "this enormous field," as Mr. Shaw truly calls it, will, in spite of the high rates of carriage between it and the coast, prove yearly a more important factor in the prosperity of the New Zealand gold fields.

The Macetown Reefs, which Mr. Warden Simpson mentions as "the most important discovery that has been made on the Otago Gold Fields this year," may perhaps prove to be the beginning of good things for that district, but they are yet too recent to warrant more than the moderate statement which the Warden makes concerning them.

RACES.

The Wardens in some parts of their reports speak of the importance of a good supply of water, and in one or two instances they mention races which have been constructed by Government as having proved very beneficial. But I have no data before me to show whether the benefit derived from these races is sufficient to compensate the cost of their construction, and of their repair and management. The Mount Ida Race, which is lately completed, will probably before very long furnish to some extent an answer to this question.

NEW DIGGINGS.

The principal discovery during the year which calls for notice is that of the Kumara Diggings, on the West Coast. A full description of this new locality will be found in the report of Mr. Warden Price, whose account of it, although studiously moderate, is enough to show the importance and value of the field. Its influence in arresting and compensating the downward tendency of gold-fields matters in several instances has been already pointed out.

POPULATION AND SETTLEMENT.

The total number of miners on all the gold fields at the close of the first quarter of the present year is stated as 16,770, as compared with 16,639 for the corresponding date in the previous year. This is a very small deviation, but we find a diminution in all the districts except Marlborough and Westland, in the latter of which there is an increase of more than two thousand. The number of Chinese employed in gold-mining, which is now stated as 3,708, appears to have undergone a diminution of between three and four hundred in the course of the year.

The Wardens for the most part speak of the progress of settlement upon the land as steady and satisfactory. The return of agricultural leases in force on the 31st March of this year, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and of the total acreage under lease, shows very little variation, the number of leases being 884 in the year 1876, and 842 in 1877, whilst the area under lease was 80,889 in the former year, and in the latter 83,489.

The mode of granting agricultural leases on gold fields, and the terms upon which they should be granted, must always to some extent represent a compromise between the different interests of mining and agriculture. Until a way has been discovered of pronouncing to what extent ground is auriferous without prospecting it, there must always be some little risk and uncertainty in granting an agricultural lease, and all that can be done is to make reasonable provision for entering to prospect and to mine on payment of proper compensation to the lessee. This subject has been attracting attention in Otago, where some associations of miners have recommended certain alterations in the rules relating to it. These, however, appear to be adapted only to cases in which the lessee is primarily a miner and secondarily an agriculturist, and I am not aware that for purposes of permanent settlement the present regulations are materially defective.

Another point in connection with agricultural leases is the concurrent jurisdiction of the Waste Lands Board on the one hand, and the Warden, acting ministerially for the Governor, on the other. This system exists on the Nelson Gold Fields, and it is obvious that it might be so worked as to cause much inconvenience, since the Warden may recommend the Governor to refuse an agricultural lease applied for under the Gold Fields Act, and the Waste Lands Board may grant the same lease under the provincial land law. But in the Nelson Provincial District the Commissioner of Crown Lands sends regularly to the Warden a list of the applications for agricultural leases made to the Waste Lands Board, in order that he may state any objections known to him.

In Otago I believe the evident intention of the Gold Fields Act is observed by the proclamation of certain blocks of land within which agricultural leases may be granted; but on the Nelson Gold Fields the principle of free selection has always been practised, no blocks being set aside for the purpose, but areas being marked off anywhere on the gold fields by the applicants. This system is clearly not in conformity with the evident intention of the Act; but, if it is sufficiently within its words to be free from illegality, it certainly has some advantages.

MANAGEMENT OF GOLD FIELDS.

The abolition of Provincial Governments, and the establishment of County Councils, cannot be without some effect upon the economy of the gold fields; but as yet the influence of these things has been little felt. This arises from the circumstance that it is only within the last few weeks that the gentlemen holding the delegated powers under the Gold Fields Act have resigned their offices; and, so long as these powers were held by some one in each provincial district, the machinery of gold fields administration was but little disturbed. But now that these officers have resigned, a great deal of work will be brought to Wellington to be dealt with, and a great many matters will have to be submitted to His Excellency the Governor, which formerly were disposed of under the delegated powers.

The principal point on which any question affecting the gold fields is likely to arise from the establishment of counties will probably prove to be the adjustment of revenue under the provisions of the Financial Arrangements Act. Where a gold field extends from one county into another, it may happen, and, indeed, has happened, that miners occupying claims near the boundary may for convenience take out their miners' rights in the adjoining county, which thus gets the revenue arising from this source, to the detriment of the other. The Financial Arrangements Act gives the Governor power to distribute the revenue accruing in two counties fairly between them, but it may not be always easy to do so satisfactorily. Another case in which the county boundary comes into consideration is where one county comprises parts of two gold fields, and it has been thought inconvenient that two sets of mining operations should be in force in the same county. The first step has now been taken towards the complete extinguishment of this cause of complaint, if such it be, by the preparation of a general code of regulations for the whole of the Middle Island.

CONFERENCE OF WARDENS.

Such a code has been carefully prepared by four of the most experienced Wardens in the colony, who recently met in Wellington, and devoted the incessant labour of some weeks to this object. The result of their consultations may, of course, require some modification according to the course which legislation upon the subject may take during the present session, but it may safely be said that the proposed code shows that there is no inherent necessity in the case for a different set of rules to be in force on each gold field. Uniformity in this respect cannot fail to be a great boon to the miner, who, in travelling from one field to another, is much perplexed by finding that his claim is subject to a different law and to different conditions from those which he has been accustomed to.

CONCLUSION.

For statistical and other information, in addition to that which I have very briefly summarized in this report, I must refer to the more detailed statements of the Wardens, and the very complete tables which will be found in the Appendix. For some of the latter I must express my thanks to Mr. Batkin, the Receiver-General, and to Mr. Seed, Secretary and Inspector of Customs. The tables supplied by the Treasury are particularly elaborate, and were furnished as usual notwithstanding the increased pressure of work which circumstances have thrown upon that department.

J. GILES.

APPENDIX TO REPORT ON THE GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.

WARDENS' REPORTS.

OTAGO GOLD FIELD.

No. 1.

Mr. Warden WILLIS to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Dunedin, 16th April, 1877.

I have the honor to forward herewith statistical returns relating to the Hindon District of the Otago Gold Fields for the year ended the 31st March last.

I regret I have nothing to report favourably of the district since last year. Enterprise in this direction seems to have lapsed altogether, although I fancy there is no want of room for it. The revenue remains the same.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. WILLIS,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 2.

Mr. Warden WILLIS to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Dunedin, 17th April, 1877.

I omitted to say in my report that I had visited the supposed new gold field near Outram, and failed to discover it to be of any consequence. I regret that so much prominence should have been given to the matter in the papers.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. WILLIS,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 3.

Mr. Warden SIMPSON to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Clyde, 25th May, 1877.

I have the honor to hand you the statistical returns of the Gold Fields Districts of Queenstown and Arrow for the year ended 31st March, 1877, of which places I have been in charge for a few months. I regret to say that these returns are not so reliable as I could have wished, having, as I had, to obtain the information second-hand, and from any papers that were in the offices, and having been, from press of work, unable to verify them in any way. With the view of having them revised, I forwarded them to Mr. Stratford, the Warden now in charge of the districts, and who had been in charge of the Arrow District for some years, that he might verify and make up the general report thereon; but he declined to have anything to do with them.

From inquiries made, I find that the mining population, both in the Queenstown and Arrow Districts, has decreased considerably during the year, particularly in the former. The wet and unfavourable weather for river mining which has prevailed this season may account for it in some manner, but I am more inclined to think that it is caused by a good many of the alluvial mines beginning to give out, or rather to require an expenditure of capital beyond the command of an ordinary miner to work them profitably. And I regret to say that there is a great want of confidence by capitalists in alluvial mining, caused by the almost invariable non-success of these mines immediately on being converted into companies. That there is much gold yet to be discovered in the Queenstown and Arrow Districts I have not the slightest doubt, but confidence will have to be restored in gold mining as an investment before capital will be risked.

Quartz mining is still continued in the Queenstown District, but with only indifferent success. No new reefs have been discovered this year in that district, but the recent discoveries in the Arrow District have caused many to turn their attention to the further prospecting of reefs previously known, but which had not got a fair trial. I am informed that there are some in the neighbourhood of Moke Creek very well worthy of a fair trial. I fear, however, we want the class of miner capable of properly prospecting a reef. The most important discovery that has been on the Otago Gold Fields this year

is what have become known as the "Macetown Reefs," in the Arrow District. The following are the names given to those already discovered and proved to be auriferous:—

	Claims	Working.	Idle.	Miles	Discovered.
The Homeward-Bound line of reef	4	...	2	2½
Cross Reef	2	...	1	2
Victor Emmanuel or Nuggety Reef	2	...	2	1
Victoria Reef	1	...	0	½
Tipperary Reef	1	...	1	½
Mackay's Reef	1	...	1	100 yards.

There are other reefs known to contain gold, which have not yet been prospected nor taken up for work. There is one small crushing machine at work on these reefs, and three large batteries in the course of erection, but the difficulties of the roads to the reefs make it a great and tedious undertaking to convey machinery. I must say, however, the various companies have shown great energy and ingenuity in their efforts to get machinery on the ground speedily. The value of the plant erected and in the course of erection may be put down at £6,000, and may be taken as evidence of the belief by the miners in the payable nature of the reefs. The crushings already made have given 1¼ oz. to the ton: these have been all from the Homeward-Bound. About 300 tons of quartz were crushed, and the yield was 360 oz.

Settlement.—The most of the available ground for cultivation in the Queenstown and Arrow Districts has been long ago settled on, with the exception of the Crown Terrace Block, and that, unfortunately, has been kept closed by various devices; but I think another season will see it thrown open and populated. On the outskirts of the Queenstown District, in the neighbourhood of Kingston and Nokomai, a good deal of settlement has taken place, and all the deferred-payment blocks that were thrown open have been absorbed. About 7,000 acres have been acquired in freehold in the districts during the year, chiefly by the purchase of land held under agricultural lease. New life seems to have been given to the farmers about Arrow and Queenstown by the sudden rise in wheat and the approaching completion of the Kingston Railway, and crop-growing, which almost had been abandoned for want of carriage to a market, has been largely gone into; and there is only one opinion as to the Wakatipu District for wheat-growing—that it is the best in Otago. In reference to the depasturing interests in the Lake District, it has long become evident to all that the commonage system is ruinous both to stock and stockholder, and the sooner the balance of the ground even now used as common pasturage, with the exception of a few thousand acres around each township or centre of population, is done away with, the better. I do not say this because of the success of the method of having small runs, for that method financially has rather been a failure to the Government, but that not on account of any fault of the system of divided pasturage, but from the fact of the runs having been put up to public auction, and unfortunately falling into the hands, in many cases, of persons ignorant of the business of sheep-farming; and in other cases caused by the fever that raged, during the high prices of wool, to obtain country at any price. I think all the surrenders of leases have been brought about by one or other of the above causes. This brings me to call in question the expediency, in all cases, of putting up the leases of the Crown lands to auction, although I fear it is the only system a Government could adopt, as doubtless the selection of tenants would lead to corruption in many ways. From another point of view, the small runs have been a success, as having introduced into the district a fine class of yeomen and settled them on the ground, and this will in a short time compensate for any loss that may have been meanwhile sustained.

I have, &c.,

W. LAWRENCE SIMPSON,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 4.

Mr. Warden CAREW to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Lawrence, 5th May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward the statistical returns for the Tuapeka Gold Field for the year ending the 31st March last, and to report as follows:—

Mining.—The Blue Spur continues to be the source of the principal portion of the gold raised in this district; and while the yield from other parts of the gold field has decreased, through temporary causes, from that of former years, the Spur has contributed so largely that I am again enabled to report an increase in production over former years. The quantities carried from here by escort for the last three years have been as follow:—

1875	...	...	...	...	19,744 oz.
1876	...	...	...	...	21,106 "
1877	...	...	...	...	26,155 "

—thus showing the very satisfactory increase of 6,411 oz. over the year 1875, and 5,049 oz. over last year. The change in the method of working the ground, from ground-slucing top to bottom—in fact, the gradual degradation and removal by water-power of a mountain spur in which immense quantities of the soil removed contained little or no gold—to that of tunnelling in, and crushing under stampers, only auriferous strata, is no doubt the cause of the present prosperity. It has led also to decrease of litigation, as the deposit of tailings, once a most prolific source of dispute, is so much reduced that no damage from that cause is now suffered. I am, however, convinced that the present manner of working the land is merely a temporary means of staying off, for a few years it may be, an undertaking of some magnitude—the construction of a deep channel to carry away tailings from a low level of the Spur, and without which not only will it be impossible to work the whole of the lowest and richest strata, but also hundreds of thousands of yards of soil that can only be profitably worked by

ground-slucing. There has been considerable interest taken in a similar formation to the Blue Spur, at Old Waitahuna Gully. One claim has opened out upon excellent prospects, and will no doubt prove a valuable one to the proprietors. This has led to extensive prospecting in adjacent but deeper ground. One shaft has been sunk to a depth of 230 feet, bottoming upon a shelving reef. Satisfactory prospects were obtained during the progress of sinking, but not so on the bed rock. Another prospecting shaft is now down 200 feet, and it is anticipated that a further depth of 100 feet will have to be attained before the bottom is reached. Gold is found in this formation in several strata, and at varying depths, and it is questioned whether it could not, with the present rate of wages, be made to pay with suitable appliances.

The Waipori division of the district suffered considerably by the heavy floods in February last. The Government sludge channel was irretrievably destroyed, and, although the earnings of those working within its limits were small, the sudden complete destruction of the claims of seventy men caused for a time no small hardship. With this exception, I consider the Waipori miners as successful as any in the colony.

At the old Woolshed Diggings some highly auriferous land, alienated from the Crown before the proclamation of the gold field, has been worked for some time past by both European and Chinese miners, and with very satisfactory results to both miner and landowner.

Quartz Mining.—This branch of mining, with the exception of a few old claims, may be considered as little advanced beyond prospecting. The Nil Desperandum Claim, at Waipori, has yielded some very rich specimens, but the reef proved patchy, and on the whole gave only a fair return. The Canada Reef Company, at Table Hill, is steadily and economically worked, and is reported to be doing more than paying its way. Two new reefs, one at Table Hill and the other in the Lammerlaw Ranges, have been discovered during the past year; good specimens have been obtained, and hopes are entertained that they will prove remunerative. I feel no doubt that this branch of mining will assume much larger proportions in the future than it has hitherto done.

Population.—I estimate the number of miners in the district to be—Europeans, 450; Chinese, 450; making a total of 900. This shows an increase over last year in the number of European miners, represented by men who have returned from employment on public works, and in some degree by men new to gold-digging. The number of Chinese miners has decreased, owing to emigration to the West Coast and Queensland. Upon analysis of the revenue for the past year, I find that on an average only one out of every five Chinese miners has taken out a miner's right: this is owing to there being no Chinese interpreter in the district. When one was stationed here it was his duty to keep a register of the Chinese mining in the district, and to prosecute those mining without the proper authority. The loss to the revenue in this way has been fully twice the cost of an interpreter.

Land and Settlement.—Farming has made such rapid strides that there are now more persons in the district dependent upon growing crops and cattle-feeding than upon gold mining, and nearly all the available land has been taken up for occupation. The following will show the transactions in land for the past year:—

	No.	A.	R.	P.
Agricultural Leases granted during year	35	4,210	1	39
Agricultural Leases expired	3	93	2	23
Agricultural Leases cancelled	1	138	2	10
Agricultural Leases exchanged	4	122	0	28
Agricultural Leases purchased	33	2,352	2	23
Agricultural Leases in force on 31st March, 1877	338	30,646	2	34
Exchange Leases	117	5,021	0	23
Occupation Licenses and Certificates	127	20,118	2	8

The total area now held under leases and licenses is 55,788 acres 1 rood 25 poles, the annual rental being £7,351 4s. 6d.

In addition to these holdings, about 135,000 acres of land within the gold field is freehold. The past year has been a very favourable one for both farming and grazing in this district, and the completion of the railway between Dunedin and Lawrence, which is now an accomplished fact, insures a steady market for stock and produce within easy access at all times.

Revenue.—The amount of revenue collected for the year which ended on the 31st March last was £9,898 17s. 4d., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rents from Agricultural and Deferred-payment Leases and Licenses	7,686	3	8
Rents from Depasturing Licenses	633	5	7
Rents from Mining Leases	253	15	4
Other Gold Fields Revenue	923	13	10
Fees and Fines in Resident Magistrate's Court	401	18	11

The number of cases and applications dealt with was as follows:—

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT.			
Criminal Cases	...	...	140
Civil Cases	...	...	291
Total	...	...	431
WARDEN'S COURT.			
Cases	...	...	35
Applications	...	...	302
Total	...	...	337

I have, &c.,
E. H. CAREW,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 5.

Mr. Warden WOOD to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Switzers, 10th May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward statistical returns for the period ending 31st March ultimo. Mining throughout the Switzers Division proper of the district is at a very low ebb, and trade stagnant—the latter owing to the fact that this district does not possess the advantage which others have of a settled agricultural population. The land, although some of the finest in the Provincial District of Otago, is an education reserve, and therefore excluded from *bonâ fide* settlement. The small population of the Nokomai Subdivision is nearlyal together composed of Chinese, who are making wages, say 30s. per week. The Waikaka Subdivision, situate about fifteen miles from Tapanui, has every prospect of turning out not only a payable gold field, but will probably support a large population, as it is now being thoroughly prospected by parties who will not readily relinquish the chance afforded of obtaining a claim that may last for years. Gold has been struck at a lower level than any hitherto obtained—50 feet or 60 feet sinking, at distances up to two miles apart. This, it is hoped, may prove a well-developed lead, as the gold is of the same description. The supposed lead unfortunately runs into private land on the Chatton Hundred. The Orepuki Gold Field, situate on the west side of the Longwood Range, near the mouth of the Waiiau River, in Foveaux Straits, supports a population of about 200 miners, who are making good wages, from the return of gold purchased by the banks in Riverton during the year 1876, which gives an average of over half an ounce a week per man.

