

J. T. ARMITAGE,
STOCK AND SHARE BROKER,
INSURANCE BUILDINGS,
Member of Brokers' Association, AUCKLAND.

MINING NEWS.

THE glorious uncertainty of law sinks into insignificance beside the up and down of the Stock Exchange. Values of shares advance and recede in a manner most embarrassing to the average speculator, and most enriching for brokers, as at each upward move there is a rush of business which would not take place if values were steadily maintained. The past week showed dull business on the Exchange, with a general falling off in values all round. The disturbed state of the financial markets in London and the Continent no doubt contributed to the dullness, by giving the impression that the remaining companies now under offer at Home would not be taken up. The fact that the Kathleen and Peveril mines at Coromandel were floated in London during the week, and also that a very satisfactory offer was made by cable for the New Alburnia mine at the Thames, should satisfy the timid ones that foreign investors have not lost faith in our goldfields. Added to this, the directors of the Waitaitia Company received very favourable telegraphic advices this week from the Home agent with reference to the terms on which the Company's property had been offered on the London market, and the offer for the Star of Waikauri mine was confirmed by a second cable. Very satisfactory terms were also cabled from London with regard to the working capital of the Alpha. With such proofs of continued confidence abroad, local shareholders would do well not to exhibit such nervousness regarding the safety of the comparatively small sums they have invested in the goldmining industry. The return from the Hauraki mine this month was again an excellent one, 210 tons of ore having yielded £7,106 14s worth of gold, and accounts from the mine state that the gold is still being carried down in the veins below No. 7 level, where the ore shows rich blotches of the precious metal. Good accounts are also received from the Woodstock mine, as the ore now gives an average assay value of £7 per ton, which should pay handsomely when increased crushing power has been secured. The practical evidence of the value of our goldfields shown by the Hauraki return appeared to have a beneficial effect on the sharemarket, as a better tone prevailed, and buyers were more numerous, and prices of mining stocks showed improvement. Waiti-Silvertona fell to 39s, but when news was received by private cable that the London quotation was £2 15s, shares advanced locally, 42s 6d being offered the same day that 39s had been accepted. The Waitaitia mine also showed an increased return this month, £725 17s 1d of bullion being obtained from 158 tons of ore.

Excellent accounts continue to come to hand regarding the prospects of the new finds at Port Charles, Whangamata, and Te Puke, while prospecting is steadily going on at Whangarei, and special claims are being taken up at Puhupuhi, thus demonstrating the fact that the interest in mining is spreading to districts outside of what was formerly considered the goldfields area. At Teirua work is being pushed forward in the various mines taken up, and it is stated that Mr. Dana, who took over a property on behalf of a Home syndicate, is so well satisfied with the tests made that it is proposed to commence operations on a large scale. Great eagerness is manifested to secure claims on the Karaka No. 1 block at Coromandel. Already applicants have lodged £1,018 as fees representing claims aggregating 2,000 acres. A sitting of the Validation Court under the Native Lands Validation of Title Act was also held this week by Judge Davey to go into the question of the Whau Whau or Kuaotunu No. 3 block. A number of claims have already been pegged out on this block, in consequence of a rush that took place about a month ago, but as the Kauri Timber Company held the land under lease from the natives, the question arose as to whether timber rights would be injuriously affected by the operations of miners. At the Validation Court an application was made on behalf of the Kauri Timber Company for the validation of a lease of the block above named alleged to have been made in 1885 by the native owners to William Makie, and since transferred to the Company. The application was objected to by the Crown and opposed by the native owners, and their solicitor, Mr. F. Earl, raised the point that the Court had no jurisdiction, which was upheld. Notice of appeal was given as the matter is an important one affecting other blocks of land held under similar leases. Unfortunately, it entails considerable delay. In

