

*Kawarau High Levels Gold-mining Co., Waitiri.*—The tunnel from Doolan's Creek was completed, and 2,000 ft. of pipe ranging from 24 in. to 9 in. diameter laid down between the tunnel and the claim to deliver water for sluicing at a pressure of 130 ft. A tail-race 30 ft. deep was brought in from the bank of the Kawarau River to provide fall for tailings. The ground near the river-bank is very rough, and contains numerous large boulders, which have to be broken up with explosives.

*Lowburn and Bendigo Prospecting Co.*—A tunnel was driven 400 ft. in the terrace at Quartz Reef Point to prospect for an auriferous lead. Rough wash carrying a little gold was met with, but it did not pay for blocking out.

*Nevis.*—Twenty men were employed at alluvial mining on this field. The yield of gold amounted to 343 oz., valued at £1,355. Graham and party, with 152 oz., valued at £607, and Adie and party, 105 oz., valued at £407, were the largest producers. A. J. Graham and J. Williams are opening up a claim on the high lead north of Schoolhouse Creek, where good prospects have been obtained.

#### Lake County.

*Kawarau Gold-mining Co.*—The gates of the company's dam at Lake Wakatipu were closed from the 15th June to the 15th August, but the water in the Kawarau River did not fall low enough to allow any work other than fossicking along the sides of the river to be carried out, consequently only a few of the claimholders attempted to work their claims. The gold recovered amounted to 78 oz. 11 dwt. 22 gr., valued at £302 11s. 5d. Of this amount the Vogel's Vision Co. obtained 47 oz. from Claims 40 and 41, and the Natural Bridge Co. 25 oz. from Claim 43. The Consolidated Kawarau Claims, Ltd., constructed a wing dam on Claim 94, two miles below the confluence of the Arrow River, and with the aid of an oil-driven gravel-pump sunk a paddock 16 ft. to bed-rock. An area of bottom 18 ft. by 15 ft. was cleaned up for 3 dwt. 14 gr. of gold. As a means of reducing the water in the river to allow its bed to be worked the dam is not a success, and it is doubtful if the expenditure of further capital to dam the Shotover and other subsidiary streams is warranted.

*Big Beach Gold-mining Co., Shotover River.*—The company's water-races were cleaned out and repaired, a storage dam was constructed on the north side of the Shotover River, and an 18 in. diameter pipe-line one mile in length laid down between the dam and the claim at the Sugar Loaf. Sluicing commenced in September, and the yield of gold to the end of the year amounted to 192 oz., valued at £735.

*Sandhills Gold-mining Co., Upper Shotover.*—The work of sluicing out a channel to divert the Shotover River has been carried on during the year.

*Moonlight Mining Syndicate, Moonlight Creek.*—Returns from this syndicate show that 105 oz. gold, valued at £400, was produced for the year. The supply of water from Dead Horse Creek is inadequate for the efficient working of the claim.

*E. Oxenbridge and Party, Twelve-mile Creek.*—This party has driven 2,000 ft. in the terrace on the west side of Twelve-mile Creek, and found an auriferous lead which was worked in the early "seventies" until the ground got too deep and wet for working with the appliances which were available in those days. Judging by the prospects obtained the lead should pay well for driving out.

*Year and Party, Five-mile Creek, Lake Wakatipu.*—Efforts were made by this party to work auriferous gravel in Lake Wakatipu at the mouth of Five-mile Creek. An 8 in. Thompson's gravel-pump, driven by a 20 h.p. Fordson tractor, was used for lifting the gravel from a depth of 30 ft. below the surface of the lake, but owing to the rough nature of the gravel the pump could not deal with it in sufficient quantity to pay working-expenses.