Prospecting for quartz reefs has been going on for the last fifteen months on the east side of the Longwood Ranges, and one of the gentlemen finding the means for the prospecting party writes to me that they have struck what they believe to be a well-defined reef that promises to be payable; as heavy gold has been obtained in the locality, it is probable that their efforts may be successful. The new gold field of Waikaka I am unable to report upon at present, but will do so as soon as I obtain reliable information.

I have, &c.,

JOHN NUGENT WOOD,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 6.

Mr. Warden SIMPSON to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Clyde, 21st May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward to you the statistical returns, for the year ended the 31st March, 1877, of the gold fields district of the Dunstan. Many of these returns are formed too much on guesswork to be reliable sources of information, particularly as to mining plant. It occurs to me that some of the statistics might be made much more accurate and reliable if obtained after the manner of the agricultural statistics in Otago.

Of the district generally, I have to report that there has been a falling off in the yield of gold. The yield for last year was 45,436 oz., while this year it is only 34,812 oz., being a difference of 10,624 oz. This decrease has taken place in the yield from the quartz reefs to the extent of 6,710 oz., and in the yield from alluvial to the extent of 3,914 oz. It is beyond my expectation to find so small a decrease in the alluvial yield of gold, as for a great portion of the year one of the best sluicing districts has almost been without a water supply, owing to the breaking down of the Bannockburn Company's race, and as the Carrick Range Water Supply Race was only completed and available in January last. This decrease is therefore owing to no failure or giving out of the mines. In reference to the falling off in the yield of gold from quartz, it is to be accounted for by the giving out of some of the mines on the Carrick Range, and the fact of the Great Cromwell Company having been engaged for a great portion of the year at work not immediately profitable, such as deepening their shafts; but now that mine is looking as well as ever it did, and they are now again started to get out stone which is averaging 2 oz. to the ton; and other companies on the same reef are about to make a fresh start.

There has only been one new discovery worthy of note made during the year, and that was on the River Molyneux, a few miles below Alexandra; but that discovery is rather an important one, being the discovery of rich deposits on the Old Lake level. This ought to lead to prospecting at that level along all our rivers, and no doubt will.

Settlement.—During the year there have been taken up under the agricultural-lease system, by eighteen different lessees, 2,124 acres, and under the deferred-payment system by fifteen licensees, 2,285 acres, making a total of 4,409 acres. There have been acquired in freehold 2,263 acres during the year. The total land held in leasehold and under license amounts in this district to 20,186 acres, yielding a yearly rental of £2,765 10s.

The amount of land taken up during the year ended is quite equal to that taken up during the preceding year, showing a steady desire to settle, even under the difficulties of the present limited system. As during last year, Black's and the Teviot Districts are the places where the chief settlement has gone on, the really available land being confined to those districts. The gross amount of land actually open for settlement in the Dunstan District may be put down at 38,000 acres; but when you deduct the land used as common at Clyde and Cromwell, amounting to 27,000 acres, all of which is not only unfit for settlement but is considered auriferous, and settlement opposed thereon, and if you add to that the ground which is considered auriferous in other parts, say 3,000 acres, a small balance of 8,000 acres is left to scatter over the whole of the large district of Dunstan. Looking therefore at the whole of the figures above given, I do not think it can be said the district generally is retrograding.

I have, &c.,

W. LAWRENCE SIMPSON,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 7.

Mr. Warden ROBINSON to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Naseby, 31st March, 1877,

I have the honor to report upon the district under my charge, as Warden for the past year, as follows :—

1. The year has, on the whole, been moderately favourable to the class of mining that is mostly prevalent in this district. With plenty of water the sluicer can always do well in this part of the country; and the broken seasons have, in furnishing rather more than average supplies of water, been decidedly advantageous to the miner's industry, although embarrassing and even hurtful to that of the cultivator of the soil.

2. The expectation of the Government water-race and sludge channel being opened has caused a large number of claims to be taken up in the Hogburn Valley, below Naseby. The ground thus occupied has long been known to be auriferous, but for want of "fall" it could not be worked. The knowledge of its value was a principal reason for the eagerness with which the construction of a sludge channel was advocated. Of course none of these claims can be wrought until the opening of the channel affords the long-desired means of sending away the waste water and tailings from the workings. In the mean time the claims have all required to be protected. To obviate the inconvenience to miners of the continual necessity of applying for renewal of protection, I suggested to the Government the advisability of suspending certain of the forfeiture sections of the Regulations, and on the 12th of this month a Proclamation was published suspending the operation of the Regulations in question over an area extending for fourteen chains on each side of the channel throughout its entire length. This will no doubt be felt as a relief by the holders of claims in the Hogburn Valley.

3. I am glad to be able at length to notice that the Government water-race is so far completed that there is really nothing to prevent its being used to bring in water for mining purposes except the completion of the short length of flushing race to connect with the sludge channel. This is a work which should not take long to finish, indeed it is already far advanced towards completion, and I look forward with confidence to the miners getting the means of opening out some of their claims before the winter fairly sets in. This will be a great advantage. There is a good deal of preliminary work to be done about the opening out of sluicing claims, and until it is definitely known on what conditions races will be allowed to connect with and discharge into the channel, none even of this preliminary work can be safely undertaken. But when once the miners know what they can and may do, I have no doubt they will set to work vigorously enough.

4. A noticeable sign of the expectation of better times, after the long period of comparative depression consequent upon the waiting for the completion of the public works, is to be found in the fact that the town of Naseby itself has lately begun to show decided symptoms of improvement. The Bank of New Zealand has erected handsome new premises, a few new places of business have been opened, and several of the older-established stores and hotels are being more or less renovated.

5. The increasing confidence of business people in Naseby is not, however, to be solely attributed to the hope of benefit from the opening of the public race and channel—at length the demand for land for settlement has been recognized, and a good deal of land has been opened in various parts of the district. It is satisfactory to find that the land is being rapidly taken up by a respectable class of settlers, and there is reason to hope that, before many years are past, the country will be studded over with homesteads wherever the land is suitable for cultivation. The spread of agriculture will have a tendency greatly to assist the development of the mineral resources of the country. With farms in the neighbourhood, the necessaries of life must be cheaper than when every article of consumption has to be brought for great distances over bad roads. With cheaper living the miner will be able to profitably work much ground that will not pay at the present high cost of provisions. Moreover, as settlement extends the means of communication will be improved. Already there is serious agitation for a railway to tap the great interior country of Otago. If a railway were once made, the difficulty of obtaining timber for mining purposes would be at an end, and it is probable that deep-sinking would be tried in many places where, in consequence of the enormous expense of timber, it cannot now be thought of.

6. As has been already remarked, the class of mining generally prevalent in this district is that of sluicing. This offers in itself but little subject for remark, as when once water has been led by races to command any suitable ground, the miners may continue to work in the same vicinity and in the same manner for many years. The only item of progress to be noted is the introduction in some claims of iron piping instead of canvas hose. This is found to be a great improvement, especially when, as in one claim at St. Bathans, the American nozzle, known as the "Little Giant," is also used.

7. Quartz mining is still represented in this district by only one claim in actual work—that of Mr. Withers, at Rough Ridge, which has been worked with varying success for a number of years. It is very remarkable that in a district so rich in gold, and the mountains of which present so many indications of reefs, so very little should as yet have been done toward the development of quartz mines. Quartz reefs have, it is true, been opened in several localities and gold found, but from some cause or other the companies have, as a rule, always come to grief. Possibly, if there were a railway to bring the necessary timber and mining plant on to the ground at a moderate expense, the testing of the quartz reefs might yet be done in a more thorough and systematic manner than heretofore.

8. An important phase of mining has latterly been developed at Fullarton's, near Hyde, where three parties of miners have taken up claims which can only be worked by means of lengthy tunnels, mostly through rock. I referred to this matter in my report of last year, and had hoped to have been able by now to chronicle a success. Unfortunately delays have occurred, partly through want of capital. One party has put in a fine tunnel to a considerable distance, but without as yet reaching the rich wash which is known to lie in the interior of the hill, having been formerly reached by sinking from the flat top.

9. The Muddy Creek Company, at St. Bathans, after carrying up their channel for a considerable

distance, found they could not work it to advantage or keep it properly clear without a supply of flushing water. They have latterly been engaged in bringing in a supply of water by means of a race eight miles in length, which is not yet completed. Meanwhile they have been allowing their channel to be silted up; but it is understood that they can easily clear it when they get the extra power of water.

10. The revenue for the year shows a slight increase over last year. The particulars are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Gold Revenue	1,165	14	6
Warden's Court Fees and Fines	60	4	6
Agricultural-lease Rents	1,651	19	2
Deferred-payment Rents	517	9	0
Resident Magistrate's Court Fees and Fines	232	11	9
	<u>£3,627</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>

11. Next year, with the increased business consequent upon the opening of the Government sludge channel, and the supply of water from the race, I hope to be able to show a very large increase of revenue.

12. The total of gold escorted from the district during the year is 16,477 oz. 9 dwts. This does not exhibit the entire production, as the Maerewhenua gold finds its way to the banks in Oamaru without escort. There is thus no record of the quantity produced.

I have, &c.,

H. W. ROBINSON,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

WESTLAND GOLD FIELD.

No. 8.

Mr. Warden PRICE to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Hokitika, 16th June, 1877.

I have the honor to report as follows upon the state of the several districts under my charge—namely, Okarito and the subdistrict of Jackson's Bay, Totara, Kanieri, Waimea, and Kumara.

I have, &c.,

M. PRICE,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

Okarito and Subdistrict of Jackson's Bay.

I HAVE nothing new to report respecting this district, as, I regret to say, during the past year mining operations have been in a depressed condition owing to the Kumara rush, and what has always been detrimental to the development of this gold field, the difficulty of access and high rate of provisions. So long as equally payable diggings are found elsewhere no improvement can be expected, although I am perfectly satisfied there is as good payable ground here as in any other part of Westland.

The gold revenue for the year ending 31st March, 1877, is £104 5s., as against £234 5s. of preceding year, showing a decrease of £130. There is also a decrease of £141 in the revenue for publicans' licenses.

The principal diggings are still at Gillespie's, and it speaks well of the place that the Kumara rush has not drawn any away from it.

As regards mining from the Haast to Bullock Creek, in the Sub-district of Jackson's Bay (special settlement), the few (seventeen) following this occupation are making fair average wages. The gold fields revenue amounts to only £40.

Two quartz mining leases were granted last year, and several quartz claims taken up, but, I regret to say, they have not proved so successful as was anticipated, although I do not believe the ground has been sufficiently tested to pronounce it a failure; but the great difficulty and expense in conveying machinery into almost inaccessible country retards any great outlay unless the prospects held out are beyond ordinary ones.

This much may be said, that Okarito and the Subdistrict of Jackson's Bay, having upwards of 140 miles of coast-line, with indications of various valuable minerals in addition to gold, is yet in its infancy, and requires only population to develop what will render it in time a prosperous district.

Totara District.

I regret to say I have nothing new to report of this district; but, notwithstanding the present gloomy appearance of affairs, the rich nature of the ground on which Ross is built is so well known that it only requires to be energetically worked by large companies to restore it in some measure to its former prosperity.

The population has decreased by about 350; it now numbers 1,320, as against 1,670 of previous year. The gold fields revenue has also decreased, last year's amounting to £595, the year before to £633, exclusive of gold duty. To a certain extent this is owing to the Kumara rush, which has drawn away a considerable number of miners and business people; also many, who remained in expectation of the Mikonui Water-race being brought in, left, finding that there was no likelihood of the undertaking being commenced.

Lately four mining leases have been granted on Jones's Flat; and if the lessees carry out their proposed mode of working the ground—namely, by water-power machinery—the result will, I believe, prove highly beneficial to the district, as a large number of miners will have to be employed to work the ground.

At Donoghue's, mining operations have improved during the past year, the ground being drained by water-power machinery, which enables the miners to work their claims at a lower level, with very satisfactory results. There are also a number of sluicing claims in this neighbourhood yielding good wages.

At Bowen, I regret to say, things have not turned out so well as was anticipated. The special claim of twenty acres granted to the Kohinoor Gold Mining Company has lately stopped work owing to heavy floods having swamped their ground, which lies close to the bed of the Mikonui River, and also the dams and head-races connected with it being destroyed by the same cause, and by landslips.

The ground commanded by the Greenland Water-race Company on the terraces above the township of Ross, towards Donoghue's, has proved highly remunerative. This company holds a lease of ten acres, and there is also another of same size further south paying good wages. Along the terraces on the upper side of Donoghue's Road there are a number of extended claims, the holders of which are said to be doing well. The ground could not have been worked had it not been for the race in question, brought in at a high altitude. This holds out the best prospect that the Mikonui Water-race, if constructed, would prove highly beneficial, and open up a large area of auriferous country which otherwise must remain unworked.

At Mount Rangitoto, where the silver mines are situated, a large area of country has been taken up under leases; but in consequence of its inaccessible situation, and the road not having been completed, the working of the ground has been delayed, and the only party which is actually carrying on operations is the Mount Rangitoto Silver Mine Company, the original prospectors, who are putting in tunnels and getting out stone in readiness to send to Melbourne as soon as the road is finished.

During the last few weeks three quartz mining leases have been applied for at Donnelly's Creek, near Ross. What the result may be is doubtful, as the same reef was tried some years ago and abandoned as not payable.

The gold forwarded from Ross to Hokitika amounted to 9,551 oz. All further information will be found in the statistical returns already forwarded.

Kanieri District.

In reporting on this district for the past year, I may state it has slightly decreased in population and yield of gold, but this may be attributed to the great attraction of the Kumara Gold Fields, which has drawn away some of the miners, although the number does not exceed seventy out of a total of 475 who were mining in the district during the previous year.

The portions of the district most materially affected are in and around the Town of Kanieri, the sea-beach south of Hokitika River, and the Hau-Hau, from which places most of the miners have left. Other parts of the district, such as Woodstock, Kanieri River, and Blue Spur, have remained much as they were.

The average earnings of the miners are about half an ounce of gold per man per week. The approximate yield of gold for the past year is 10,920 oz.

The gold fields revenue has decreased some £39. That of last year was £548 4s. 6d., against £587 4s. 6d. of previous year.

The principal diggings are Woodstock and Blue Spur. The former, lying along the south bank of the Hokitika River, has for the past ten years maintained a steady, industrious mining population. The number so engaged at present is 110, and the mode of mining is by ground-sluicing and tunnelling. At the Blue Spur there are some good claims: this place is one of the oldest diggings on the coast, having been worked for the past thirteen years.

The Kanieri District is not altogether confined to gold mining for its existence, as the farming industry is a very important one, a large area in the vicinity of the Hokitika and Arahura Rivers being under cultivation, and occupied by a steady, industrious class of farmers, who, being in close proximity to the town of Hokitika, obtain a ready and lucrative market for their produce.

On the whole, I may say that the district is in a fairly prosperous condition, and contains within itself the elements of continuing so for some years to come.

Waimea District.

This district, although in close proximity to the Kumara diggings (in fact, until the latter was, in November last, made into a separate district, formed a portion of the Waimea one), has during the past year held its own, which I believe to be in a great measure owing to the Government race affording a supply of water to miners in those portions of the gold workings through which it passes. And it is to be regretted that branch B, which would command "Tunnel Terrace" from Goldsborough nearly to Stafford Town, has not been constructed, preventing some of the best known auriferous ground from being worked. I understand it could be brought in for about £2,000.

The diggings are much spread about over a large area of country, and all of an alluvial nature, the gold being found in terraces and in innumerable small creeks and gullies, also on the sea-beach. The workings are carried on by ground-sluicing and hydraulic power, and, seeing that it is one of the earliest diggings opened in Westland (in 1864), there can be no better proof of its stability than its continuing to maintain a mining population of 1,500 people; and although at the first breaking out of the Kumara diggings many were attracted there, yet most have now returned to their old claims.

With regard to the quartz reefs at the Taipo, I regret to say, during the past year the holders of mining leases there have done nothing towards developing the reef. I have informed them that, unless they commence operations at once, I shall recommend the ground to be thrown open, so as to give others an opportunity of proving what holds out fair prospects of opening up a description of mining which, if successful, conduces highly to the prosperity of a place.

The gold fields revenue for the year amounted to £3,182—higher than it has been for some years past. This, however, arose from the Kumara rush, as until a separate establishment was formed there, in November, the whole of the revenue was collected at Goldsborough.

The yield of gold, from what I can ascertain, has kept up, and has been about 14,000 oz. Mining business, so far as registrations are concerned, is greater in this district than in any of the others. There have been no less than 1,550 certificates issued during the past year, and although mostly for insignificant works, in the shape of small head-races, dams, &c., yet it shows that mining is energetically carried on.

Of the Waimea District, I may say it contains a population of settled miners, not likely to diminish in numbers, who are making homes for themselves under the provisions of the residence-area regulations, which enable them to take up half-acres of land; and although there are no rich claims, yet I may say all are making good average wages, and relying for their future prospects on the auriferous ground which the Government race now gives an opportunity of opening up.

Kumara District.

Of this gold field—the latest diggings discovered in New Zealand—I may at once say they are not of that rich nature they have been represented to be, but may be termed workings yielding generally average good wages, and possessing a large area of auriferous country.

The prospecting, if I may so term it, began so long ago as 1872 on a practical basis, when a party of three miners obtained from me a grant of an extended head-race for ten sluice-heads of water, and a mining lease of three acres. They continued mining for some years undisturbed, earning during the time no less than £10 each per week. They did not make the matter known till the evidence in a case in the Warden's Court at Goldsborough, tried about June last year, elicited information which caused the locality to be further and more thoroughly prospected; and I may here state that the three miners above alluded to have since sold their entire interest for £2,200.

