

whetu Creek, to which tramways or shoots could be laid from the various claims, would be the best plan. I am the more confirmed in this as the claims have now extended to both sides of this creek; this plan would therefore be suitable for both sides.

The County Council is at present cutting a road to the mines. This will be suitable for conveyance of provisions, &c.; but it does not appear that it will be of much general use in carriage of quartz, though it will do good in allowing the district to be accessible and properly prospected. A wire tramway is at present being constructed by the Hauraki Company, which may assist a few mines to get their quartz crushed. The old Karangahake battery has been put in a state of repair, new fluming erected, &c.; it is expected a start may be made about the beginning of June.

WAIHI DISTRICT.—This district has been most unfortunate, and has come to a complete stop, through the batteries not working properly, some mistake having been made either in the turbines or in the calculation of the water-power. After running for some time it was found that not as much quartz could be passed through the stampers in a week as ought to go through in a day. New turbines were therefore ordered from America; these have arrived, and one has been fitted, so that a fresh start may be expected shortly.

The following is a return of quartz crushed and gold obtained for the year ending 31st March, 1883, in the District of Hauraki South :—

Month.	Quartz Crushed.				Tailings Treated.				Yield of Gold.		
	Tons.	cwt.	qr.	lb.	Tons.	cwt.	qr.	lb.	Oz.	dwt.	gr.
April, 1882	1,943	11	3	0	1,364	2	0	0	3,118	3	12
May „	1,237	0	2	24	1,775	10	0	0	2,731	3	0
June „	2,295	16	2	25	1,007	10	0	0	2,535	15	18
July „	1,973	11	0	26	767	0	0	0	2,059	19	0
August „	2,716	14	2	26	562	10	0	0	4,348	15	18
September, 1882	1,996	11	2	26	354	5	0	0	4,001	9	4
October „	2,457	3	1	13	357	0	0	0	3,436	9	0
November „	2,562	10	0	13	332	11	1	24	4,304	16	0
December „	2,370	2	0	6	95	1	3	4	8,026	19	0
January, 1883	1,272	16	0	0	198	0	0	0	1,775	1	12
February „	2,864	3	1	16	106	10	0	0	2,059	3	12
March „	2,177	0	3	5	265	10	0	0	4,912	17	0
Hauraki North, 12 months	25,867	2	2	2	7,185	10	1	0	43,310	12	4
Totals	2,907	0	0	0	..	..	..	..	7,576	12	1
	28,774	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	50,887	4	5

In Hauraki South there has only been one mining accident: by it two men were very severely burned. It was one of those accidents that no amount of supervision or inspection could prevent, being the result of their own carelessness, or rather foolishness, both being experienced miners, and thoroughly understanding blasting and how to handle powder. It appears they had charged two holes, both of which missed fire; they then drew both charges; this they did in a safe and proper manner; but when they came to re-charge the holes they were both standing close together, and, while one was filling out a charge from a flask containing 6 to 8 lb. of powder, the other, thinking the fuse to blame for the previous miss-fire, cut a piece off and lighted it in order to test it; a spark caught, and the flask exploded.

I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.

JAMES M. McLAREN,
Mining Inspector.

MARLBOROUGH GOLD FIELDS.

No. 5.

Mr. Warden ALLEN to the UNDER-SECRETARY for GOLD FIELDS.

SIR,—

Picton, 5th April, 1883.

My yearly returns have already been forwarded to you, showing a slight improvement in the amount of revenue collected. They require very little comment. I proceed briefly to report as follows concerning the business and prospects of the gold fields under my charge during the past year :—

QUEEN CHARLOTTE GOLD-MINING DISTRICT.—It will be useless to mention any particular work done in this district during the past year, for the reason that gold-mining operations have now entirely ceased. I have mentioned in former reports that I believed fair and honest attempts