

reached over 400 ft., and the core shows a good class of country at this depth. In the meantime milling is suspended and will not be resumed until the exploration work in progress at No. 16 winze, and the completion of the boring operations, show that there is a prospect of sufficient payable ore being developed to warrant it.

New Zealand Crown Mines (Limited), Karangahake.—No. 4 level: The east crosscut, Hauraki section, has been extended 136 ft. A small lode formation, 18 in. wide, was intersected and a few feet north and south was driven upon it, but the values were low. With the exception of keeping the levels in repair, no work has been done in the rest of the mine during the year.

United Gold-mines, Maratoto.—This company erected a 10-head stamp mill with cyanide plant, constructed several miles of water-race, and also a tram-line to connect mine and mill, with the object of treating ore from the 6 ft. lode at the low level. For several hundred feet the average assay value of this lode does not exceed 13s. per ton, but as it is cheaply mined several stopes were taken along and the ore sent to the mill. As the ore did not pay expenses the mine was closed down and protection applied for in order to allow the company time to raise further capital to test the lode at greater depth by means of diamond drilling.

Ohinemuri Gold and Silver Mines, Maratoto.—The principal work carried out in this mine has been driving a crosscut to intersect the Camoola reef, which proved to be 24 ft. wide. The reef was sampled in 4 ft. sections from hanging-wall to footwall, with the following results: No. 1, 3s. per ton; No. 2, 4s. per ton; No. 3, £1 2s. per ton; No. 4, 16s. per ton; No. 5, 10s. per ton; No. 6, 5d. per ton. Driving north and south on this reef has been commenced, and the south face which had advanced 18 ft. assayed £2 per ton, with neither wall showing. A special sample taken of a 6 in. silver sulphide seam in centre of reef was highly payable. A considerable amount of work has also been done on the Queen reef from the Julia low level, and at least 2,000 tons of ore have been paddocked. A few tons of selected rich silver-ore were shipped for treatment at Australian smelting-works, and payments made showed it to be worth over £100 per ton. The ore which is awaiting treatment is said to average over £3 per ton. A start has been made to clean up and repair the Telluride low level with the object of further testing the Queen lode at a greater depth.

Komata Reefs Gold-mine (Mr. H. H. Adams, owner).—Four men have been prospecting and retimbering No. 2 level in order to reach the main pass, with the object of testing a new lode discovered in the upper level, and said to contain payable values. The pass is required to send the ore broken out of this lode down to the low level.

THAMES BOROUGH.

Waiotahi Gold-mining Company.—This company took up a claim situated at the head of Tararu Creek, formerly known as the Eclipse claim, but after cleaning up the level and sampling the lode the results did not come up to anticipations, and on the advice of their mine-manager the claim was abandoned. In the old Waiotahi Mine three tributors have been employed crushing the old tips, from which 255 tons were treated and yielded gold valued at £496 1s.

Waiotahi Creek Section.—Three small mines have been working during the year:—

(1.) The West Coast claim (Mr. R. Ross, owner) produced 81 lb. of picked stone valued at £102 16s. 6d.

(2.) Nonpariel Gold-mine (Mr. F. Sawyer, owner): This claim crushed 8 tons 2 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb. of quartz from small leaders for a return valued at £920 19s. 3d.

(3.) The Evening Star (Messrs. Bird Bros., owners): From this claim 4 tons 3 qr. 3 lb. of quartz, including picked stone, was crushed for gold valued at £540 16s. 4d. The claim has now been formed into a company with the object of testing the Moanataiari cross-lode at its junction with the small leader the owners have been working upon. This cross-lode at its junction with other lodes has been responsible in the past for producing pockets of rich specimen stone.

Karaka Creek Section.—The Magnet Extended Gold-mine (Mr. D. Dunlop, owner) crushed 7 tons 1 qr. 22 lb., including picked stone, from small leaders, for gold valued at £252 3s. 2d.

Una Hill.—Two small claims have been worked in this portion of the goldfield, known as the Occidental No. 1 and Occidental No. 2. The former (Mr. J. Caisley, owner) has two men employed, and treated 11 loads of quartz for gold valued at £262 15s. 4d. The latter (Mr. D. Davey, owner) treated 2 loads 30 lb. of quartz for gold valued at £134 10s. 6d.

Kuranui Gold-mining Company.—The crosscut from the Magazine level to test lodes known to exist east of the Moanataiari fault was not advanced after a portion of the main slide had been passed through. The men were removed back to test a reef intersected 1,000 ft. from the mouth of the tunnel. Colours of gold have been seen in the quartz, but so far nothing payable has been discovered.

Waitangi Consolidated.—Work in this mine has been confined to driving upon the main reef at Nos. 1 and 2 levels. In No. 1 level the quartz is of low grade. At No. 2 level 250 ft. has been driven, with gold occasionally seen in the quartz, and the management is of opinion that the average assay value is over £1 per ton.

THAMES COUNTY.

Sheridan Gold-mine, Tapu (Mr. W. G. Plummer, owner).—Two men have been prospecting what is known as No. 1 leader, but so far nothing payable has been discovered.

Mount Zeehan Gold-mining Company.—Two men have been employed in this mine during the year driving on the main reef at the low level. The ore is being saved for treatment. A 10-head stamp mill has been in the course of erection for over two years, and it is expected that capital will shortly be available to complete it and further develop the mine.