The first absolute rush to these diggings took place last August, and gradually went on increasing to Christmas, when the population exceeded 6,000; but in consequence of the workings being of a heavy nature, a number of labourers and others, entirely unaccustomed to mining, who came from Canterbury, Otago, and other provinces of New Zealand, left almost immediately after their arrival, as they were afraid to commence working ground which required three or four months' preparation before any returns whatever could be expected. The result was that it gradually decreased, and has been ever since fluctuating between four and five thousand, by arrivals and departures. It now numbers 4,860, of whom 2,800 are actually mining.

The various diggings are as follow:—Commencing on a terrace immediately outside the town of Kumara up to Dillmantown, a distance of more than half a mile, the entire workings are carried on by means of tunnels. Travelling thence on to Larrikins, a distance of three-quarters of a mile, the ground is for the most part worked by shafts and ordinary washing—*i.e.*, boxes and forking. Dunedin Flat comes next in order, the ground being worked by shafts and tunnels, averaging in depth 50 feet. This portion of the diggings merges into what is now known as Shamrock Lead, which extends for a distance of about half a mile towards the Greenstone road. The entire of this portion is worked by sinking; depth about 50 feet.

Shallow Lead commences from the west end of Dunedin Flat up to near Tui Street, Kumara. It is worked by shafts and windlasses, depth 20 feet; wash-dirt, heavy gravel, 4 to 5 feet thick.

A new lead is now being opened up from Dillmantown to Blake's saw-mills, which will be exclusively worked by means of tunnels running in a south-easterly direction. The average depth of sinking is from 50 to 100 feet throughout the field, with wash-dirt varying in thickness from 6 to 8 feet, and in one locality (Dunedin Flat) it has been found as thick as 30 feet. The position of the ground is such that, when sluicing commences on a large scale, great impetus must be given to present mining operations, as the major portion of it is 300 feet above the level of the Teremakau River. The reason this mode has not been hitherto adopted is want of means on the part of the miners, as most of them have been living on credit, and consequently obliged to work in the most economical manner; but when they have recovered from their present difficulties they will be in a position to purchase water largely, and work on a more extensive scale by hydraulic power.

The Government race now in process of construction, and which is already affording a supply of water, has been of great benefit, as this gold field is peculiarly destitute of sources from which small races can be made available. The price charged for water is £1 for eight hours' use.

Another large race is now in course of construction by the Okuku Company, and when finished will afford a good supply of water, but not in excess of what will be readily absorbed by the miners.

As to the system of working carried on throughout the field, I may state that about two-thirds are by means of tunnels and ordinary washing, and the remainder by windlasses and shafts. The wash-dirt consists of heavy gravel; there is no defined bottom, but occasionally river sediment is discovered, as if caused by a deposit from still water.

The approximate yield of gold up to 31st March last is estimated at about 10,000 oz., but I am glad to say it is steadily on the increase.

A small rush lately set in on the north bank of the Teremakau River, which principally consists of tunnel claims. The gold, however, is found to be patchy, and of a different description from that at Kumara, it being of a heavier nature. The locality has, however, not turned out so well as was at first expected. There are about 200 miners working there.

The township of Kumara is of considerable extent, and embraces every branch of business, with five banks. The buildings are of a substantial nature, sections commanding a high price. There is a courthouse, commodious police barracks, and a large building is in course of erection for post and telegraph offices. On the whole the place has made great progress since its first rush.

A diggings township is springing up at Dillman's about a mile from Kumara, which is gradually increasing in size.

There is one peculiar feature connected with this gold field of which I know no other instance—

that an education reserve of 1,000 acres forms the very heart of it, on which the greater portion of the town is built. It causes inconvenience in the way of mining, and considerable loss of revenue, as about three-fifths of the sites are on the reserve, and no business licenses taken out for them. It would in my opinion have been desirable if on the breaking out of the gold field the reserve had been withdrawn, which could have been done under the provisions of the Westland Waste Lands Act, as it never could have been contemplated that large blocks of highly auriferous land should be set apart for this purpose.

A tramway has been constructed between Greymouth and Kumara at a cost of £5,000, and is now open for traffic. It will prove a great convenience to this gold field, and is entirely a Greymouth enterprise, and constructed by Greymouth capital.

The entire population is as follows:—

Town of Kumara	1,406
Town boundary and terrace, to Dillmantown	704
Thence to Larrikin's	450
Dunedin Flat	685
Shamrock Lead	500
Shallow Lead	380
New Lead towards Blake's saw-mill	150
Other parts not enumerated	385
North side of Teremakau	200
Total	4,860

In conclusion it affords me great satisfaction to say this field holds out hopeful prospects of improving, and that it will for some years to come support not only the present but a larger population.

Hokitika, 16th June, 1877.

M. PRICE,
Warden.

No. 9.

Mr. Warden REVELL to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Greenstone, April, 1877.

I have the honor to make the following general report on the Greenstone District for the twelve months ending the 31st March last past.

This district was seriously affected by the Kumara rush last August, but during the last three months there has been a steady increase in the population, now estimated at 600 souls, of whom about 300 Europeans and 150 Chinese are engaged in mining.

The revenue in the Warden's department has been fully maintained, whilst the estimated yield of gold is in excess of last year; but, owing to the reticence of the banks, it is very difficult to arrive at a correct estimate. The gold passes through the port of Hokitika, and naturally the revenue accruing to the Grey County suffers thereby.

There are about sixty men at work at Maori Point and Revell's Terrace, chiefly ground-sluing, two parties hydraulic sluing, and five parties tunnelling.

On Duke's Terrace three parties hydraulic sluing; and on the Three-Mile and on north side of the Greenstone Creek, near the Teremakau, there are ten parties hydraulic sluing.

On Hayes's Terrace, immediately over the Teremakau Ferry, there are 150 miners ground-sluing and tunnelling, and some very fine parcels of coarse gold have been obtained. The sinking varies from 15 feet to 87, and the ground is full of enormous boulders several tons weight, which have to be blasted before removal.

The rush to Hayes's Terrace is likely to increase, some good prospects having been found in the face of same terrace fronting on the Greenstone Road, about one mile from the Teremakau River; and it is the intention of the Dobson's Creek and Piraunui Water-race Company, and the Erin-go-Bragh Water-race Company, recently formed, to extend these races to this terrace.

On 14th February last a prospecting claim of double area was granted to Payne and party, in a gully situate about a mile and a half up the Teremakau from Hayes's Terrace, and there are from sixty to seventy miners at work in that locality ground-sluing and tunnelling.

There are 150 Chinese at work along the low banks and in the river-beds of Three-Mile Creek, Fuchsia Creek, and Greenstone Creek, engaged ground-sluing, with good average results.

In the early part of February last this district was visited with the heaviest flood on record since the first opening of the gold field. The old Greenstone township was totally destroyed, several of the stores and their contents being completely washed away, the occupants barely escaping, whilst others had property to a large extent damaged. The foot-bridge over the Greenstone Creek was washed away, and the wire bridge across Greenstone Creek, near the Teremakau, was rendered useless for traffic, whilst several of the claims, dams, and water rights were more or less injured. The dam and head works of the Hohonu Water-race Company were washed away, as also the large dam on Duke's Terrace, the damage being estimated at from £1,000 to £1,200.

Sittings of the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts are held fortnightly at Greenstone; but if the rush at Hayes's Terrace continues it will be necessary to have an office near the locality, where a small township is likely to spring up, for the collection of the county revenue, which otherwise will go to Kumara, being so much nearer than Greenstone.

The statistical returns which have been already forwarded show that seventy-four head-races, capable of carrying 242 heads of water a distance of 64 miles, fifty-three tail-races, and thirty-seven dams, were registered during the year, at the estimated value of £23,518, which, together with forty

ground-slucices, estimated at £6,000, and the mining plant and machinery, estimated at £2,500, gives the total value of all mining property at £32,018.

In conclusion, I have to add that mining operations are at present in a healthy state, that a good deal of prospecting is being quietly carried on, and the population is gradually increasing.

I append herewith a summary of the revenue of the district, and other matters in connection therewith.

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

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 9.

PARTICULARS of the REVENUE Collected in the WARDEN'S COURT, &c., at Greenstone, during the Year ended on the 31st March, 1877.

	No.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Miners' Rights	389				389	0	0
Business Licenses at £5 each	11	55	0	0			
Business Licenses at £3 each	18	54	0	0			
Business Licenses at £2 each	14	28	0	0			
					137	0	
Registrations at 5s. each	76	19	0	0			
Registrations at 2s. 6d. each	9	1	2	6			
Registrations at 1s. each	149	7	9	0			
					27	11	6
Miscellaneous Receipts					13	2	0
					566	13	6
Revenue to Treasury, for Spirit Licenses		281	0	0			
Fees and Fines in Resident Magistrate's Court		36	0	6			
Fees of Licensing Court		6	12	6			
Duty on 8,000 ounces of Gold-dust, payable to the Customs at Hokitika		800	0	0			
					1,690	6	6
Number of Warden's Cases heard	11						
Number of Resident Magistrate's Civil Cases heard	39						
Number of Resident Magistrate's Criminal Cases heard	4						
	54						
Amount sued for in Resident Magistrate's Court		364	10	8			
Amount sued for in Warden's Court		77	1	8			
					441	12	4

No. 10.

Mr. Warden REVELL to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Greymouth, 30th April, 1877.

In compiling my general report, as Warden of the Greymouth District, I find there is little to record concerning the condition and progress of gold mining during the twelve months ending the 31st ultimo. No new discoveries have been made, and, all mining operations in the district being essentially alluvial, very few changes have been effected.

In the Paroa Subdistrict the population is estimated at 578, of which 127 Europeans and 115 Chinese are classed as miners, and are chiefly located on the South Beach, Paroa, Rutherglen, Welshman's, and Yankee Creek, working with small water rights, principally sluicing; and many of them occupy comfortable dwellings, with well-cultivated residence areas or gardens attached. The proprietors of the Great Extended Water-race, who hold a mining lease of five acres, situated near the Nelson Creek on the South Beach, are fully employed in ground-slucicing. The Leviathan Race Company are also ground-slucicing in the same locality, there being no demand for a supply of water from either of their races. The Cornish party also hold extensive water rights, and have turned over a large area of ground at Rutherglen, with good results. In the Clifton Subdistrict the population is estimated at 375 Europeans and 205 Chinese, of whom 225 Europeans and 200 Chinese are engaged in mining operations. In the New River, the old Argus and Independent Claims are still at work, and paying fair wages; as also several other tunnel claims in the same locality. One party of four men have been driving a tunnel near Maori Creek during the last sixteen months, with the intention of picking up the same lead, and have just struck gold; but whether payable or not still remains to be ascertained.

In Cocka-Bulla, Fuchsia, and Cockeye Creeks, and other tributaries of the New River, there are several parties fully employed in ground-slucicing and tunnelling. At Nemona, there are four parties on good payable gold, but the extent of it is very limited. There are also a few claims being worked at Cameron's Terrace: one party sold out their claim and water rights for £300

last month. The Chinese have also spread over the locality, working in the beds and on the low banks of the creeks, having a strong objection to tunnelling or working in any form underground. In the Arnold Subdistrict, the population is estimated at 317 Europeans and 103 Chinese, of whom 130 Europeans and 70 Chinese are engaged in mining operations, chiefly ground-sluicing and tunnelling, at Maori Gully, Waimea, Still-water Creek, Brown's Terrace, and Italian and Reilly's Gullies. Water is very scarce in some of these localities, so much so that the Chinese may frequently be seen working with the old cradle, and carefully saving every drop of water.

In February last a very considerable amount of damage was done to several of the claims, water rights, and dams throughout the whole district. The Hibernian Water-race was swept away in several places, and is now lying almost a complete wreck, and will require an outlay of over £800 to effect repairs. The New River Race was also seriously damaged, and the company have stopped all works for some time, owing to some misunderstanding with the Government regarding the subsidies.

Two prospecting parties were formed, one in the Arnold District and one in the Clifton District, supported by the storekeepers, but after several weeks' prospecting were broken up, the result not proving satisfactory.

The population of the town of Greymouth, now estimated at 2,630, shows a considerable decrease as compared with last year, but this is readily accounted for by the rush to the Kumara in August and September last. Good substantial buildings are being erected, principally residences and shops, but the uncertainty of the tenure of the Maori property is a great obstacle to the erection of stone and brick buildings; but generally the town is prosperous and shows signs of advancement, and the contractors for the harbour works have begun operations.

The State school, designed by Messrs. Young Brothers, was completed and opened in November last. It accommodates 400 children, and another wing, capable of accommodating 300 more children, can be added at any time if requisite. The Roman Catholic school (a school under the 40th clause of the Education Ordinance) will accommodate 200 children. Schools under the Central Board have also been opened at Paroa, Marsden, Dunganville, Maori Gully, and Wallsend.

Sittings of the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts have been regularly held at Greymouth, and once a month at Dunganville and Maori Gully, where the officers in charge of police act as receivers of gold revenue, to issue miners' rights, business licenses, and notices of application, and issue summonses for the Courts; but litigation is very small, and there has been a total absence of any serious crime in the district.

The statistical returns already forwarded show that 173 head-races (capable of conveying 363 heads of water a distance of 233 miles), 123 tail-races, and 366 dams, of the value of £26,393, were registered during the year, which, added to the mining plant and machinery, estimated at £1,092, and the property of the Registered Water-race Company, estimated at £13,500, show the total value of all mining property to be £40,985.

I append herewith a return showing the population, revenue, leases disposed of, and rights, licenses, and regulations issued during the year.

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

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

Enclosures in No. 10.

THE population of the district is estimated at 4,208 souls, and is located as under:—

	Europeans.	Chinese.	Totals.
Greymouth, Town of	2,600	30	2,630
Paroa District	463	115	578
Arnold District	317	103	420
Clifton District	375	205	580
Total	3,755	453	4,208

RETURN of Cases disposed of in the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts during the Year, as follows:—

	Civil.	Criminal.	Wardens.	Totals.
Greymouth	619	185	3	807
Clifton	18	10	2	30
Arnold	20	1	7	28
Total	657	196	12	865

THE Revenue for the twelve months, amounting to £5,150 Os. 9d., is made up as follows:—

	Greymouth.	Clifton.	Arnold.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Warden's Department	534 17 0	286 1 0	199 9 0	1,020 7 0
Resident Magistrate's Department	672 14 6	21 2 6	24 19 6	718 16 6
Spirit Licenses	445 0 0	240 0 0	180 0 0	865 0 0
Fees: Licensing Courts	52 0 0	...	...	52 0 0
Gold Duty, Westland	2,492 17 3	...	...	2,492 17 3
Total	4,197 8 9	547 3 6	404 8 6	5,149 0 9

RETURN of Miners' Rights, Licenses, and Registrations issued by the Receivers of Gold Revenue at their respective offices:—

	Greymouth.	Clifton.	Arnold.	Totals.
Miners' Rights	324	281	168	773
Business Licenses	5	...	1	6
Half-yearly do.	4	1	5	10
Quarterly do.	5	...	...	5
Registration, 5s.	309	...	...	309
Do. 2s. 6d.	28	...	...	28
Do. 1s.	918	...	...	918
Total	1,593	282	174	2,049

W. H. REVELL,
Warden.

NELSON GOLD FIELDS.

No. 11.

Mr. Warden L. BROAD to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Nelson, 26th June, 1877.

During the past twelve months the diggings of Wangapeka, Sherry, and Baton Rivers have continued to maintain the usual small population.

At Tadmor a discovery of payable gold caused a rush on a moderate scale, but so far, although rather better than 100 men have been constantly at work, and getting fair returns, their numbers do not increase.

In the spring, and when proper pumping appliances are erected, it is likely there will be a considerable addition to the number of miners.

The Tadmor Hill has also been prospected, and from reliable reports I believe would pay remarkably well for sluicing.

A water-race could be constructed at an expense of about £6,000, and it is possible some steps may be taken ere long by a private company to make this work.

The revenue for the district during the year has been £88 1s. 6d.

I have, &c.,

LOWTHER BROAD,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Mines, Wellington.

No. 12.

Mr. Warden C. BROAD to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Westport, 14th May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward you herewith a report upon the districts under my charge for the year ending the 31st March, 1877, together with the usual forms of statistics.

The district under my charge embraces the new settlement of Karamea on its northern boundary to a place inland some 100 miles, known as the Devil's Grip, which is also situated about the same distance up the Buller River from Westport, thence southerly some 70 miles to the Cannibal's Gorge, and thence by a straight line to the sea at Razorback. These lines embrace the following settlements: Westport, Mokihinui, Karamea, Hampden, Maruia, Matakītaki, Mangles, Lyell, Charleston, and Brighton.

A monthly Court is held at the Lyell, a distance of 44 miles from Westport, and at which the miners beyond the Lyell up the Buller River, including Hampden, Matakītaki, Maruia, and Mangles, usually attend, although it is often found necessary to proceed to Hampden, some 30 miles beyond the Lyell, for the purpose of settling disputes on the ground.

A fortnightly Court is also held at Charleston, a distance of 18 miles from Westport, at which the miners and others from Brighton, a distance of 10 miles further south, and other scattered portions of population below towards the Razorback, attend.

The Addison's Flat miners, distant some seven miles from Westport, attend that Court, which is held every Tuesday, and also as frequently as necessity arises, not interfering with the visits to the outlying districts.

