

Parapara Hydraulic Sluicing and Elevating Company.—A new paddock was opened out by this company during the year. This, although immediately adjoining the one previously worked, has not given such good results. Elevating the auriferous gravels is being carried on to a depth of 70 ft. Eleven men are employed. Gold won for the year amounted to 518 oz. 12 dwt. 18 gr., worth £1,990 6s. 8d.

Aorere Hydraulic Sluicing Company (Limited).—This company is working the ground formerly held by the Slate River Sluicing Company. Five men are employed, under the management of Mr. H. F. Logan. A tunnel tail-race 270 ft. in length has been driven. This will enable a back lead to be worked, and provide a good fall for tailings. The return of gold for five months' sluicing amounted to 151 oz. 5 dwt., valued at £586 2s. 6d.

MURCHISON.

Walker Maruia Gold-sluicing Company.—Sluicing operations have been conducted during the year by the tributers, M. Dwan and party. The heavy nature of the wash prevents the profitable working of this claim.

Horse Terrace Claim.—Richardson and party are continuing their ground-sluicing operations, with successful results, which are attained by the methods adopted for handling large quantities of material.

Matakitaki Hydraulic Sluicing Company (Limited).—This company was formed to work the old Mammoth Claim, in the Upper Matakitaki district. Twenty men have been employed during the year, under the management of Mr. C. S. Beilby. A water-race has been constructed from the claim to the Matakitaki River, a distance of about ten miles. The carrying-capacity of the race is equal to 30 heads, which are delivered on the claim at an elevation of 90 ft. above the bottom of the sluicing-face.

Rappahannock Valley.—Terril and party have been successful in locating and opening up a payable lead at an elevation of about 100 ft. above the level of the creek. Driving and blocking out is the working-method adopted. The wash carries payable gold over a width of 40 ft. Several parties are engaged in prospecting in this locality. The indications appeared favourable for the existence of a large area of payable auriferous country.

Buller River.—Several small parties are engaged in sluicing the river terraces, with varying results.

WESTPORT.

Kia Ora Gold-extraction Company.—A small crushing and cyaniding plant, comprising 10-horse-power oil-engine, disintegrating-machine, pump, and leaching and solution vats, was erected by this company at Bradshaw's Terrace to treat the auriferous cements of that locality. A trial of the plant did not give satisfactory results, and operations were suspended.

Waimangaroa River.—The Waimangaroa Miners' Prospecting Association's subsidized shaft bottomed on the reef at a depth of 35 ft. The wash passed through only contained a few colours of gold.

ADDISON'S.

Millikin and Party.—Six men find profitable employment mining and crushing auriferous cement.

Addison's Long Tunnel Gold-mining Company (Limited).—Widening of the lead in this company's ground has enabled work to be carried on at a profit. The depth of the sluicing-faces varies from 8 ft. to 12 ft. The yield of gold for the year amounted to 269 oz. 7 dwt. 3gr., worth £1,063 11s.

McNeight and Party.—To provide fall for extending the workings this party is driving a tunnel tail-race on a level, 10 ft. below the old race. Six hundred feet of driving will be required to effect the desired object. Sluicing operations conducted during the year have shown highly payable results.

St. John's Terrace.—McCann and party, having repaired and deepened their tail-race, were enabled to work continuously and with a fair amount of success during the year.

Carmody and Party.—Sluicing and elevating are carried on continuously by this party. The depth of wash operated upon exceeds 30 ft. Eight men are employed.

Shamrock.—Operations are confined to driving the tunnel tail-race. Good ventilation of the workings is provided by shafts sunk from the surface at intervals of 1,000 ft. Four men are employed.

CHARLESTON.

Powell's Elevating Claim.—Large quantities of beach sands are turned over by this party. The methods adopted comprise hydraulic elevation and subsequent treatment over a wide stretch of amalgamating-tables. By these means the greater part of the gold, which is very fine, is saved, and profitable results obtained. Eight men are employed.

GREY VALLEY.

Lake Hochstetter Syndicate.—Efforts are being made by this syndicate to raise capital to construct a water-race from Lake Hochstetter to the head of Sullivan's Creek, a distance of about six miles. The race, if constructed, will command an extensive area of auriferous alluvial country, and should give an impetus to mining in the Ahaura district.

Bell Hill Syndicate.—This syndicate is operating on a face of wash approximately 100 ft. in height. Want of a good high-level water-supply greatly hinders the work on this claim.

Gow's Creek Sluicing Company.—This company is driving a tunnel tail-race through the spur between Gow's Creek and the left-hand branch of Nelson Creek to provide fall for working the bed of the former creek from free level. The length of the tunnel when completed will be 2,800 ft. Ventilation is provided by water-blast. The water is brought into the tunnel at a point 700 ft. in from