order to aid in the thorough prospecting of land in the Upper Thames district, the Ohinemuri County Council at its last meeting considered the question of opening tracks through the bush from Waitaitia to Whangamata, and also another known as the Komata track, which when completed would mean a saving of about fourteen miles in conveying machinery to Komata—the distance being about six miles, whilst by Waitaitia it is twenty miles. The Komata district being one of the chief centres of the Upper Thames goldfields, this road would be of great benefit to the mines situated there, besides opening up a main prospecting track to the country back of Waitaitia that might lead to other important finds being made. Besides these several smaller tracks were authorized to be constructed, and others are to be repaired at once, so that great improvement will shortly be effected in the most important bush tracks, which will be a great boon to prospectors and miners generally.

It is satisfactory to note that though the sharemarket is at present quiet, the work of developing the mines is being steadily proceeded with. Another good sign which points to more economical working of the properties is the growing tendency to amalgamate small holdings into one strong company. This is undoubtedly a move in the right direction, and one which must ultimately lead to good results. The old method of small companies with 10 stamper batteries is fast passing away, it being now generally recognized that to work economically large crushing plants require to be kept constantly at work putting through great quantities of ore. While mines are being thus vigorously developed, occasional lulls on the market are of little consequence beyond the fact that they cause shareholders considerable uneasiness while they last. In a month or two many of the English Companies that have taken over properties will be getting to work with ample capital to carry on operations, and the result must ultimately be a great increase in the output of gold.

MINING NOTES.

THAMES.

NEW WHAU.

At a meeting of shareholders this week it was resolved, on the motion of the Hon. W. McCullough, 'That the capital of the Company be increased to £15,000 by the creation of 50,000 new shares at 3s each, upon which said shares the sum of 2d per share should be taken and deemed to be paid up.' This was done in order to acquire the Middle Star mine, the area being 37 acres. A formal resolution was then passed empowering the directors to acquire the property.

NEW ALBURNIA.

Shares in this company, which a fortnight ago sold at 7s 3d, fell to 5s last Wednesday. There was a sudden advance of 6s later in the day when it became known that the directors had been called together to consider an offer received by cable from London for the property. The directors later in the day replied, offering to sell on the following terms:—Capital of new company, £200,000; working capital, £25,000; cash to be paid to shareholders, £15,000; present New Alburnia shareholders to rank share for share in the new company, and £1,000 deposit to be paid immediately. From the character of the offer made, it is thought to be almost certain that a sale will be effected on these lines.

VICTORIA.

The directors of this Company are determined to thoroughly develop the new reef cut in the Prince Imperial section of the mine. This week seventeen allotments were purchased from natives by the Company for the purpose of erecting winding machinery on the Prince Imperial shaft to work the recently discovered reef in that part of the ground.

COROMANDEL.

BUNKER'S HILL.

Shares in this Company have fluctuated remarkably in value during the last few weeks, running from 7s 6d to 18s 3d in a fortnight, and then falling in one day from 14s 6d to 10s. The latter figure was reached at noon on Wednesday, when advantage was taken of the fact that many brokers were away at the races to bear shares. As the whole future of this mine centres in cutting the rich Hauraki lode, people naturally concluded that this attempt had failed. One of the directors promptly telegraphed to the manager:—'Shares fallen suddenly to 10s; what is new development occurred?' To which at 4 p.m. the following answer was received:—'Nothing that I know of; people think we are past Legge's reef. I do not.' Sales first began next day, sales taking place at

12s 6d, but towards evening there were sellers at 11s 6d. Next day sales were reported as low as 7s 9d, but an hour later transactions took place at 9s, and next day at 10s. The manager of the mine came to town at the end of the week to confer with the directors. He stated that from the general appearance of the country the Hauraki lode should be intersected at any moment, as the pug which he had passed through was similar to that out in the Hauraki mine, 20ft from Legge's reef. He had nearly driven this distance, and he had not yet intersected the reef. Making due allowance for a slight deviation, he expected to cut the reef in the next 20ft of driving. Shares advanced in price on Monday from 9s to 12s. In consequence of the surveyor giving his opinion that Legge's reef was still further ahead of the present drive.