The details of the work at the various Courts, together with the gold exported from Westport during the same period, are as under; but it must be mentioned that this by no means represents the total produce of gold in the district, as large quantities from the upper portion of the Buller River find their way to Nelson by the hands of local storekeepers:—

	Westport.	Charleston.	Lyell.	Totals.
Number Miners' Rights	183	305	240	628
Number Business Licenses	9	2	20	31
Number Summonses in Warden's Courts	1	36	14	51
Number Applications Registered Rights	76	487	210	773
Number Applications Gold Mining Leases	6	9	5	20
Number Applications Agricultural Leases	2	6	9	17
Resident Magistrate's Court—				
Number Criminal Cases	231	16	48	295
Number Civil Cases	394	56	58	508

Revenue.	Westport.	Charleston.	Lyell.	Totals.
Resident Magistrate's Court—				
Fees and Fines	£ s. d. 426 9 1	£ s. d. 52 6 0	£ s. d. 115 0 0	£ s. d. 593 15 1
Provincial and Public Accounts	1,636 16 6	778 14 9	1,000 0 0	3,415 11 3

Gold exported from Westport from April 1, 1876, to March 31, 1877 ...	Oz.	dwts.
	23,275	4
	£	s. d.
Duty on above gold	2,327	10 6
Value of said gold during same period ...	93,181	11 11

New Discoveries.—I have very little to report on this head during the past year. Gold has been found in a creek up the Four-Mile River, some eight miles from Charleston, and also in a creek at the Lyell, where it was not known previously to exist, but there is sufficient evidence throughout the district to show that large tracts of auriferous ground remain undisturbed, and only await population to bring to light the hidden treasures they undoubtedly possess.

Present Position of Old Workings.—The mining operations at Charleston, Brighton, Lyell, and Addison's Flat have assumed the aspect of permanent workings: although no longer sustaining the large floating population they did some years ago, yet in its place has been left a settled population with homesteads and carefully-kept gardens—many of the miners married, with families growing up around them, and not at all likely to form a portion of that nomadic class who are likely to be led away by the mere rumour of a new rush.

Population.—I am only able to give in round numbers what I consider to be the gross population of the district.

The number of persons actually engaged in mining are given in the statistical returns forwarded:

Westport	1,000
Addison's Flat	250
Karamea, Northern Terraces up Buller to Christy's	650
Razorback, on south, to Totara on north, including Charleston and Brighton	1,000
Lyell, Hampden, and Matakitaiki	500
Total... ..	3,400

The schools at Westport, Charleston, and Brighton are largely attended, and are a great boon to the district.

Roads.—The main road up the Buller, connecting Westport with Reefton and Greymouth on the one hand, and the Lyell, Matakitaiki, and Nelson on the other, is now completed, with the exception of some trifling approaches to, and a bridge over, the Lyell Creek. From, however, the nature of the ground, continual slips are occurring, which will necessitate constant supervision in order to keep the road open for wheel traffic.

In connection with the road up the Buller a new line of telegraph has been constructed from Westport, joining the Reefton line direct to Nelson, which will be of considerable advantage to the district generally.

The various other roads in the district, being now in the hands of the County Council, will no doubt receive that attention which a local knowledge of the requirements on the part of the members of the Council will enable them to give.

Railway.—The line now in course of construction by the General Government to the valuable coal deposits is now rapidly approaching completion. A branch line joining the main line from the Wellington Company's coal lease has been already constructed by that company, which will eventually serve also for the Koranui coal. The Albion Company are also putting themselves in communication with the main line of railway; and in the meantime the protective works in the river are being proceeded with, the wharves are in course of formation, and, before my next annual report, Westport will be known as a large coal-exporting place, for which its excellent harbour and the unusually good quality of the coal render it pre-eminently adapted.

Sea-beach Workings.—I cannot conclude without mentioning the sea-beach claims. Every high tide deposits large quantities of auriferous black sand: these deposits extend for many miles, and for many years have formed a remunerative as well as permanent occupation for several hundred miners. As these claims can only be worked at low water, the miners are enabled to devote their spare time to agriculture, both pursuits thus going hand in hand.

Noticeably I would mention a large party of Shetlanders between Westport and Charleston, which, although some years ago it only numbered six, has now increased to some hundred by the addition their fellow-countrymen, with wives and families, specially sent home for.

In conclusion, I have to express, after over ten years' observation of the district, my perfect confidence in its eventually becoming (and that at no distant period) an important centre of population.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES BROAD,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 13.

Mr. Warden SHAW to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Reefton, 7th May, 1877.

I have the honor, in transmitting to you the statistical returns for the districts under my charge for the year ending March 31st, 1877, to report as follows:—

Inangahua District.

Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts are held for the most part twice in each week at Reefton, and more frequently if occasion requires. There is a very noticeable absence of serious crime. Out of a total of 105 criminal charges entered, 102 were dealt with summarily; and of three persons committed for trial, two were acquitted and one was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. No more peaceable or law-abiding community could be found than in this mining district; and I believe the good example set by the sobriety and thriftiness of the Cornish miners has contributed much to the result. On the civil side 674 cases have been adjudicated upon—more than double the number of last year. The amount sued for was £8,036 8s. 11d., of which £1,805 9s. 1d. have been paid into Court. Fines and fees have amounted to £702. In the Warden's Court, 33 cases and 150 applications, including nine for cancellation of gold mining leases, have been disposed of. It would, in my opinion, be desirable if some fee were charged upon the issue of an application and notice papers, rather than, as at present, upon the subsequent registration. Numberless applications are entered in the books, and notice papers supplied, which are never brought to a hearing, and the time of the Court and its officers is not unfrequently taken up for hours in receiving evidence upon an application for the grant or cancellation of a gold mining lease, upon which no hearing fee is chargeable. The revenue for the year has been £3,427 14s. 5d., exclusive of rent paid upon agricultural leases held under the Nelson Waste Lands Act, which is forwarded through this office to Nelson.

The Reefs.—A review of the operations upon the principal lines of reefs during the past year shows that twenty claims have been more or less actively worked. Of these, those in the Boatman's District have shown by far the most marked advance; where four claims have yielded 9,574 oz. of retorted gold from 4,508 tons of stone crushed, giving an average of 2 oz. 2½ dwts. of gold per ton, represented by dividends of £21,787 10s. From the synopsis of the total yield of gold with amount of stone crushed throughout the Inangahua District for the past year, as appended, it will be observed that 33,969 tons have been crushed, with a yield of 30,628 oz., and dividends of £50,612 10s. have been declared. Last year, from about the same amount of stone, 24,278 oz. of gold were obtained, paying £27,513 in dividends. During the year ending March 31st, 1875, the dividends declared amounted to the sum of £13,000. The rate of increase averages therefore nearly 100 per cent., and, as no surer test of the prosperity of the district could be afforded than by a comparison of the divisible profits of successive years, this fact is one full of encouragement to all interested in the working and development of the Inangahua reefs. From an examination of Victorian statistics, I observe that the average output of gold for each quartz-miner is 43 oz. 2 dwts. per annum. Here, where labour-saving appliances are much more primitive and limited, the average per man is 54 oz. 16 dwts. This difference is no doubt attributable to a great extent to the fact that here only the richer reefs are considered payable—no company having been able to declare a dividend from stone having less than 10 dwts. per ton, whereas in Victoria one-third of that amount is made highly profitable; but this explanation augurs well for the future of this enormous field when worked more extensively and economically. Notwithstanding all that has been said and done, I have still to deplore a want of proper communication with the coast. After a few hours' rain all traffic is suspended, and ruinous rates for carriage are consequently charged. The small population of this town and vicinity, in all some 1,500 souls, is paying a sur-tax of some £20,000 per annum for freight over and above the cost of goods supplied. A 20-head stamper battery with engine boiler, sold in Melbourne for £2,000, would cost erected upon (say) Potter's line of reef £4,000. It is not astonishing therefore to find the development of this district to be but gradual and slow.

YIELD of GOLD, with Tons of Stone Crushed, at Inangahua during the Year ending
31st March, 1877.

Company.	Tons Crushed.	Ounces of Gold.	Dividends.		
			£	s.	d.
Golden Fleece	3,940	7,684	16,800	0	0
Wealth of Nations	9,100	6,142	8,125	0	0
Energetic	8,223	4,480	3,900	0	0
Fiery Cross	873	1,423	2,400	0	0
Just in Time	470	746	...	...	...
Hopeful	2,771	7,237	19,387	10	0
Keep it Dark	3,766	1,387	...	...	...
Phoenix	321	293	...	...	...
No. 2 South	1,533	322	...	...	...
Independent	276	172	...	...	...
Golden Ledge	120	30	...	...	...
Alexandra	394	168	...	...	...
Hercules	64	20	...	...	...
Rainy Creek	1,632	167	...	...	...
Vulcan	64	25	...	...	...
Perseverance	15	5	...	...	...
United Band of Hope	129	8	...	...	...
Caledonian	34	136	...	...	...
Victoria	130	74	...	...	...
Italian Gully	114	109	...	...	...
Total	33,969	30,628	50,612	10	0

Returns for Rainy Creek since 31st December last are not given. The gold return is correct. The tons in some cases are only approximate.

Grey Valley.

Fortnightly Courts are held at Ahaura. The regular monthly sittings at Granville have for the present been discontinued, owing to the insignificant nature and extent of the business presented. At the outbreak of the Kumara rush Granville and Half-Ounce were almost drained of their mining population. Many have returned since to their old quarters, where fair wages can always be made by the holders of water rights. In Orwell Creek much interest was felt at the completion of the Napoleon Hill Company's tunnel tail-race. The valley has been repeatedly prospected, but proved too wet for pumping. The work now finished seems to allow of the ground being proved; and although the results so far do not tally with the inflated reports which preceded a trial, they nevertheless speak well for a very large extent of auriferous country, of which this may be considered the prospecting claim.

In Ahaura the revenue for the past year amounted to the sum of £3,124 11s. 4d. The civil cases numbered 157—£1,599 2s. being sued for. Criminal cases, 82. Warden's Court cases, 12, with 308 applications.

At Nelson Creek, a completion of the Hochstetter Lake (Government) Water-race is anxiously awaited. It is hoped that before another year has elapsed a supply of water along its length will be available, and a vast impetus will be thus given to mining in this locality. Already serious complications have arisen from an interference with private rights in its construction, but the questions involved will be fully dealt with in a separate report.

In the No Town District, as at Granville, the Kumara exodus has made mining matters very dull. A tunnel tail-race, put in by Campbell and party, has drained a large extent of deep ground close to Joyce's Gully, proving both a deep and shallow lead: both easily workable. A number of Chinamen occupy the old workings, and are gleaming a fair week's wages from ground long abandoned by Europeans.

At Cobden, the only subject of interest is the occupation of the ground adjoining the North Beach under agricultural leases. As the report of the Commission of Inquiry appointed to examine into the desirability of withdrawing this tract of country from agricultural or pastoral leasing is already furnished, it is unnecessary for me to advert further to the matter.

The district within my charge has exported, during the year ending March 31st, 1877, gold to the value of £191,000, on which a sum of £4,944 3s. 2d. has been paid as duty. This amount has not been included as revenue in the statistical returns furnished from my offices.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD SHAW,
Warden.

No. 14.

Mr. Warden SHAW to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Reefton, 12th May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward you a statement of number of cases, &c., in Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts, No Town, received by me too late to be embodied in my report.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
EDWARD SHAW,
Warden.

Enclosure in No. 14.

AMOUNT sued for and received in the Resident Magistrate's Court, No Town, between the 1st April, 1876, and 31st March, 1877.

Number of Leases.	Amount Sued for.	Amount Received.	Court Fees.
32	£ s. d. 319 7 3	£ s. d. 148 15 2	£ s. d. 23 19 1

Seven Warden's cases. Court fees, £3 18s.

	No.	£	s.	d.
Received on Agricultural Leases	...	85	13	9
Gold Mining Leases	166	166	0	0
Water-races	128	6	8	0
Special Sites	54	6	15	0
Sundry Registrations	127	6	7	0
Extended Claims	1	0	5	0
Transfers and Renewal of Agricultural Leases	...	4	0	0
Business Licenses, Annual	2	10	0	0
Business Licenses, Half-yearly	19	57	0	0
Business Licenses, Quarterly	3	6	0	0

APPLICATIONS heard in the Warden's Court.

	No.
Water-races	85
Dams	33
Double Areas	23
Protections	18
Residences Areas	11
Frontage Tunnel Claims	5

No. 15.

Mr. Warden GUINNESS to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Collingwood, 16th May, 1877.

I have the honor to forward herewith statistical returns.

I have to report that this district has made no progress during the year ending 31st March. Some of the old hands have left, and more are about to do so.

I attribute the falling off of the population to the want of better communication, both by means of roads and telegraph, and until some improvements in these matters are made I see but little hope of any advancement taking place in the district. I believe that its resources, as far as regards gold mining, are quite equal to any in New Zealand, and require nothing save some assistance for improving the means of communication with other parts of New Zealand.

Since my last report, no new operations have been undertaken. A short bridle-track has been nearly completed to Burgoo, which may induce some men to prospect that locality next spring.

A considerable number of agricultural leases have been taken up in the Aorere Valley, and it may be hoped these efforts at settlement will prove successful.

I am unable to state with anything like accuracy what the amount of gold produced has been during the past year, but I believe it may be roughly estimated at about 2,000 oz.

I regret having to make so unfavourable a report.

I have, &c.,

FRANK GUINNESS,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

MARLBOROUGH GOLD FIELD.

No. 16.

Mr. Warden WHITEHORN to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

Report on the Gold Fields of the County of Marlborough, for the Year ended 31st March, 1877.

Pelorus.—As compared with last year there is no material change in the population here, and some good gold has been obtained in the river Wakamarina during the year, keeping the average earnings up to a fair standard, not less than 30s. per week. I know of some cases where as much as £8 or £9 worth per diem per man has been obtained.

I am sorry to say the reef-working which I spoke hopefully of last year has been entirely abandoned. The result of the crushing two tons in Auckland being only 7½ dwts. per ton, that compared with the previous report from the Government Analyst—namely, 3 oz. 10 dwts. 19 grs.—quite disheartened the shareholders.

Nothing has been done towards the development of the gold-bearing terraces existing alongside the Wakamarina. Probably the place where the large earnings mentioned above are obtained is the outlet of one of the terrace leads: I believe it to be so, and the find may possibly be the means of inducing some party to commence initiatory works with a view of obtaining Government assistance, to procure a supply of water, so often mentioned by me as being all that is required to give remunerative employment to a considerable number of miners on these terraces.

Wairau.—I have no change to report here: still the same population, about twenty men, earning good wages. There is every reason to believe that there is a rich lead in the Onamatutu Valley, but it is not likely to be opened by the present population, the valley being very wet, and almost the whole of it being private land. On a recent visit I was shown where as much as 100 oz. had been taken out of a small claim, but round about the same place no more payable ground could be found. Gold in the whole district, so far as at present tried, is exceedingly patchy, but the main valley is untouched.

Ravenscliff and Queen Charlotte Sound.—Both these fields are entirely deserted, the machinery erected at Ravenscliff standing idle, but I believe a company is being raised in England to go on with the workings again.

W. WHITEHORN,
Warden.

AUCKLAND GOLD FIELDS.

No. 17.

Mr. Mining Inspector GOLDSMITH to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

General Report on the Southern Portion of the Hauraki Gold Mining District, for the Year ending 31st March, 1877.

THE mining events of the year will be noticed in the order in which they occurred; some general remarks follow.

April, 1876.—The first occurrence of the year was the Ajax Company Battery being handed over by the contractors for erection, complete, to the company; they crushed 20 tons. About the same time the Tairua Company erected an engine driving 12 head stamps, great difficulty having been found in the transit, the roads being in a frightful state: this, however, was somewhat alleviated by the Government having corduroyed some of the worst portions of the road.

At Tararu the Little Agnes came on good gold, the quality varying remarkably in value.

The Waiokaraka Drainage Association, after a long period of inaction, started their pumps. This had a great influence for the better on the Waiokaraka District, so many mines having been flooded, the principal being the Bright Smile, the Queen of Beauty, the City of London, and Queen of May—all rich gold-producing mines employing a large number of miners. The Moanataiari, from No. 2 reef, obtained excellent specimen stone.

The Pumping Association refrain from sinking further at present, and spend the funds in hand prospecting at the present low level—namely, the 650-feet.

Mining generally is depressed, and many men out of work. About the middle of the month many licenses for licensed holdings for Ohinemuri were granted. Steam capstan started at Pumping Association, and promising quartz found in the 650-foot level, now advanced 32 feet. Morning Light (Owharoa) produces good specimens; a rush in consequence, and much ground pegged out.

At the end of month many miners leave for North Queensland. Tweedside getting payable gold. Red Queen get good gold; 27 tons gave 37 oz., and 21 lb. gave 91 oz.; likewise, Little Lizzie, from 120 lb. quartz, got 164 oz.

In May.—The Kuranui tributes are doing well—getting specimens. The Waitahi mine greatly improving; 68 tons give 192 oz. Alburnia tributes doing well—Bartly, from 40 tons, got 74 oz.; Holt, from 30 tons, got 30 oz.; Red Queen, from 30 tons, got 103 oz.

For some weeks past the Tairua companies have been erecting machinery, the frightful state of the roads causing great difficulty. The Ajax, for a small crushing, obtained 108 oz. The Red, White, and Blue, for 22 tons, got 46 oz., and 90 lbs. gave 22 oz.; Alburnia, for 20 tons, got 38 oz.; Little Lizzie, for 20 tons, got 200 oz., besides 57 lbs. gave 58 oz.; Tweedside, for 70 tons, got 117 oz. At Ohinemuri the Young New Zealand gave, for 2½ tons, 27 oz., value £2 19s. 3d. per oz.; the Alburnia, for 9 tons, gave 31 oz.; the Kuranui, for 150 tons, got 221 oz.

The very boisterous weather, with heavy rainfall, greatly interferes with mining at Tairua and Ohinemuri by rendering the unformed roads almost impassable.

Miners, finding but little employment in the large companies, are much engaged prospecting, and in small tributes with very varied success, some scarcely paying, some doing well.

In June.—The Kuranui, Alburnia, and other mines are letting considerable portions of their ground on tribute, with great advantage both to the mines and to the miners employed: the rates paid by miners are from 10 to 30 per cent. on gross yield of gold obtained.

