

recently been sold to the Old Diggings Gold-dredging Company. The company is now being voluntarily wound up.

Mokoia Gold-dredging Company.—This claim is situated at Three-channel Flat, about a mile above the Consolidated Company's ground. The dredge commenced operations in October, but had only been at work for a few days when a heavy flood carried it away and left it high and dry some considerable distance from the river. This unfortunate occurrence entailed a great loss to the company, as about three months were taken up in getting the dredge back to the water and executing necessary repairs. The dredge is now working again.

Feddersen Gold-dredging Company.—This company hold 97 acres on the Buller, about three miles below Lyell. The ground has been prospected, and good results are said to have been obtained. Tenders are to be called for very shortly for the construction of a dredge.

Buller Dredges Company (Limited).—This dredge has been working for some years on the Upper Buller, and is now about three miles above Fern Flat.

Four River Plain Gold-dredging Company.—This company have a claim of 100 acres, which is situated on the Buller River about a mile below the mouth of the Matakiki River, and the same distance above the Buller dredge. The dredge has been in active operation for some months.

Kohikohi Gold-dredging Company.—This company have a special claim of 100 acres, 38 acres of which is freehold. It is situated on the Matakiki River near Murchison, and about five miles up the river from its junction with the Buller. The pontoons have been completed some time, and the company expect to commence dredging in three or four months. At least half a dozen other companies have been formed, or are in course of formation, with the object of placing dredges on various parts of this river.

Alluvial.

About the usual amount of alluvial mining has been carried on in the district during the year, and no particularly rich finds have been reported. In the Maruia Mr. George Walker has a sluicing claim of 30 acres, and is said to be getting very good returns. Several other smaller sluicing claims are also being worked in the Maruia and Upper Matakiki districts, and very fair returns are being obtained; while on the banks of the Maruia and Matakiki Rivers a good few individual miners manage to make a living. On the Buller River alluvial mining is principally confined to the Chinese, a fair number of whom seem to be making a living. At White's Point—twelve miles up the Buller from Lyell—the Neville and Perkins Hydraulic Sluicing Company have acquired an extensive flat from the freeholders (Messrs. Neville and Perkins), and are bringing in forty heads of water from the Newton River with which to work the ground. About thirty men are now employed on the construction of the race. Close to this company's ground, and at the mouth of the Newton River, a special sluicing claim of 100 acres has been applied for, and also forty heads of water from Deep Creek; while at Fern Flat, six miles higher up the river, a Wellington syndicate have bought Mr. Digby Hunte's freehold with a view to carrying on sluicing operations on a large scale.

Quartz.

There is very little to report concerning this branch of the mining industry. The Alpine Extended Gold-mining Company let their mine on tribute to twelve of the workmen who, however, could not make wages, and gave it up. The mine is now closed, the company having obtained protection for one month, and are inviting tenders for driving ahead 300 ft. on No. 7 level. Kelly and party have got a very good leader claim on the old Tyrconnel lease, and are said to be doing well. Harrison and party have been working for some months on a leader in the old Golden Crown lease, but I am informed a recent crushing proved to it be too poor to warrant work being continued.

RETURN of PROSPECTING LICENSES GRANTED at the WARDEN'S COURT, LYELL, from the 1st April, 1900, to the 31st December, 1900.

Date of Grant.	To whom granted.	Area granted.	Locality.	Date of Grant.	To whom granted.	Area granted.	Locality.
1900.		Acr.		1900.		Acr.	
May 10	Houston F. Logan ..	50	Matakiki River.	July 12	Robert Gilmer ..	80	"
" 10	William R. Hunter ..	35	"	" 12	Elijah Bunn ..	32	"
" 10	George Walker ..	100	Buller River, Murchison.	" 12	Charles G. Morel ..	28	"
" 10	George van Belle ..	60	Matakiki River.	" 12	" ..	50	Maruia River.
" 10	John Gow ..	100	"	" 12	" ..	40	"
July 12	Hugh Taylor ..	50	Inangahua River.	" 12	Charles E. Harden ..	40	"
" 12	Vincent Gibbens ..	60	Glenroy River.	" 12	" ..	40	Buller River, Fern Flat.
" 12	Hector Bates Walker ..	65	Maruia River.	" 12	" ..	40	Buller River, Lyell.
" 12	" ..	60	"	Sept. 13	Houston F. Logan ..	73	Matakiki River.
" 12	" ..	60	"	" 13	" ..	45	"
" 12	" ..	40	"	" 13	Alice Maud Gow ..	100	"
" 12	William J. Dillon ..	100	Glenroy River	" 13	Daniel James ..	30	"
" 12	James Colvin ..	40	Maruia River.	" 13	William T. Gilbert ..	40	Buller River, Owen Junction.
" 12	Frederick Junker ..	50	"	" 13	" ..	40	Ditto.
" 12	Hugh Owen ..	80	Taylor's Creek.	" 13	George van Belle ..	20	Matakiki River.
" 12	Alfred Meager ..	40	Buller River, Longford.	" 13	Frederick Harrison ..	100	Manuka Flat, Lyell.
" 12	Alfred Kearns ..	40	Ditto.	" 13	Thomas Hubert Lee ..	25	Buller River, Junction.
" 12	" ..	40	"	Nov. 7	James Bailie ..	40	Buller River, Owen Junction.
" 12	James Stevenson ..	100	Matakiki River.	" 7	" ..	40	Ditto.
" 12	John Cullen ..	100	Buller River, Newton Flat.	" 7	Henry David Abbott ..	70	Buller River, Newton Flat.
" 12	George Walker ..	65	Matakiki River.	" 7	Vernon Hill ..	40	Lyell.
" 12	" ..	25	"	" 7	David Rait ..	50	Matakiki River.
" 12	" ..	60	"				
" 12	" ..	65	"				