*Shotover Gold Claims, Ltd., Shotover River.*—A timber-and-gravel dam was erected in the gorge above Arthur Point, and the river diverted through a tunnel which was driven by E. Oxenbridge in 1911. A paddock was sunk 20 ft. on to hard rock bottom in the bed of the river below the dam. Very little gold was obtained, but the work will be continued to prospect for gold in crevices which cross the river at this point. A 6 in. centrifugal pump driven by a 10 h.p. Fordson tractor, was installed for unwatering the paddock.

*Moke Lake Flat.*—Six boreholes were put down in this flat by H. Sydney Smith to prove if the ground would pay for dredging. A depth of 75 ft. was drilled without reaching bed-rock. No payable wash was found.

*Reid and Lynch, Sawyer's Creek.*—The Crystal reef was cut in the low-level crosscut at 568 ft. from the surface, and a rise is being put through to the upper level to open up a block for stopping.

*Shore and Sainsbury, Bullendale.*—This party has been prospecting the Phoenix line of reef to the west of the Phoenix Mine, which was abandoned in 1901. A large reef formation containing small blocks of gold-bearing quartz has been found on the surface about two miles west from the old mine. Further prospecting by driving will require to be done to determine the extent and value of the quartz.

#### Southland County.

*Nokomai Sluicing Co., Nokomai.*—A considerable amount of work has been carried out in connection with the opening-up of the company's new claim in Nokomai Creek. On No. 2 water-race 35 chains of 36 in. diameter 12-gauge pipes were laid across Victoria Gully, and 60 chains of new race constructed between Victoria Gully and the penstock overlooking the claim. From the penstock to the claim 40 chains of steel pipes, ranging from 26 in. to 18 in. diameter, were installed to deliver twenty-five heads of water on the claim at a pressure of 400 ft. On No. 1 water-race  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of open race was constructed from the Nokomai Saddle, and 24 chains of 20 in. and 18 in. diameter steel pipe laid down to deliver water from the Lion and Diggers Creeks on the claim at a pressure of 560 ft. No. 1 elevator was sunk 82 ft. on to bed-rock on the west side of the claim, and a paddock 7 chains long by 2 chains is being taken out. No. 2 elevator is being sunk on the west side of the claim, where a large paddock will also be worked. The Rimu Gold-dredging Co. has acquired an option over the claims, water-races, and plant, and is testing the claim with a Keystone drill.

*Athol.*—Six men were employed in this locality. The gold won amounted to 331 oz., valued at £1,313.

*King Solomon Gold-mines, Ltd., Waikaia.*—The main shaft was sunk to a depth of 80 ft. from the surface, where water was met with, and operations were suspended.

*King Solomon Consolidated Gold-mines, Waikaia.*—Two prospecting-drives were driven from an old elevating-paddock. One of these was driven 16 ft. and the other 50 ft. Good prospects are said to have been obtained in the short drive, but the other was driven in gravel which did not contain gold.

*Muddy Terrace.*—The water-race from Dome Creek was repaired, and sluicing resumed in Usherwood and Nelson's claim in Maori Gully. 56 oz. gold, valued at £220, was obtained.

#### Wallace County.

*Round Hill.*—Three claims, employing thirteen men, were in operation on this field. The gold won amounted to 617 oz., valued at £2,436. The Round Hill Mining Co. was the largest producer, with 383 oz., valued at £1,512.

*Orepuki and Pahia.*—A number of small parties of miners continue to work the alluvial deposits in these localities. The gold won amounted to 249 oz., valued at £974. Thirteen men were employed.

*New Zealand Platinum, Ltd., West Waiau.*—A paddock was taken out to a depth of 20 ft. on the back beach near Hut Creek, with very poor results. The front beach was also tested, but it was found that the machinery installed was not suitable for the extraction of the gold and platinum.

*Wakapatu Mining Company, Ltd., Wakapatu.*—This company prospected an area on the foreshore at the mouth of the Ourawera Creek for gold and silver. A 6 in. Thompson's gravel-pump, driven by a 14 h.p. portable steam-engine, was used for lifting the sand and gravel. Favourable prospects are said to have been obtained.