The Moanataiari, working on the 70-ft. level below the tunnel level, obtain good gold occasionally. In the Waiokaraka drainage the pumps, after various hindrances, have conquered the water. On this being effected in the workings of the Piako, Queen of Beauty, and City of London, it was found that the workings were but slightly injured by lying under water for several months, special precautions having been taken.

In July.—The Cure, from 83 tons, obtained 93 oz., and from 30 tons 56 oz.; the Don Pedro, from 30 tons, got 78 oz. The Piako, City of London, Queen of Beauty, and Queen of May, forming the Waiokaraka group of mines, resume work (after some months' flooding), getting quartz, having cleared out the *débris* occasioned by the flooding—the number of miners put on being considerable. The frightful weather greatly impeded miners, the roads being still very bad.

In August.—The Queen of Beauty obtained, for a fortnight's crushing, 197 oz. This yield is the first obtained since work has been resumed after starting the Waiokaraka pumps. The Welcome's (Waitekauri) first crushing of 58 tons gave 151 oz. The Waitekauri mine began to get specimens. The Queen of May strikes rich gold. Mining prospects improving in consequence of several mines having struck good gold, together with the erection of machinery at Ohinemuri and Tairua in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, arising chiefly from bad roads.

In September.—The fine battery of the Waitekauri Company of 40 head started. This being driven by water, and carriage being trifling, the trucks running on a tramway from the mine to the battery, enables the company to make a very small yield of gold pay: from 4 dwts. to 5 dwts. covers all charges. Old Whau tribute, from 34½ tons crushed, got 283 oz., giving a dividend of £157 per man. Queen of the May, from a fortnight's crushing, got 405 oz. Nineteen claims taken up at Waitekauri, in consequence of the starting of the battery, and general good show of gold. In the Piako mine specimens found at a depth of 450 feet below high water-mark: thus controverting the theory, so cherished by certain savans, that the gold of the Thames was only superficial. Two tribute parties of the Alburnia got severally from 6 tons 60 oz. gold, and from 6 cwt. stone 98 oz. Very bad weather still prevailing.

In October.—The event of the month was the arrival of the first escort of gold from Waitekauri District—that from the Waitekauri mine being 924 oz.; from Young New Zealand, 106 oz.; from the Welcome, 324 oz.: total, 1,354 oz. The Kuranui Hill tributes, for 7½ tons quartz, got 93 oz. gold. The West Coast tribute, from 270 lbs. stone, got 125 oz. gold. Little Lizzie: 50 lbs. quartz gave 42 oz. Alburnia Tribute: 57 tons gave 425 oz. gold. Weather good; roads getting passable.

In November and December.—Queen of the May paying dividends, having banked 705 oz. during the month. Alburnia tributes also, from 206 tons, obtained 1,293 oz. gold. The Kuranui tributes, from 370 tons quartz, got 783 oz. Queen of Beauty: The month's crushing, 516 oz. Red Queen, from 84 tons, got 349 oz.

West Coast tribute, from 15 tons, got 125 ounces. A much improved feeling exists, owing to miners generally being better employed, combined with the satisfactory returns from the tributers.

The excellent working of the tribute system will appear from the following details of the Kuranui Hill United Company:—

No. of Tribute.		Quartz Crushed.	Yield of Gold.			Price per Oz.	Rate of Tribute.	Value.	Amount paid to Company.
No.	1 Tribute	Lbs. Tons.	Oz.	dwts.	grs.	£ s. d.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		120	89	16	0	2 10 8	37	227 10 0	84 3 6
2	"	45	50	0	0	2 12 2	27½	130 8 4	35 15 0
3	"	85	124	0	0	2 11 1	25	316 14 6	79 3 9
4	"	13	42	6	0	2 10 6	30	106 8 7	31 18 7
5	"	14	5	8	0	2 12 6	12½	14 3 6	1 15 5
6	"	4	3	9	0	2 12 6	20	9 1 1	1 16 2
7	"	50	29	12	0	2 13 0	30	78 8 9	23 10 6
8	"	70	187	1	0	2 12 5	15	490 14 7	73 10 7
9	"	45	38	1	0	2 11 9	30	98 9 0	29 10 6
10	"	30	22	3	0	2 10 0	12½	55 7 6	6 18 5
11	"	65	142	1	0	2 12 8	27½	374 1 1	102 7 4
12	"	24	15	13	0	2 13 0	25	41 10 9	10 7 8
13	"	3	9	18	0	2 13 0	20	26 4 9	5 4 9
14	"	5	1	7	0	2 12 6	20	3 10 10	0 14 2
15	"	9	90	5	0	2 14 2	25	244 8 6	61 2 1
16	"	7	4	1	0	2 15 0	12½	11 2 9	1 7 10
17	"	22	49	19	12	2 13 3	30	132 9 0	39 14 8
		491 tons. 120 lbs.	905	0	12			2,360 13 6	589 0 11

It will be observed that from the same mine the yield of gold is very variable, and the value of the gold differs greatly—from 50s. to 55s. per oz.

In the Alburnia Tribute, Barclay obtained, from 141 tons, 510 oz.; Queen of Beauty, for fourteen days' crushing, got 666 oz.

In January and February, 1877.—In the Waiokaraka District improvement is specially apparent. The Piako pumps have, by judicious outlay, become fully equal to their work, keeping all these important mines fully drained.

The Waitekauri mine, for 500 tons, gave 610 oz. Alburnia tributes doing well, 174 tons giving 817 oz. The Kuranui tributes, for 226 tons, gave 753 oz. Moanataiari, for 850 tons, got 586 oz.

In March.—Moanataiari, for 480 tons, got 709 oz., since which crushing a striking improvement in the yield from this mine has occurred. From 20 tons crushed the splendid yield of 400 oz. was obtained. This was followed by a large yield of rich specimens; these being crushed with the general stuff gave for 390 tons quartz the fine yield of 4,913 oz. gold, a product unexampled since the palmy Caledonian days, being an average of 12 oz. 12 dwt. on 390 tons quartz. The third week's crushing yielded 6,235 oz.: total for eighteen days' work, 11,148 oz. gold, value £29,000. The bulk of this gold was obtained from an area 10 feet x 10 feet x 3 feet = 300 cubic feet. The week ending 31st March has been still more productive, amounting to the extraordinary output of 10,298 oz. gold for six days' crushing.

The Alburnia has also obtained a remarkably remunerative yield, amounting to 1,177 oz. gold from 75 tons stone.

The yield of gold for the month of February has greatly exceeded that of former months. That of March is the largest produced for some years.

The Pumping Association has steadily and efficiently forked the water at the 650-foot level, thus draining the several mines included in their drainage area. In the northern drive at the 650-foot, below high water-mark, a quartz vein holding good gold has been cut and driven upon; it widens out in its course, with every appearance of increase.

With respect to the underground workings of the mines the workmanship is generally good; the miners, as a rule, are skilful; when bad work or inferior materials are put in, it is at once removed.

Accidents have been few; the mining rules for workmen have been rigidly enforced. Those miners who have been injured have either neglected to observe due caution or evaded the regulations.

The early months of the year were characterized by great depression; the latter portion by great success, and the most brilliant prospects for the future.

Great inconvenience has been felt during the year by miners, attended with loss of valuable time, from the enactments of the Arms Act requiring a permit to be obtained for each keg of powder purchased. Could this be altered in the ensuing session it would be accepted as a great boon.

H. GOLDSMITH,
Mining Inspector.

No. 18.

Mr. Warden KEDDELL to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Coromandel, 19th April, 1877.

I have the honor to submit the following general report on the Northern Division of the Hauraki Gold Mining District, for the year ending 31st March, 1877.

The record of events of the year presents few features of more than ordinary interest; the progress has been steady, and the yield of gold, as will be seen from the accompanying returns, considerably in advance of that of the previous year; but no new discoveries have been made, and but little change is noticeable in the district.

I divide the district and classify the principal claims as in former reports—viz., the Kapanga and the neighbouring claims affected by it, the Tokatea group, and the Union Beach and claims surrounding it.

The Kapanga Gold Mining Company's Property.—In July last, as reported by me by telegram, the lode was intersected by the cross-cut, a lead from the bottom of the 300-foot shaft. After driving upwards of 400 feet, the first contact with the reef discovered a small quantity of rich specimens; and this fact, so encouraging after the expensive and protracted labours of the company, gave great impetus to their undertaking, and a great deal of work has been done during the year. The tunnel (or cross-cut) pierced through the old Kapanga reef at the bottom of the old workings, which are some 400 feet in depth, on the diagonal dip of the vein. The immediate consequence was to flood the new works entirely, but the water was speedily got under by the large pumping engine, and work resumed. The reef was found to be 2 feet wide—all payable crushing quartz, and occasionally yielding rich specimens, estimated at 2 oz. to 4 oz. per pound. At the point of contact, some 50 tons of the reef yielded, with the specimens, 4 oz. to the ton when crushed. After ascertaining the gold-bearing nature of the reef, it became necessary for the management to find the cheapest method of sinking below the cross-cut drive, at the point of contact; and this has been happily accomplished in rather a novel manner. The old workings extend for some distance both north and south on the reef, and stoped to the surface, from which flows an interminable supply of water, keeping the pumps in the main shaft going incessantly. Captain Thomas, the manager, conceived that by a judicious arrangement of concentrating this supply to one spot, and regulating the supply by means of sluices, &c., he could utilize this water by making it drive a powerful water-wheel, which would pump the water out of the winze to be sunk on the reef, and also haul the stuff; the water, after performing this work, to run its usual course to the main shaft, where it would, as before, be pumped to surface; thus making the water, which in any case would keep the pumping engine going at a great expense, perform some work, and so reduce its own cost.

The wheel is 20 feet in diameter, overshot, and 18 inches breast.

The excavation necessary for this novel subterranean machine is very large, and required some skill in construction. The chamber containing the wheel, pumping, and hoisting gear, is 40 feet long, 30 feet high, and 14 feet wide. Since this has been completed, sinking operations have been carried on with all despatch possible, and the winze is now down about 60 feet (*i.e.*, 360 feet from surface).

The reef yields gold in payable quantities every foot, so far as sunk on, and is exceedingly regular; the average width 2 feet, with a well-defined wall. At right angles, north and south, a level is being driven on the line of reef, northerly, with the intention of reaching another gold-bearing lead formerly met with by the old company, and known as the "Albion." This is looked for in about 350 feet, and was, in old times, considered the most important portion of the lode. In a few months this mine should employ a great many men, and bring a large quantity of quartz to surface.

The character of all the reefs in the Hauraki Peninsula is the same: all are dependent for rich yields on the discovery of "runs" of gold, or specimens, and this is the case with the Kapanga. At any time such a find may be made: the reef is as strong, as well-defined, and true as it was 400 feet above, and the late important discoveries at the Thames, confirming the hopes of those who believed in the continuity of gold to great depths, should be very encouraging to the proprietors of this mine.

On the discovery of gold in Kapanga in July, a piece of ground known formerly as the "Von Tempsky Gold Mining Company's Claim," and then abandoned, was taken up under the name of the "South Kapanga," and the owners obtained permission to work from the old Kapanga workings, and they are now engaged driving for the Kapanga reef. The Golden Point Company's claim joins the Kapanga, and has several times struck good stone; but during this year but little work has been done.

In the Tokatea Company's claim, the No. 7 level has been pushed through a very hard belt of country at a great cost—in some contracts as much as £6 per foot, and is now only in about 230 feet, being little more than 200 feet to show for the last twelve months' working. I think it is a matter for regret that the company have not enlisted the services of one of the approved rock-drills, which are so favourably spoken of by all the mining journals in America and England. If the reports are reliable, they could not be worked to greater advantage than here. At the present rate, five years will have to elapse before the level reaches the proposed length; but, on the other hand, it is but justice to the directors to state that a softer country (unsuitable for drilling machinery) may be reasonably looked for in about 200 feet, judging from experience in the upper levels. Nevertheless it may be that the saving of time and money would more than compensate the company for the outlay necessary for the drilling machinery; and, when no longer needed, I do not apprehend that its owners would find any difficulty in disposing of it at a profit. The Coromandel Tunnel Company certainly languished for want of such assistance, and, after a large expenditure, had during this year to abandon their enterprise.

The Tokatea Company have purchased a new engine for their battery, which has been moved from the western to the eastern slope of the main range, and is located within a few yards of their lower level. The attention of the company has been chiefly directed to stopping, so far as the productive work is concerned, between No. 5 and 6 levels: this last (or the Van) level is in about 500 yards, entirely traversing the Van, Bismarck, and Tokatea Company's original lease, and is now progressing through another property recently acquired, formerly the Victoria and Bank of Tokatea, and nearly pierces the range from east to west (or Coromandel) side. Golden stone is steadily being grassed and crushed at the company's mill, but no great haul of specimens has been met with. The prospects of the mine are good, and the arrangements for working complete.

The Pride of Tokatea has been worked principally on the tribute system, and with varied success. In one instance eighty tons crushed for 212 oz., and another five tons for 35 oz. The large area occupied by this company (30 acres) has never contributed its fair proportion to the returns of the district, nor at any time do I consider has the company shown much energy in developing its resources. This area has been acquired at different times, till at last it assumed its present size. In the hands of their former owners the different claims so absorbed all had a good reputation, but in its present shape it has done nothing.

The Royal Oak, which in former years has paid several good dividends, has been working steadily, but the work has principally been of a preparatory character, and the yield of gold has done little more than pay expenses. Much is expected from the lower level now in progress.

Harbour View.—This old claim is still working—the upper levels chiefly by tributors, with tolerably satisfactory results.

The Bismarck, with the Van and Margareta, are engaged with the Tokatea in putting in the low level referred to. The Bismarck, besides this, is working in the stopes of its upper ground, and early in the year had a successful crushing, sufficient to clear its liabilities, and to purchase the splendid crushing plant known as "Bennett's Battery," and tramway.

Paul's Creek.—The Waverley (formerly the Three Brothers) has been working, but without result worthy of comment. Several parties are, and have been, engaged prospecting this locality, so long looked on as a land of promise by the miners, and with some reason, on account of the rich water-worn specimens found in the creek, and believed to have been shed from some reef crossing the creek. Every year sends fresh prospectors to find the source of these specimens, but, though the reefs no doubt exist, they yet remain undiscovered. The place is unfavourable for prospecting, being heavily timbered, and the ground broken up in every direction.

Waikoromiko.—In this neighbourhood nothing beyond a small tribute in the Plutus Claim. The City of Auckland, Quinton's, and the New Green Harp have been forfeited, and the first and last of these re-occupied in part lately. The Carnatic, a portion of the abandoned New Rakaia, which I noticed in last report as of recent occupation, has turned out very well, yielding about £160 per share of eight.

Another find was recently reported in its neighbourhood a month or two since, on the Waipawa Creek—loose reef gold and specimens, 2 tons yielding 20 oz. of gold. As yet no defined reef has been reported, and until this be the case experience here teaches us that such finds in this portion of the district are quite unreliable, and such "pockets" quite isolated and unaccountable.

Union Beach.—This claim has been very productive during the year, and, with the exception of a short stoppage owing to an accident, has been in full work the whole time. The circumstance alluded to occurred in September last. While the pitman was placing the "plunger" in position he left it slung with chains to the column, intending to return shortly to fix it in position, and as the water was making but slowly he supposed he would have ample time. On returning, however, he found the water had increased to such an extent as to submerge the portion of the machinery he wanted to adjust; and the engine was powerless without this connection to stop the rising of the water, and the whole works were flooded in a few hours, and the disaster affected the neighbouring claims as well. The services of divers were called into requisition, but in spite of their skill it was found necessary at last to borrow another column of pumps, which was lowered, connected with the engine, and the mine was emptied and work resumed. As soon as the water was subdued, the repairs which gave rise in the first instance to the accident were effected, and the mine worked with its own plant. The yield for the past twelve months has been exceedingly handsome—about 14,000 oz. of gold for 1,900 tons, principally derived from the rich specimens found in the cross reef. The company paid dividends amounting to £4 12s. 6d. per share on 8,000 shares.

It is to be regretted that during this time no work was done on the southern portion of this claim, to which they now propose paying attention. The Golden Pah and Venus reefs have both been tested and found auriferous when in the possession of their former owners, who transferred to the Union Beach, but the reason given seems sufficient—the chance of cutting more water when intersecting these reefs with their former limited pumping power. They are now engaged in driving from the

bottom of their main shaft (180-foot level) in the direction of the Golden Pah shaft, and are now in 190 feet. In clearing out the Pah old shaft gold was seen, but this is no new discovery, the fact being known to the former proprietors. This lode runs N.E., underlying west, is 2 feet wide, and well defined. No further sinking is contemplated in the present shaft, but, on receiving encouragement in the Pah and Venus level, a new and larger shaft, from which all future work will be carried out, will be sunk on the level ground on this portion of the company's property. The company are purchasing another (multitubular) boiler for their pumping engine, so as to have, on occasions of cleaning, scaling, &c., one of them available to continue work. Their pumps, no doubt, drain all the country underlying the high lands on Kauri Block. In all the surrounding claims which have sunk to any depth worth mentioning, large volumes of water have been met with, and the Beach shaft is far below most of them. Gold is still being found in the Green Harp reef, the first discovered in this locality.

The Palmerston Company, adjoining the Beach, have sunk a shaft 270 feet, and have intersected the Black Reef, the object of their undertaking; and have driven 40 feet along its course in their own claim. There they came in contact with what is believed to be the specimen leader which lay on the Black Reef, and was first met in the winze referred to in my last report, and from which the Beach Company took such a valuable haul of specimens. This leader diverged from the Black Reef in the Beach ground and has been lost sight of for some distance, and it is a reasonable inference to arrive at that it is the same now met with in the Palmerston; the small quantity of stone brought to surface presents the same appearance and characteristics: but unfortunately at the instant of discovery they experienced such an influx of water that their workings and the shaft up to 30 or 40 feet were flooded beyond the power of the company's small engine to keep under. This disaster is much to be deplored. The mine has been for the most part locally held, and they have struggled gallantly for the last fifteen months. It was expected that they would have received some assistance from the Beach directory, who might without inconvenience have permitted them the use of some of their upper workings, and so reduced the labour of sinking through the high land on which the boundary of the new company meets theirs: as it is, the works are, temporarily it is to be hoped, at a standstill, and this at a time when the shareholders had reason to believe they were near the goal of their hopes. This property as the New Pacific was proved to have other auriferous lodes in the south-eastern portion, and it is to be hoped that it will yet appear in the list of dividend-paying companies.

