

*Paparua Ranges.*

This once-promising quartz-field has been almost entirely neglected during the year, but Messrs. Hargreaves and party have continued driving a crosscut at the head of Moonlight Creek. A reef carrying gold was found at the surface, and was also intersected in one tunnel. This led to the commencement of a second tunnel at a lower level, but in this one the country has been flattened very much, and so far the reef has not been struck. Work is being continued.

*Poerua.*

*Poerua Gold-mining Company.*—The result of the trial crushings from this mine having been disappointing, work was suspended during the year. Some further prospecting is now being carried on by means of a winze.

*Wilberforce Reefs.*—No work has been done during the year.

*Ross.*

Mr. H. J. Turner, of Wanganui, reports a payable reef at Cedar Creek, and is proposing to erect a battery right away. Outcrops have been known in this locality for many years, and two different batteries have been erected, and after working for a time were abandoned. Samples taken by Mr. P. G. Morgan, Director of the Geological Survey of New Zealand, and assayed at the Dominion Laboratory, gave only 1 dwt. 6 gr. of gold, value 5s. 1d. per ton. These reefs are certainly worth a little further prospecting by means of driving or sinking, but it would be very unwise to expend money on erecting a battery at the present stage.

## QUARTZ REEFS CONTAINING MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

*Wangapeka.*

*Blue Creek Company.*—The Blue Creek Company, of Christchurch, still continues desultory prospecting about the reefs in the Nuggety Creek Valley, but very slow progress is made, and no further knowledge has been gained as the result of the year's work. Several reefs are known, and they contain galena, pyrite, chalcopyrite, zincblende, siderite, and probably traces of other minerals, but no body of ore has as yet been discovered which could be regarded as profitable to work. It is possible that pockets of ore may exist somewhere on the line of these reefs, or associated with them, but the fact that no payable pockets have been found on the surface is not at all encouraging where surface outcrops are so numerous. To thoroughly test these reefs would involve a heavy expenditure, and without more attractive showing at the outset it is doubtful whether this work will ever be undertaken.

*Van Belle, Balting, and Grace.*—A Nelson syndicate has also been prospecting in this locality, but so far I have never seen anything payable on their areas.

*Mount Owen District.*

*Mount Owen Rising Sun Mineral Company.*—This company is now in process of liquidation.

*Silverstream Syndicate.*—No work has been done during the year to further test the cupriferous quartz reefs in this locality. On my last visit some ore of very good quality was being obtained, but it was only occurring in small and irregular lenses in the granite, and unless a large tonnage could be obtained this would be of no commercial value. The largest body, known as the New Anaconda, is now being tested by means of a drive, and this appears to be a better show than any of the others, but in a low-grade copper proposition situated in such difficult country as this is the available tonnage would require to be enormous, and the existence of such tonnage has yet to be proved.

*Parapara Iron Leases.*

The *Cadman Lease* has been under protection for the whole year, and no work has been done.

The *Onakaka Syndicate* has had some twenty men employed in clearing the surface and in making tracks.

*Scheelite.*

This mineral is found with gold in the Dominion Mine, Wakamarina. About 60 tons was obtained during the year; value, £6,491.

## ALLUVIAL-GOLD MINING.

*Marlborough.*

*Brothers Claim* (Larkin and party).—This party is still endeavouring to work with an inadequate supply of water. Very little has been done for the year, and only £25 worth of gold has been obtained.

*Wakamarina Darkie's Terrace Sluicing Company.*—Now in liquidation. Work was carried on during part of the year, but the results were so poor that the company has been wound up.

*New King Solomon Mines, Mahakipawa.*—Work has been carried on intermittently during the year, the pumping plant having given considerable trouble through breakages. No work has yet been done underground.

*Reardon and party* have taken up a claim adjoining the King Solomon, on the upstream side. They have also started pumping, but have nothing else to report.