

Mr. Warden RAWSON, Westport, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department, Wellington.

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Warden's Office, Westport, 31st March, 1911.

I have the honour to report upon the gold-mining industry in the Karamea Mining District for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1910.

#### WESTPORT SUBDISTRICT.

Twenty-two alluvial claims and two quartz claims were granted during the year.

*Waimangaroa*.—The liquidator of the Britannia Gold-mining Company recently sold all interests of the company to a syndicate, who are now working the claim on a prospecting license.

*Addison's*.—The Long Tunnel Sluicing Company are still working, but, judging from present appearances, the payable ground is being rapidly exhausted.

Millikin and party are earning about £4 per week per man.

The Victoria Company (Senior and party) have sold their water-rights to the Westland Gold-mining syndicate, of London, which has taken up the old Shamrock Claim. The syndicate is putting in a tail-race about two miles in length. It is estimated it will take about twelve months to complete.

McNeight and party (Addison's Township) are getting good gold.

*Bradshaw's*.—Schlichting and party, after spending about £600 to £700 and working for some six or seven months, found that the cement was not payable, and discontinued operations.

*Wet Lead*.—Millard and party sold out their interests to the local Carthage Gold-mining Company (capital £8,250), who have let a contract in connection with developing—bringing in water—and hope to start actual mining operations within three months. It is proposed to work the special claim of 50 acres on the hydraulic sluicing and elevating method.

*Giles's Terrace*.—The Golden Basin Gold-mining Syndicate has ceased operations, owing, it is believed, to the caving-in of the prospecting-shaft.

#### KARAMEA SUBDISTRICT.

There is no change of any importance in this district to record since my last report. Hunter and party are laying about 26 chains of 7 in. pipes at Reef Creek, Oparara Beach, for working the black sand by hydraulic sluicing and elevating. A few men are still working up Fenian Creek, with satisfactory results. Occasionally a few men on the Wanganui and North beaches work the black sand when water is available.

#### MURCHISON SUBDISTRICT.

Sixty-six applications for mining privileges were lodged during the year.

*Mangle's River*.—A special claim has been applied for, and further developments are expected in the locality.

*The Six-mile*.—Mr. Walter Gibbs's claim is still working, but it is not known with what results.

*Upper Matakītaki*.—The Matakītaki Hydraulic Sluicing Company (Limited) have commenced operations on their special claim of 100 acres. Their water-race has been extended at a cost of £900. At the intake in the Matakītaki River a supply of about 30 heads is available. The result of the company's first wash-up being satisfactory, it has been decided to enlarge the race to carry 130 heads. In addition to working their own claim, it is proposed by the company to lease water to miners in the district.

Beilby's, Richardson's, also McNee's and Hunter's sluicing claims are reported to be doing well. There are a number of Europeans and Chinese profitably engaged in this locality.

*Glenroy*.—There are several one-man claims in this locality, all of which are payable.

*Upper Maruia*.—J. Thomson and Sons hold a number of claims in this neighbourhood, which are being worked, but with what result is not known.

The Walker Maruia Gold-sluicing Company's claim is still being worked on tribute by Dwan Brothers, who are reported to be doing well.

*Rappahannock Valley*.—On my last visit to Murchison I found great interest being taken in this locality. I granted a number of mining privileges, and some of the applicants spoke in enthusiastic terms of the prospects. Further developments are awaited with interest.

*Lower Maruia*.—A number of Chinese are working about here, and are reported to be making wages.

*Newton Flat*.—The Newton Claim has changed hands, and is now owned by Beilby, Warneford, and Fairhall. They have been to some expense putting in a new tail-race. They have had one wash-up, but the result is not ascertainable. Barclay Brothers, Fairhall, and Beilby, and White and Ritchie are reported to be doing well out of their sluicing claims. There are also several one-man claims returning wages.

#### LYELL SUBDISTRICT.

Gold-mining has practically been at a standstill during the year. The New Alpine Gold-mining Company, at Lyell Creek, went into liquidation, and the property was bought by a Greymouth syndicate last August for £500. With the exception of three men who are doing a little prospecting in various parts of the mine, without as yet meeting with any success, the present holders have done practically nothing since taking it over. A Greymouth syndicate—Messrs. Wickes, Hennicker, and Harrison—have been prospecting the old Victory Quartz-mine at Eight-mile, and during the few months they have been at work it is reported that they have obtained good prospects. A few other parties have been out prospecting, but have nothing to report. Alluvial mining is practically dead. Two dredges, Harrison's (Old Diggings dredge) and Smeaton's, at Rocklands, are the only two working