The John Bull, also formerly noticed, commenced operations under the name and ownership of the Iona Gold Mining Company, with the greatest promise of success. Gold was obtained from the reef in small but very rich specimens within a few days of their beginning to sink in the old shaft; but unfortunately, actuated by an unwise economy, the directory erected a whim for winding and lifting the water, instead of purchasing steam machinery, and after expending a large amount of money (six calls of 1s. each on their shares) they were obliged, on cutting a reef which greatly increased the water, to desist operations. I make no doubt that, whether the present owners resume work or abandon the claim, it will ultimately be worked, and I believe with success. It seems a useless expenditure of money to attempt working such properties except in a systematic manner, and this cannot be done without a heavy preliminary outlay on machinery, suitable shafts, &c. When in the hands of poor shareholders they do little more than prospect the ground for the benefit of their successors. This is the third time of occupation for the Palmerston and Iona, and no one doubts the value of these properties if in the hands of a strong company, having the means, and who would employ experienced managers to carry the works out systematically.

The Black Reef Company, as the name suggests, is another of the adjoining claims to the Union Beach. This company also, after sinking some 140 feet, abandoned the work. The prospects of this company were confined to whatever they might meet in the Black Reef, which they cut and drove on some distance. In the Union Beach, this lode of itself has not been to any great extent auriferous, and has depended for its average yield on the tributary leaders which intersected it in different points.

Another claim, chiefly owned by Auckland shareholders, commenced operations with about the same prospects as the last named—namely, cutting the Black Reef. They occupied a portion of the district adjoining the private lands of the township of Wynyardton, formerly known as the "Coromandel Harp." It was reported that their main object was the cutting of the cross leader which contributed the bulk of the gold shown for the Union Beach dividends. Whatever prospects they may have had are indefinitely postponed now, as, after sinking at some expense, they have suspended operations.

Another claim, the operations of which have been confined wholly to private lands, was taken up on ground owned by the Hon. J. Williamson, and leased from him, on the locality known as Preece's Point. Within a very few weeks after occupation it divided a very handsome dividend, derived from a very small quantity of stone. The exact yield and proportion will appear in my accompanying returns among "Certain Parcels." In the neighbourhood of this claim, many finds have from time to time been made during the many years which have elapsed since Coromandel was known to have auriferous deposits. The richness of these discoveries has been very tempting, but up to the present no well-defined gold-bearing quartz reef has been uncovered.

Population.

I can report little change in numbers, and would estimate it as last year.

In the Warden's Court business there has also been little variety—a very few cases, which are noted in return.

In the Resident Magistrate's Court, the following cases have been disposed of:—

Criminal cases	...	...	78	Fees and fines	...	£	s.	d.
Civil suits	...	...	211	Fees	...	76	18	1
Totals	...	...	289		...	107	7	6
						£184	5	7

I have, &c.,

JACKSON KEDDELL,

Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

No. 1.
STATEMENT showing the REVENUE of the GOLD FIELDS collected in the several Districts, and the GOLD DUTY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND, for the period from 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1876.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-Races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Withdrawals of Leases.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
GRAHAMSTOWN	720 0 0	...	33 0 0	1,697 7 2	65 10 6	28 10 0	...	28 17 6	122 7 0	...	196 14 0	2,892 6 2
COROMANDEL	155 0 0	...	...	703 8 2	6 7 6	10 19 0	...	...	15 0 0	...	50 14 0	941 8 8
OHINEMURI	174 10 0	...	73 0 0	1,096 5 0	43 4 0	42 9 0	4 4 0	...	...	...	242 4 6	1,675 16 6
	1,049 10 0	...	106 0 0	3,497 0 4	115 2 0	81 18 0	4 4 0	28 17 6	187 7 0	...	489 12 6	5,509 11 4

Gold duty received in the province during the year, £5,774 11s. 8d.

PROVINCE OF NELSON.

COLLINGWOOD	117 0 0	16 0 0	...	158 8 6	12 11 6	6 2 0	23 0 0	...	...	...	13 18 0	347 0 0
WESTPORT	190 0 0	39 0 0	7 1 0	560 4 3	13 12 0	1 8 0	200 0 0	...	...	4 9 6	98 14 0	1,114 8 9
CHARLESTON AND BRIGHTON	295 0 0	7 0 0	21 18 0	232 8 0	76 10 6	12 8 0	118 16 0	...	...	...	22 6 0	786 6 6
COBDEN	188 0 0	6 0 0	5 13 0	88 7 9	17 7 0	4 17 0	51 3 0	...	...	...	4 9 6	365 17 3
AHAURA	427 0 0	270 0 0	13 12 0	811 0 6	26 9 6	5 9 0	169 0 0	...	...	...	34 15 0	1,757 6 0
REEFTON	213 0 0	355 0 0	5 5 0	1,279 17 6	17 16 0	26 8 0	340 8 6	...	...	...	68 1 0	2,305 16 0
WANGAPEKA	22 0 0	...	...	103 17 6	0 11 6	...	...	...	...	...	7 6 6	133 15 6
WEST WANGANUI	5 0 0	...	...	48 0 0	0 4 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	53 4 6
LYELL	235 0 0	45 0 0	6 2 0	397 10 6	9 7 6	7 4 0	...	...	...	...	32 14 0	732 18 0
NO TOWN	183 0 0	127 0 0	5 16 0	110 13 9	14 3 0	8 2 0	6 15 0	...	...	...	6 4 0	461 13 9
	1,875 0 0	865 0 0	65 7 0	3,790 8 3	188 13 0	71 18 0	909 2 6	...	...	4 9 6	288 8 0	8,058 6 3

Gold duty received in the province during the year, £7,753 9s. 9d.

PROVINCE OF MARLBOROUGH.

HAVELOCK	61 0 0	5 12 6	0 16 0	15 0 0	4 17 0	87 5 6
----------	--------	-----	-----	-----	--------	--------	-----	-----	-----	--------	--------	--------

Gold duty received in the province during the year, £45 Os. 11d.

STATEMENT showing the REVENUE of the GOLD FIELDS collected in the several Districts, and the GOLD DUTY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND, for the period from 1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1876.

PROVINCE OF WESTLAND.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-Races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Withdrawals of Leases.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
HOKITIKA	115 0 0	36 0 0	...	12 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 0 0	165 6 0
KANIERI	388 0 0	41 0 0	31 15 0	11 0 0	32 4 6	13 15 0	30 1 0	...	...	...	0 9 0	548 4 6
GREYMOUTH	334 0 0	48 10 0	77 0 0	27 5 0	50 3 0	5 2 0	6 0 0	...	...	...	1 11 0	549 11 0
ROSS	276 0 0	35 10 0	24 15 0	85 12 0	11 2 0	20 10 0	101 10 0	...	...	...	39 14 0	594 13 0
STAFFORD	1,496 0 0	568 0 0	103 0 0	23 0 0	77 10 0	112 11 6	6 6 0	...	...	...	6 15 0	2,393 2 6
OKARITO	49 0 0	54 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	3 15 0	9 7 0	...	...	...	...	0 7 0	126 9 0
GREENSTONE	395 0 0	155 0 0	16 15 0	...	8 18 6	6 2 0	6 0 0	...	...	...	3 14 0	591 9 6
MAORI GULLY	189 0 0	50 0 0	...	...	...	13 10 0	...	...	...	...	0 16 0	253 6 0
CLIFTON	338 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	3 12 0	...	...	...	...	0 2 0	344 14 0
KUMARA	236 0 0	99 0 0	2 10 0	...	...	7 7 0	...	...	...	...	3 10 6	351 9 0
JACKSON'S BAY	36 0 0	...	...	...	1 15 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	37 15 0
	3,852 0 0	1,090 0 0	259 15 0	165 3 0	188 9 6	191 16 6	149 17 0	...	...	...	58 18 6	5,955 19 6

Gold duty received in the province during the year, £5,547 19s.

PROVINCE OF OTAGO.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-Races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Withdrawals of Leases.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
DUNEDIN	23 0 0	...	0 5 0	...	0 12 6	...	...	...	...	...	*36 16 8	388 14 2
NASEBY	858 0 0	147 0 0	44 17 6	1,725 10 9	82 10 0	65 7 0	...	...	...	...	7 17 0	2,931 2 3
BLACK'S AND ST. BATHANS	172 0 0	56 0 0	7 15 0	128 9 9	9 2 6	2 7 0	...	...	...	...	9 10 0	385 4 3
MANUHERIKIA	79 0 0	8 0 0	4 17 6	169 11 8	5 12 6	2 15 0	...	...	...	...	4 10 0	274 10 2
CLYDE	113 0 0	13 0 0	6 7 6	1,140 6 5	4 0 0	6 9 0	...	...	...	...	11 8 3	1,332 10 8
MOUNT BENDER	188 0 0	31 0 0	8 2 6	1,278 18 6	12 12 6	10 16 0	...	...	...	...	12 2 0	1,621 12 9
CROMWELL	617 0 0	190 0 0	26 7 6	411 16 7	63 17 6	22 11 0	...	...	...	...	2 15 0	1,425 14 7
QUEENSTOWN	277 0 0	25 0 0	14 0 0	2,981 14 10	16 15 0	59 6 0	...	...	...	...	32 2 3	8,085 5 7
ARROWTOWN	862 0 0	131 0 0	4 15 0	966 12 11	40 10 0	22 4 9	...	...	...	...	86 1 0	1,651 17 11
LAWRENCE	618 0 0	135 0 0	20 17 6	7,063 6 10	26 7 6	24 10 0	...	...	...	...	90 5 0	8,738 1 8
SWITZERS	217 0 0	119 0 0	6 10 0	773 4 10	14 10 0	76 10 0	235 2 6	...	...	...	17 8 0	1,517 10 10
OREPUKI	166 0 0	23 0 0	8 17 6	1 5 0	13 7 6	4 19 6	...	...	...	...	0 1 0	263 4 0
	3,690 0 0	878 0 0	153 12 6	16,640 18 1	289 17 6	297 15 3	235 2 6	1,194 1 7	...	...	5,236 1 5	28,615 8 10

Gold duty received in the province during the year, £11,847 12s. 7d.

* Of this amount, £363 6s. 8d. was received for "Agricultural Leases."

† Of this amount, £4,311 12s. 6d. was received for "Rent on Runs."

C. T. BARKIN,
Receiver-General.

No. 2.
STATEMENT showing the REVENUE of the GOLD FIELDS collected in the several Districts, and the GOLD DUTY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND, for the period from 1st JANUARY to 31st MARCH, 1877.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF AUCKLAND.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
GRAHAMSTOWN	229 0 0	...	4 0 0	80 4 7	13 19 0	9 3 0	8 19 0	0 10 0	...	6 12 6	352 8 1
COROMANDEL	24 13 4	...	...	56 0 0	2 14 6	...	...	...	...	8 7 0	91 14 10
OHINEMURI	19 5 0	...	...	346 10 0	3 6 6	...	...	...	...	41 3 6	410 5 0
	272 18 4	...	4 0 0	482 14 7	20 0 0	9 3 0	8 19 0	0 10 0	...	56 3 0	854 7 11

Gold duty received in the provincial district during the quarter, £1,006 14s. 7d.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF NELSON.

COLLINGWOOD	37 18 6	...	...	20 2 3	2 16 6	0 11 0	...	...	...	0 0 9	61 9 0
WESTPORT	41 0 0	10 0 0	1 10 0	114 7 3	3 7 6	...	5 18 6	...	...	14 4 6	190 7 9
CHARLESTON AND BRIGHTON	82 0 0	2 0 0	5 15 0	68 9 9	21 19 0	6 0 0	27 17 0	...	...	20 1 0	234 1 9
CORDEN	38 0 0	...	1 2 0	25 18 6	3 8 0	0 2 0	...	...	...	0 1 0	68 11 6
AHAURA	85 0 0	62 19 0	3 3 6	133 8 6	3 16 6	0 8 0	34 0 6	...	...	0 4 0	323 0 0
REETON	60 0 0	108 0 0	1 3 0	339 6 0	4 11 0	1 3 0	28 1 0	...	...	26 2 0	568 6 0
WANGAPEKA	50 0 0	...	...	71 6 3	...	...	...	...	...	0 2 0	121 8 3
WEST WANGANUI	1 0 0	...	...	...	0 0 6	...	...	...	...	...	1 0 6
LYELL	57 19 0	21 0 0	1 14 6	42 16 0	1 17 0	1 11 6	...	...	...	3 14 0	130 12 0
NO TOWN	43 0 0	17 0 0	1 19 0	17 0 0	2 19 6	1 17 0	...	...	...	0 1 0	83 16 6
	495 17 6	220 19 0	16 7 0	832 14 6	44 15 6	11 12 6	95 17 0	...	...	64 10 3	1,782 13 3

Gold duty received in the provincial district during the quarter, £1,957 14s. 10d.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH.

HAYLOCK	13 0 0	...	0 5 0	...	0 12 6	0 16 6	14 14 0
---------	--------	-----	-------	-----	--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------	---------

Gold duty received in the provincial district during the quarter, Nil.

No. 2—continued.
 STATEMENT showing the REVENUE of the GOLD FIELDS collected in the several Districts, and the GOLD DUTY of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND, for the period from 1st JANUARY to 31st MARCH, 1877.
 PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF WESTLAND.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
HOKITIKA	13 0 0	0 5 0	...	...	7 4 6	2 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	0 1 0	13 5 0
KANIERI	49 0 0	13 0 0	5 15 0	...	10 17 0	0 8 0	...	...	...	...	80 0 6
GREYMOUTH	58 0 0	15 0 0	16 15 0	...	5 8 0	1 15 0	...	25 0 0	...	1 7 0	101 0 0
ROSS	59 0 0	19 0 0	4 5 0	12 0 0	7 12 6	4 7 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	143 15 0
STAFFORD	83 0 0	13 0 0	18 5 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129 4 6
OKARITO	8 0 0	10 0 0	...	...	3 0 0	3 4 0	...	...	...	0 6 0	18 0 0
GREENSTONE	73 0 0	11 0 0	7 5 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97 15 0
MAORI GULLY	29 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	1 1 0	...	...	...	0 1 0	33 2 0
CLIFTON	55 0 0	...	...	...	6 17 6	18 4 0	...	...	...	0 1 0	55 1 0
KUMARA	227 0 0	259 0 0	3 0 0	...	0 5 0	...	...	...	...	3 18 6	518 0 0
JACKSON'S BAY	2 0 0	...	...	...	2 11 0	...	...	...	...	0 1 0	2 6 0
GOLDSBOROUGH	23 0 0	...	7 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33 1 0
	679 0 0	343 5 0	62 15 0	12 0 0	43 15 6	30 19 0	22 0 0	25 0 0	...	5 15 6	1,224 10 0

Gold duty received in the provincial district during the quarter, £1,961 11s. 10d.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF OTAGO.

	Miners' Rights.	Business Licenses.	Water-races, Sluices, &c.	Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties.	Registration.	Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts.	Survey Fees.	Depasturing Licenses and Assessments.	Timber and other Licenses.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
DUNEDIN	13 0 0	...	9 7 6	1,195 4 2	19 10 0	5 13 6	...	5 0 0	...	1 6 6	13 0 0
NASEBY	232 0 0	43 0 0	1 5 0	64 3 6	3 7 6	1 12 0	...	...	...	2 0 0	1,511 1 8
BLACK'S & ST. BATHANS	41 0 0	5 0 0	0 15 0	33 12 6	1 7 6	...	...	...	...	...	118 8 0
MANUHEKEIA	12 0 0	...	1 2 6	367 0 10	0 10 0	0 11 0	...	...	...	...	47 15 0
CLYDE	19 0 0	...	2 2 6	334 7 10	2 0 0	0 11 0	...	0 8 9	...	1 0 0	389 4 4
MOUNT BENGEE	35 0 0	5 0 0	4 2 6	611 14 6	9 12 6	2 15 0	...	5 19 0	...	4 0 0	383 10 1
CROMWELL	123 0 0	68 0 0	4 0 0	304 12 6	3 17 6	...	...	...	...	0 12 0	355 10 3
QUEENSTOWN	86 0 0	34 0 0	3 12 6	2,489 9 1	5 10 0	4 9 6	...	0 14 0	...	10 8 0	752 15 0
ARROWTOWN	72 0 0	15 0 0	4 10 0	680 19 2	4 2 6	6 0 6	...	17 15 3	...	0 19 0	406 17 6
LAWRENCE	109 0 0	38 0 0	1 10 0	...	4 11 6	0 5 0	...	7 7 10	...	13 18 4	2,683 1 2
SWITZERS	81 0 0	28 0 0	1 10 0	...	2 12 6	1 14 6	...	10 10 0	...	7 0 0	810 13 6
OREFUKI	33 0 0	10 0 0	1 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59 7 0
	856 0 0	246 0 0	33 17 6	6,225 8 4	57 1 6	23 17 6	...	47 14 10	...	41 3 10	7,531 3 6

Gold duty received in the provincial district during the quarter, £3,298 3s. 9d.

C. T. BARKIN,
 Receiver-General.

No. 3.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of REVENUE derived from the GOLD FIELDS in the several PROVINCES of NEW ZEALAND, during the YEARS 1875 and 1876, showing INCREASE or DECREASE under each Head of Revenue.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	AUCKLAND.			NELSON.			MARLBOROUGH.			WESTLAND.			OTAGO.		
	1875.	1876.	Increase. Decrease.	1875.	1876.	Increase. Decrease.	1875.	1876.	Increase. Decrease.	1875.	1876.	Increase. Decrease.	1875.	1876.	Increase. Decrease.
Miners' Rights ...	£ 3,191	£ 1,049	£ 2,142	£ 2,249	£ 1,875	£ 374	£ 45	£ 61	£ 16	£ 2,820	£ 3,852	£ 1,032	£ 4,064	£ 3,690	£ 374
Business Licenses ...	48	...	48	1,180	865	315	...	...	...	629	1,090	461	1,115	878	237
Water-races, Sluices, &c. ...	111	106	5	64	65	1	...	...	...	268	260	8	157	154	3
Gold Mining Leases, Rents, and Royalties...	3,120	3,497	377	4,197	3,790	407	59	...	59	62	165	103	17,767	16,641	1,126
Registration ...	239	115	124	192	189	3	5	6	1	174	188	14	295	290	5
Fees and Fines, Wardens' Courts ...	201	82	119	77	72	5	...	1	1	142	192	50	269	298	29
Survey Fees ...	...	4	4	732	909	177	...	...	...	129	150	21	80	235	155
Memorial Deposits of Companies ...	...	...	...	10	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Depositing Licenses and Assessments ...	29	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,505	1,194	5,311
Timber and other Licenses ...	123	137	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Withdrawals of Leases ...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	15	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	336	490	154	458	288	170	6	5	...	24	59	35	2,263	5,236	2,973
Gold Duty ...	6,439	5,775	714	9,276	7,753	1,523	116	45	...	7,050	5,548	...	12,142	11,848	294
Totals ...	13,887	11,284	Net 2,603	18,435	15,810	Net 2,625	237	133	Net 104	11,298	11,504	Net 206	44,659	40,464	Net 4,195

C. T. BARKIN,
Receiver-General.

No. 4.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the TOTAL AMOUNTS of GOLD FIELDS REVENUE (exclusive of Gold Duty) collected in the several Districts during the YEARS 1875 and 1876, and the QUARTERS ended 31st MARCH, 1876 and 1877, showing the INCREASE or DECREASE in respect of each District.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT.		DISTRICT.	1875.	1876.	INCREASE.	DECREASE.		
			£	£	£	£		
AUCKLAND	...	Grahamstown	4,552	2,892	...	1,660		
		Coromandel	1,004	941	...	63		
NELSON	...	Ohinemuri	1,842	1,676	...	166		
		Collingwood	348	347	...	1		
		Westport	1,320	1,114	...	206		
		Charleston and Brighton	750	786	36	...		
		Cobden	236	366	130	...		
		Ahaura	2,394	1,757	...	637		
		Reefton	3,058	2,306	...	752		
		Wangapeka	169	134	...	35		
		West Wanganui	32	53	21	...		
		Lyell	416	733	317	...		
MARLBOROUGH	...	No Town	435	462	27	...		
		Havelock	121	87	...	34		
WESTLAND	...	Hokitika	36	165	129	...		
		Kanieri	589	548	...	41		
		Greymouth	568	550	...	18		
		Ross	634	595	...	39		
		Stafford	975	2,393	1,418	...		
		Okarito	231	126	...	105		
		Greenstone	535	591	56	...		
		Maori Gully	530	253	...	277		
		Clifton	349	345	...	4		
		Kumara	...	351	351	...		
		Jackson's Bay	...	38	38	...		
		OTAGO	...	Dunedin	359	389	30	...
				Naseby	3,301	2,931	...	370
				Black's and St. Bathans	552	385	...	167
				Manuherikia	438	275	...	163
				Clyde	815	1,333	518	...
Mount Bengier	1,548			1,622	74	...		
Cromwell	1,728			1,426	...	302		
Queenstown	9,907			8,085	...	1,822		
Arrowtown	2,802			1,652	...	1,150		
Lawrence	9,543			8,738	...	805		
Switzers	1,237			1,518	281	...		
Orepuki	286			263	...	23		
		Total	53,640	48,226	3,426	8,840		
		Deduct increase	...	...	...	3,426
		Total decrease	...	...	...	5,414
1st JANUARY to 31st MARCH.			1876.	1877.				
AUCKLAND	...	Grahamstown	676	352	...	324		
		Coromandel	149	92	...	57		
		Ohinemuri	251	410	159	...		
NELSON	...	Collingwood	100	61	...	39		
		Westport	485	190	...	295		
		Brighton and Charleston	234	234	...	...
		Cobden	144	69	...	75		
		Ahaura	527	323	...	204		
		Reefton	1,199	568	...	631		
		Wangapeka	30	121	91	...		
		West Wanganui	4	1	...	3		
		No Town	176	84	...	92		
		Lyell	170	131	...	39		
MARLBOROUGH	...	Havelock	25	15	...	10		
		Hokitika	12	13	1	...		
WESTLAND	...	Kanieri	131	80	...	51		
		Greymouth	121	101	...	20		
		Ross	144	144	...	...
		Stafford	250	129	...	121		
		Okarito	44	18	...	26		
		Greenstone	123	98	...	25		
		Maori Gully	87	33	...	54		
		Clifton	114	55	...	59		
		Kumara	...	518	518	...		
		Jackson's Bay	...	2	2	...		
		Goldsborough	...	33	33	...		
		OTAGO	...	Dunedin	38	13	...	25
				Naseby	777	1,511	734	...
				Black's and St. Bathans	95	118	23	...
				Manuherikia	67	48	...	19
				Clyde	539	389	...	150
Mount Bengier	441			384	...	57		
Cromwell	395			356	...	39		
Queenstown	1,491			753	...	738		
Arrowtown	504			407	...	97		
Lawrence	1,924			2,683	759	...		
Switzers	388			811	423	...		
Orepuki	37			59	22	...		
		Total	11,892	11,407	2,765	3,250		
		Deduct increase	...	...	...	2,765
		Total decrease	...	...	...	485

No. 5.

RETURN of the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD ENTERED for DUTY for EXPORTATION from NEW ZEALAND, during the YEAR ended 31st DECEMBER, 1876.

ENTERED FOR DUTY AT	PRODUCE OF THE GOLD FIELDS IN THE PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF	TOTALS.	
		Quantity.	Value.
Auckland	Auckland	Oz. 56,057	£ 221,905
Picton	Marlborough	450	1,796
Auckland	Nelson	14,018	55,862
Nelson	"	6,812	26,387
Westport	"	21,774	87,175
Greymouth	"	48,950	195,793
		91,554	365,217
Greymouth	Westland	19,991	79,972
Hokitika	"	35,487	141,947
		55,478	221,919
Dunedin	Otago	108,953	435,278
Invercargill	"	9,524	38,213
		118,477	473,491
Totals		322,016	1,284,328

NOTE.—As much of the gold is now removed coastwise from port to port within the colony before it is finally exported, it has been found impossible, except by delaying the publication of this Return, to show the countries to which it is exported, from the various districts; the columns for this information have therefore been omitted from this Return. The names of the countries to which the gold is exported will be found correctly stated in the Quarterly and Annual Returns of General Exports.

Customs Department,
Wellington, 1st May, 1877.

WILLIAM SEED,
Secretary and Inspector of Customs.

No. 6.

RETURN of the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD ENTERED for DUTY for EXPORTATION from NEW ZEALAND, from 1st APRIL, 1857, to 31st MARCH, 1877.

ENTERED FOR DUTY AT	PRODUCE OF THE GOLD FIELDS IN THE PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF	DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1877.		ENTERED FOR EXPORTATION PREVIOUS TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1876.		TOTAL ENTERED FOR EXPORTATION FROM NEW ZEALAND TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1877.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Auckland	Auckland	Oz. 10,067	£ 39,742	1,056,140	3,789,539	1,066,207	3,829,281
Wellington	Wellington ... ..	...	...	30	120	30	120
Picton	Marlborough ... ..	...	...	44,687	173,456	44,687	173,456
Nelson	Nelson	1,230	4,727	} 1,578,250	} 6,266,774	} 1,596,465	} 6,339,439
Westport	"	6,622	26,488				
Greymouth	"	10,363	41,450				
		18,215	72,665				
Greymouth	Westland	7,130	28,522	} 2,014,026	} 7,963,468	} 2,035,004	} 8,047,377
Hokitika	"	13,848	55,387				
		20,978	83,909				
Dunedin	Otago	31,288	126,994	} 3,584,178	} 14,075,757	} 3,617,159	} 14,209,608
Invercargill	"	1,693	6,857				
		32,981	133,851				
Totals		82,241	330,167	8,277,311	32,269,114	8,359,552	32,599,281

Customs Department,
Wellington, 11th April, 1877.

WILLIAM SEED,
Secretary and Inspector of Customs.

No. 7.

RETURN of the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD EXPORTED from NEW ZEALAND, for the QUARTERS ended 31st MARCH, 1876, and 31st MARCH, 1877.

PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF	QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1877.		QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1876.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Auckland	10,067	39,742	13,809	53,648
Nelson	18,215	72,665	17,152	68,049
Westland	20,978	83,909	13,794	55,176
Otago	32,981	133,851	38,521	153,650
Totals	82,241	330,167	83,276	330,523

Customs Department,
Wellington, 11th April, 1877.

WILLIAM SEED,
Secretary and Inspector of Customs.

No. 8.

STATEMENT showing the PRICE of GOLD per OUNCE, PRICE charged per TON for CRUSHING QUARTZ or CEMENT, and PRICES charged for WATER per SLUICE-HEAD per WEEK, during the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.	Price of Gold per Ounce.	Price charged per Ton for crushing Quartz or Cement.	Price charged for Water per Sluice-head per Week.	REMARKS.	
AUCKLAND—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
North Hauraki... ..	{ 2 10 0 to 3 1 6	{ 0 6 6 to 0 12 6	{ ... 7/6 per h.p. 1/- per stamp-h. to 2/6 per 10 h.p. for steam boilers.		
South Hauraki... ..	2 13 0	{ 0 4 0 to 0 12 0			
MARLBOROUGH—					
Pelorus	3 13 0				
Wairau	3 13 0				
NELSON—					
Charleston	3 16 0	{ ... 0 10 0 to 0 15 0	2 5 0	} 20 in. to the sluice-head.	
Inangahua	3 16 0		...		
Cobden	3 17 0	...	1 10 0		
Ahaura	3 16 6	...	2 0 0		
Collingwood	3 13 6	...	...
Westport	3 16 0	1 0 0	2 5 0		
Lyell	3 15 0	1 0 0	0 10 0		
WESTLAND—					
Waimea	3 16 0	...	3 0 0	} 40 in. to the sluice-head.	
Totara	3 16 0	...	4 0 0		
No Town	3 16 0	...	1 10 0		
Greymouth	3 16 0	...	2 0 0		
Clifton	3 16 0	...	1 0 0		
Arnold	3 16 0	...	4 0 0		
Greenstone	3 16 0	...	2 0 0		
Kumara	3 16 0	...	6 0 0		
Kanieri	3 16 0	...	3 0 0		
Jackson's Bay	3 16 0	...	1 0 0		
Okarito	{ 3 14 6 to 3 16 0	...	6 0 0		
OTAGO—					
Hindon	3 15 0		} 100 in. to the sluice-head.
Tuapeka	3 15 6	...	{ 1 0 0 to 6 0 0		
Dunstan	3 15 6	0 15 0	{ 2 10 0 to 3 10 0	} 40 in. to the sluice-head.	
Queenstown	3 15 6	...	...
Orepuki	3 16 0	...	2 0 0		
Switzers	3 15 6	...	...
Arrow	{ 3 15 6 to 3 17 9	{ 1 0 0	1 0 0		
Mount Ida	3 15 6	1 0 0	1 10 0		16 in. by 1 in.

No. 9.

NUMBER of MINERS EMPLOYED during the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.	ALLUVIAL MINERS.		QUARTZ MINERS.		TOTALS.		GRAND TOTALS.
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	
AUCKLAND—							
North Hauraki ... ..	...	...	250	...	250	...	250
South Hauraki ... ..	...	...	1,537	...	1,537	...	1,537
MARLBOROUGH—							
Pelorus	40	...	...	...	40	...	40
Wairau	20	...	...	...	20	...	20
NELSON—							
Collingwood	110	...	...	...	110	...	110
Takaka	20	...	...	...	20	...	20
Inangahua	60	50	450	...	510	50	560
Ahaura	34	...	...	...	34	...	34
Nelson Creek	130	12	...	...	130	12	142
Orwell Creek	100	...	...	...	100	...	100
Half-Ounce	52	...	...	...	52	...	52
Moonlight	40	...	...	...	40	...	40
Black Ball	18	8	...	...	18	8	26
Waipuna	55	15	...	...	55	15	70
Cobden	63	...	...	...	63	...	63
Brunnerton	33	...	...	...	33	...	33
Charleston	435	...	...	...	435	...	435
Westport	400	...	35	...	435	...	435
Lyell	250	20	75	...	325	20	345
WESTLAND—							
Waimea	738	159	...	...	738	159	897
Totara	414	36	...	...	414	36	450
No Town	107	41	...	...	107	41	148
Red Jack's	33	18	...	...	33	18	51
Bell Hill	8	...	...	...	8	...	8
Dead Man's	6	...	...	...	6	...	6
Kanieri	30	...	...	...	30	...	30
Woodstock	110	...	...	...	110	...	110
Blue Spur and Arahura ...	135	6	...	...	135	6	141
South Beach	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Kanieri River	40	2	...	...	40	2	42
Hau-Hau and Big Paddock	60	16	...	...	60	16	76
Kumara	2,746	4	...	...	2,746	4	2,750
Greymouth	127	115	...	...	127	115	242
Greenstone	300	150	...	...	300	150	450
Clifton	225	200	...	...	225	200	425
Arnold	130	70	...	...	130	70	200
Okarito	100	...	...	...	100	...	100
Jackson's Bay and Big Bay	17	...	...	...	17	...	17
OTAGO—							
Hindon	55	50	...	...	55	50	105
Tuapeka	430	450	20	...	450	450	900
Queenstown	400	300	50	...	450	300	750
Clyde	100	20	...	...	100	20	120
Cromwell	350	200	80	...	430	200	630
Alexandra	120	50	...	...	120	50	170
Nevis	80	200	...	...	80	200	280
Teviot	180	100	...	...	180	100	280
Black's	190	250	...	...	190	250	440
Switzers, Dome Creek, Gow's, and Upper Waikaia	100	250	...	...	100	250	350
Nokomai	20	92	...	...	20	92	112
Waikaka	30	150	...	...	30	150	180
Orepuki	158	40	...	...	158	40	198
Arrow	49	18	...	...	49	18	67
Macetown	20	17	40	1	60	18	78
Cardrona	40	100	...	...	40	100	140
Kawarau	43	12	...	...	43	12	55
Bracken's	10	4	...	...	10	4	14
Motatapu	2	22	...	...	2	22	24
Naseby	300	110	...	...	300	110	410
Kyeburn and Clarke's ...	90	150	...	...	90	150	240
Hamilton's, Sowburn, &c. ...	80	25	...	...	80	25	105
Hyde and Fullarton's ...	90	30	...	...	90	30	120
Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Shag Valley	120	100	...	...	120	100	220
Serpentine	50	20	...	...	50	20	70
Maerewhenua	70	...	...	...	70	...	70
St. Bathans and Ida Valley	120	...	20	...	140	...	140
Other localities	20	25	...	...	20	25	45

SUMMARY.

AUCKLAND ... ..	...	...	1,787	...	1,787	...	1,787
MARLBOROUGH	60	...	...	...	60	...	60
NELSON	1,800	105	560	...	2,360	105	2,465
WESTLAND	5,328	817	...	...	5,328	817	6,145
OTAGO	3,317	2,785	210	1	3,527	2,786	6,313
TOTALS	10,505	3,707	2,557	1	13,062	3,708	16,770

TABLE showing the AVERAGE RATE of WAGES per WEEK, for the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.	General Managers.		Legal Managers.		Mining Managers.		Engineers.		Engine Drivers.		Stokers.		Blacksmiths.		Carpenters.		Miners.		Labourers.		Boys.		Chinese.		Agricultural Labourers.		Domestic Servants.				
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.			
AUCKLAND—	£5	to £10	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	10	to 16/	
North Hauraki	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	10	to 16/	
South Hauraki	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	8	to 12/	
NELSON—	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	5	to 12/	
Collingwood	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	5	to 12/	
Takaka	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	£1	10	to £2
Inangahua	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Charleston	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Westport	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Lytell	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Grey Valley	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Cobden	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
WESTLAND—	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Waimea	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Totara	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
No Town	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Kauiari	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Kumara	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Greymouth	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Clifton	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Arnold	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Greenstone	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Okarito	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Jackson's Bay	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
OTAGO—	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Hindon	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Tuapeka	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Queenstown	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Cromwell	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Clyde	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Alexandra	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Black's	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Teviot	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Nevis	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Switzers	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Orepuki	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Arrow	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Macetown	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	
Mount Ida	£1	to £2	£3	to £6	£2	10	to £3	2	10	0	£3	10	to £3	12	22	to £3	10	£1	16	to £2	2	2	0	2	0	0	18	to 30/	

TABLE showing approximately the NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, and VALUE of the WATER-RACES, TAIL-RACES, DAMS, RESERVOIRS, and GROUND SLICES, in operation during the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICTS.	WATER-RACES.			TAIL-RACES.		DAMS.		RESERVOIRS.		GROUND SLICES.		
	Number.	Length in Miles.	Number of Sluice-heads.	Approximate Cost. £	Number.	Approximate Cost. £	Number.	Approximate Cost. £	Number.	Approximate Cost. £	Number.	Approximate Cost. £
AUCKLAND—												
Hauraki North	14	10	45	3,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hauraki South	60	20½	150	17,160	...	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...
MARLBOROUGH—												
Pelorus	10	12	40	1,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NELSON—												
Collingwood	47	28	54	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Takaka.	7	6	9	620	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inangahua	40	36	109	3,420	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charleston	273	155	2,730	3,100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Westport	60	39	168	Not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lytell	150	150	300	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WESTLAND—												
Waimea	600	280	750	45,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totara	60	50	160	70,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No Town	70	40½	102	1,164	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red Jack's	14	15	25	450	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kanieri*	125	105	300	40,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kumara	47	60½	49	15,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greymouth	114	102½	151	7,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clifton	68	66½	104	2,671	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arnold	91	64	108	4,475	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greenstone	74	64	242	16,323	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Okerito	30	48	112	3,750	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jackson's Bay	1	4	40	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
OTAGO—												
Hindon	25	17½	27	1,177	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuapeka	274	995	885	No information	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queenstown	300	430	350	4,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clyde					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cromwell					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alexandra					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black's					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Teviot					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nevis					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Switzers					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orepuki					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrow					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naseby					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kyeburn and Clarke's					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamilton's, Sowburn, Rock and Pillar					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyde and Fullarton's					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Shag Valley					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Serpentine					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maerwhenua					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Bathans and Ida Valley					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other localities					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Including Lake Kanieri Lake Water-race, constructed at a cost of £22,000. (For price of water, see Return No. 8.)

No. 13. NUMBER OF MACHINES EMPLOYED IN ALLUVIAL AND QUARTZ MINING, for the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICTS.	MACHINERY EMPLOYED IN ALLUVIAL MINING.										MACHINERY EMPLOYED IN QUARTZ MINING.							APPROXIMATE VALUE OF PLANT INCORPORATED IN THIS RETURN.						
	Pudding Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Stutes, Toms, and Sluice Boxes.	Water Wheels.	Hydraulic Hose.	Ramps.	Dredges.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Derricks.	Stamp Heads, Crushing Cement.	Boring Machines.	Steam Engines employed Winding, Crushing, &c.		Crushing Machines.	Stamp Heads.	Water Wheels.		Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Buddles.			
													No.	Aggregate Horse Power.										
AUCKLAND—																								
North Hauraki	10	222	13	137	7	1	..	..	..	..	65,000	
South Hauraki	42	1,361	40	850	18	3	..	..	..	..	206,900	
MARLBOROUGH—													52	1,583	53	997	25	4	..	..	..	..	271,900
Pelorus and Wairau	250	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	825		
NELSON—																								
Collingwood and Takaka	45	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	98	10	160	6	1	..	..	..	..	325	
Inangahua	21	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,800	
Charleston	50	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,705	
Lytell	45	..	50	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,300	
Westport	160	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,500	
Ahaura	840	..	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	380	
Nelson Creek	650	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	
Orwell Creek	480	..	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,280	
Half-Ounce	180	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,100	
Moonlight	120	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250	
Black Ball	500	..	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	
Waipuna	57	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,460	
Cobden	1	2	1
WESTLAND—																								
Waimea	3,077	28	418	..	6	..	..	..	..	6	98	14	193	10	1	..	..	..	..	90,160	
Totara	6,000	10	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,000	
Kanieri	100	9	60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,000	
Grey mouth	125	1	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	
Clifton	80	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	400	
Arnold	425	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	480	
Greenstone	200	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212	
Okarito	2,000	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,500	
Kumara	100	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	
Red Jack's and No Town	2,000	..	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,165	
	3	2	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	255	
OTAGO—																								
Hindon	11,033	31	502	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,812	
Tuapeka	50	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	760	
Queenstown	1,000	25	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	
Clyde, Cromwell, Alexandra, Black's, Teviot, Nevis	300	5	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,000	
Orepuki	1,000	80	700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,000	
Switzers	180	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	480	
Arrow	1,200	3	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,200	
Naseby	400	8	43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,000	
Kyeburn and Clarke's	250	..	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	
Hamilton's, Sowburn, Rock and Pillar	100	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,200	
Hyde and Fullerton's	40	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	450	
Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Slag Valley	15	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	
Serpentine and Maerewhenua	50	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	600	
St. Bathans, Ida Valley, and other localities	40	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500	
	70	..	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,600	
	1	4	1	4,695	71	1,132	127	6	150	60	..	..	5	95	19	164	16	8	5	..	..	..	125,940

No. 14.

SUMMARY.—NUMBER of MACHINES employed in ALLUVIAL and QUARTZ MINING for the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICTS.	MACHINERY EMPLOYED IN ALLUVIAL MINING.											MACHINERY EMPLOYED IN QUARTZ MINING.						Approximate Value of all Mining Plant included in this Return.				
	Puddling Machines.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Sluices, Toms, and Sluice Boxes.	Water Wheels.	Hydraulic Hose.	Pumps.	Dredges.	Quicksilver and Compound Cradles.	Derricks.	Stamp Heads, crushing Cement.	Boring Machines.	No.	Steam Engines employed Winding, Crushing, &c.	Aggregate h. p.	Crushing Machines.	Stamp Heads.		Water Wheels.	Whims.	Whips or Pulleys.	Buddles.
AUCKLAND ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	1,583	53	987	25	4	5	...	...	£ 271,900
MARLBOROUGH ...	...	...	...	280	2	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	825
NELSON ...	1	2	3,077	28	418	81	6	...	...	126	6	98	14	193	10	1	1	13	...	...	90,160
WESTLAND ...	5	8	11,033	31	502	83	12	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,812
OTAGO ...	1	4	4,675	71	1117	127	6	6	150	60	...	5	95	19	164	16	8	5	...	...	125,640
TOTAL ...	110	11	19,065	132	2037	301	6	24	150	187	1	63	1,776	86	1344	51	13	11	13	...	£526,337	

No. 15.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of GOLD MINING COMPANIES REGISTERED under "The Mining Companies Limited Liability Act, 1865," and Amending Acts, the Joint Stock Companies Act, and "The Mining Companies Act, 1872," upon 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.	UNDER "MINING COMPANIES LIMITED LIABILITY ACT, 1865," AND AMENDING ACTS.			UNDER JOINT STOCK ACT.			UNDER "MINING COMPANIES ACT, 1872."		
	No.	Nominal Capital.	Paid-up Capital.	No.	Nominal Capital.	Paid-up Capital.	No.	Nominal Capital.	Paid-up Capital.
AUCKLAND—		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
*North Hauraki ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Hauraki ...	160	2,891,950	2,258,756 0 0	18	418,000	256,570 18 0	...	...	...
Grahamstown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	499,900	40,000 0 0
	160	2,891,950	2,258,756 0 0	18	418,000	256,570 18 0	37	499,900	40,000 0 0
NELSON—									
Charleston ...	3	11,000	11,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Westport ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	24,400	1,076 3 2
Lyell ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	48,000	5,399 18 5
Ahaura ...	1	2,400	1,350 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orwell Creek ...	3	24,600	20,550 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moonlight ...	1	1,500	450 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nelson Creek ...	1	1,800	1,020 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9	41,300	34,370 0 0	...	...	...	5	72,400	49,077 1 7
WESTLAND—									
Waimea ...	...	...	...	1	3,750	3,500 0 0	...	...	...
Totara ...	1	12,800	12,800 0 0	1	8,000	8,000 0 0	...	...	...
Kanieri ...	2	3,236	3,236 0 0	1	2,000	1,000 0 0	...	...	...
Kumara ...	...	...	...	1	4,000	2,500 0 0	...	...	...
Clifton ...	2	16,000	13,500 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greenstone ...	1	5,000	3,500 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	6	37,036	33,036 0 0	4	17,750	15,000 0 0	...	...	...
OTAGO—									
Tuapeka ...	12	46,975	24,602 0 0	...	...	...	2	10,900	6,090 15 0
Cromwell ...	7	64,400	33,650 0 0	1	10,000	2,400 0 0	8	108,400	82,500 0 0
Clyde ...	2	4,500	2,800 0 0	...	...	...	2	23,000	6,000 0 0
Black's ...	5	17,400	9,000 0 0	...	...	...	3	29,000	3,500 0 0
Queenstown ...	3	43,995	35,841 2 6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arrow ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
Naseby ...	5	24,620	24,620 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyde and Fullarton's ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6,000	4,500 0 0
Maerewhenua ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16,600	11,460 0 0
St. Bathans & Ida Valley	2	19,600	19,600 0 0	...	...	...	1	9,600	7,233 0 0
	36	221,490	150,113 2 6	1	10,000	2,400 0 0	28	203,500	121,283 15 0

* No record kept here since Act of 1872 came into force.

No. 16.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MINING LEASES in force on 31st MARCH, 1877, the EXTENT of GROUND LEASED, and RENTAL per ANNUM.

MINING DISTRICT.	NUM- BER.	GROSS ACREAGE.	RENTAL PER ANNUM.	MINING DISTRICT.	NUM- BER.	GROSS ACREAGE.	RENTAL PER ANNUM.
AUCKLAND—		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	WESTLAND—		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Hauraki North ...	2	17 0 11	34 2 9	Waimea ...	3	21 0 0	105 0 0
Grahamstown ...	8	22 0 35	42 3 9	Totara ...	6	33 0 0	101 0 0
	10	39 1 6	76 6 6	No Town ...	1	16 2 10	17 0 0
MARLBOROUGH—				Red Jack's... ..	1	10 0 0	15 0 0
Ravenscliffe ...	7	67 2 38	135 9 6	Kanieri ...	2	11 0 0	11 0 0
Wairau ...	1	16 0 0	32 0 0	Kumara ...	1	1 0 0	5 0 0
Queen Charlotte Sound	1	5 0 0	10 0 0	Greymouth ...	1	5 0 0	25 0 0
	9	88 2 38	177 9 6	Okarito ...	1	5 0 0	25 0 0
NELSON—				Jackson's Bay ...	2	32 0 0	160 0 0
Collingwood ...	14	74 2 17	73 0 0		18	134 2 10	464 0 0
Inangahua ...	54	529 3 11	1,201 10 0	OTAGO—			
Charleston ...	25	163 2 15	182 0 0	Tuapeka ...	33	170 3 32	475 0 6
Ahaura ...	1	9 2 35	20 0 0	Queenstown ...	80	403 3 28	1,047 10 0
Nelson Creek ...	7	37 2 35	68 0 0	Cromwell ...	10	130 0 0	325 0 0
Orwell Creek ...	9	90 0 0	110 0 0	Black's ...	2	24 0 0	60 0 0
Half-Ounce ...	2	20 0 0	22 0 0	Arrow ...	13	109 0 0	272 10 0
Westport ...	16	196 0 34	257 17 6	Naseby ...	1	10 0 0	25 0 0
Lyell ...	9	101 0 30	250 15 0	Kyeburn and Clarke's and Shag Valley	8	47 0 0	117 10 0
	137	1,322 3 17	2,185 2 6	Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Shag Valley	1	16 0 0	40 0 0
				St. Bathans and Ida Valley	15	89 0 0	222 10 0
				Other localities ...	1	10 0 0	25 0 0
					164	1009 3 20	2,610 0 6

No. 17.

RETURN of the NUMBER of AGRICULTURAL LEASES in force on the 31st MARCH, 1877, the EXTENT of GROUND LEASED, and RENTAL per ANNUM.

MINING DISTRICT.	NUM- BER.	GROSS ACREAGE.	RENTAL PER ANNUM.	MINING DISTRICT.	NUM- BER.	GROSS ACREAGE.	RENTAL PER ANNUM.
AUCKLAND—		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	OTAGO— <i>contd.</i>		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Hauraki Ohinemuri	59	2,950 0 0	147 10 0	Queenstown† ...	188	11,336 1 37	1,417 10 0
NELSON—				Cromwell † ...	14	1,802 0 0	226 10 0
Collingwood ...	17	870 0 39	88 7 6	Clyde † ...	8	3,144 0 0	393 0 0
Inangahua ...	60	4,056 3 33	498 1 0	Teviot † ...	56	4,570 0 0	571 5 0
Charleston ...	26	373 3 0	45 0 0	Black's † ...	8	329 0 0	41 2 6
Westport ...	29	1,277 0 13	192 5 6	Alexandra † ...	15	925 0 0	115 12 6
Lyell ...	29	1,347 0 23	165 1 0	Switzers ...	35	8,107 0 0	1,008 10 0
Grey Valley ...	94	5,156 2 5	584 14 0	Orepuki ...	2	60 0 0	7 10 0
	255	13,081 2 33	1,573 9 0	Arrow ...	102	6,410 0 0	801 5 0
WESTLAND—				Naseby ...	21	3,563 3 23	445 10 0
Waimea ...	12	37 3 7	11 7 0	Kyeburn and Clarke's	1	640 0 0	80 0 0
No Town ...	24	857 1 20	100 0 6	Hamilton's and Sowburn	5	1,749 2 32	218 10 0
Greymouth ...	3	29 1 7	6 4 0	Hyde and Fullar- ton's	7	1,380 3 23	172 12 6
Arnold ...	1	3 0 24	0 16 0	Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Shag Valley	17	2,397 1 24	299 12 6
Okarito ...	2	63 0 0	6 0 0	St. Bathans and Ida Valley	15	3,127 2 24	391 0 0
	42	990 2 18	124 7 6	Other localities...	3	1,657 2 9	267 5 0
OTAGO—					842	83,489 1 6	10,513 10 0
*Hindon ...	7	1,640 0 0	205 0 0				
Tuapeka ...	338	30,646 2 34	3,851 15 0				

* Under Otago Waste Lands Act—

	No.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Exchange Leases ...	117	5,021 0 23	629 7 6
Occupation Licenses ...	127	20,118 2 8	3,370 2 0

† Under Otago Waste Lands Act—

Licenses and Leases ...	96	9,406 0 0	1,318 0 0
-------------------------	----	-----------	-----------

No. 18.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LICENSES under "The Gold Mining Districts Act, 1871," for the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.						NUMBER.	GROSS ACREAGE.	RENTAL PER ANNUM.
AUCKLAND—							A. R. P.	£ s. d.
North Hauraki	...	...	...	...	...	38	255 2 30	767 0 0
Grahamstown	...	...	...	...	...	91	522 3 20	1,611 0 0
Ohinemuri	...	...	...	...	...	80	368 0 18	1,097 0 0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	209	1,146 2 28	3,475 0 0

No. 19.

RETURN of CASES in the WARDENS' COURTS, and COSTS AWARDED, for the YEAR ending 31st MARCH, 1877.

MINING DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF MINING DISPUTES ADJUDICATED ON.	AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF VALUE.		AMOUNT OF COSTS AWARDED.	CASES WHEREIN JUDGMENT HAS DECREED SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE.		
		Claimed.	Recovered.		No.	Remarks.	
AUCKLAND—		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
North Hauraki	21	130 6 0	7 0 0	5 9 0	...		
Grahamstown	56	301 10 0	266 0 0	29 6 0	...		
Ohinemuri	33	...	...	...	33	
NELSON—							
Collingwood	7	...	...	3 16 0	1	
Takaka	1	...	...	1 10 0	1	
Inangahua	33	2,530 18 0	177 1 2	177 9 0	...	The amount inserted is merely the amount paid into Court, and does not represent the amount for which judgments have been given.	
Lyell	6	40 0 0	10 0 0	6 17 0	...		
Westport	1	...	...	...	...
Charleston	32	90 16 0	64 17 10	12 2 0	...		
Cobden	8	5 10 0	1 0 0	8 4 0	...		
Abaura	10	134 0 0	16 0 0	17 19 0	1		
Granville	2	8 0 0	5 0 0	0 13 0	1		
No Town	7	12 0 0	3 11 0	5 2 0	...		
WESTLAND—							
Waimea	77	440 0 0	140 0 0	93 0 0	27		
Kanieri	13	105 0 0	28 0 0	21 1 0	...		
Kumara	29	99 0 0	2 9 0	13 4 0	1		
Okarito	11	137 17 9	55 0 0	18 14 0	...		
Totara	10	137 17 9	55 0 0	18 3 0	2		
Greenstone	11	77 1 8	47 1 8	7 3 0	7		
Greymouth	3	...	...	2 8 0	0	
Clifton	2	40 0 0	...	0 14 0	...		
Arnold	7	252 0 0	182 0 0	4 8 6	...		
OTAGO—							
Tuapeka	35	5 0 0	12 5 0	14 1 2	...		
Queenstown	23	1,442 6 8	897 3 0	31 2 0	...		
Cromwell	18	410 5 0	247 6 0	33 3 6	...		
Alexandra	4	...	...	6 3 0	...	
Teviot	2	80 0 0	10 0 0	9 2 6	...		
Black's	8	80 0 0	30 0 0	11 12 0	...		
Clyde	3	110 0 0	6 0 0	8 0 0	6		
Switzers	...	...	...	...	11	
Arrow	27	200 0 0	6 0 0	38 13 0	...		
Naseby	51	831 1 7	242 0 8	137 9 0	...		
Hyde and Fullarton's...	1	...	...	2 19 0	...	
Macrae's, Strath Taieri, and Shag Valley	3	...	...	...	...
Serpentine	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	2 17 0	...		
Maerewhenua	1	...	...	4 13 0	...	
St. Bathans and Ida Valley	5	18 5 5	...	...	...

No. 19.

Mr. Warden FRASER to the UNDER SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

Report on Agricultural Leases within the Hauraki Gold Mining District South (late Ohinemuri Gold Field), to 30th April, 1877.

SINCE my last report, there has been a steady increase in the number of agricultural leases within the Ohinemuri District.

The total number granted up to date is 104, representing an area of 5,180 acres.

These leases were executed as follow :—

42 on 31st December, 1875.

17 on 30th September, 1876.

45 on 23rd April, 1877.

An inspection of the forty-two which have been in existence for over twelve months has been made, and it is found that all with the exception of seven have fully complied with the regulations as to cultivation and improvement.

With regard to the leases dated 30th September, 1876, and 23rd April, 1877, the conditions have in many instances already been either wholly or partially complied with.

All the leases granted remain in the possession of the original grantees, with the exception of six, which have been assigned subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor.

There are at present four applications in process of completion.

Thames, 30th April, 1877.

W. FRASER,
Warden.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1877.

Price 1s. 6d.