HAURAKI QUEEN.

At a meeting of syndicate shareholders in the Hauraki Queen licensed holding held on Wednesday it was determined to form the licensed holding into a no-liability company with a capital of £9,000 in 60,000 shares of 3s each, all paid up. Messrs W. Ledingham, M. Nicoll, Austin Walsh, A. Robins, A. E. Coates, and Major Swindley, Mr. Cnas. Grovenor was appointed manager, Mr. C. J. Parr, solicitor, Mr. T. F. Cahill, auditor, and the Bank New Zealand bank to the company.

HAURAKI NORTH.

This Company is now sinking a shaft on the old Golconda hill. Seven or eight men are at work under Mr. Bremner, and are now down about 15ft. The shaft is 12 x 4, and will thus give three chambers. It will require a good deal of sinking to get down to the same level as, say, the Hauraki, but as good gold was got in the old Golconda ground, it is likely that the sinking will not at first be carried so low. Another shaft is to be sunk over the hill near the beach. The ground consists of about 90 acres lying north of the Hauraki and other properties in the locality.

THE KATHLEEN.

SOLD IN LONDON.

The Kathleen Company has been successfully floated on the London market, there being quite a rush for shares. The ground is situated in London, and the capital of the company is fixed at £75,000 in 2s 6d shares, of which the vendors take 320,000. The property comprises Lynch's paddock of 51 acres which is to be acquired for £50,000, of which £10,000 is payable in cash, and the balance in shares or cash.

NEW TOKATEA.

This is one of the most promising of the newly-formed companies at Coromandel. Already one or two small parcels of picked stones have been obtained, and this week the manager telegraphed: 'Finished breaking down. Got about 70lbs of picked stone and a few pounds of specimens.'

PEVERIL.

A cable was received from London this week stating that the shares in the Peveril Goldmining Company of Hauraki, had been allotted. This property is better known as the Londonderry, and consists of 25½ acres situated on the Tokatea Range at Coromandel.

Two other cable advices state that the Peveril Company was successfully floated in London on Wednesday. On the transfer of the property being completed in Auckland £5,000 working capital will be remitted.

WELCOME FIND.

The collapse in the price of Bunker's Hill shares affected Welcome Finds also, but a recovery took place when the manager notified by telegraph that he had cut another reef two feet thick which carried excellent mineral for gold.

KARANGAHAKE.

CROWN.

Reports from this mine are of a very satisfactory nature. The explorations going on in the drive at the bottom of the winze continue most satisfactory. Gold is showing in the face at every breaking down, and the average value of the reef—which is about five feet wide—is fully £20. The lode in the No. 6 level also maintains its character, both in size and quality, and has a most lasting appearance. The new general manager inspected out from Home at the end of this week, and it is anticipated that several important works will be undertaken after he has taken charge.

IVANHOE—SHOTOVER.

Meetings of shareholders in both these companies were called this week for the purpose of effecting an amalgamation of the properties. Shareholders in the Shotover Company passed the necessary resolutions to authorize the directors to sell and dispose of the whole of the property of the Company to the Ivanhoe (I.M.) Company,

or for shares in the latter Company, or on such other terms as might be agreed upon. The meeting of Ivanhoe shareholders was called in order to increase the capital of that Company to enable the New Shotover property to be acquired. The Chairman, Mr. W. Gorrie, said that the directors of the Ivanhoe and Shotover Companies had met several times, and decided that an amalgamation was necessary. The Shotover was at present a 70,000 share company, and it was proposed to reduce it to 60,000, while the Ivanhoe, which was now a 50,000 share mine, was to be increased to 60,000, making a combined capital of 120,000 shares. As there were not sufficient shareholders present or represented by proxy, the meeting was ultimately adjourned to the 3rd of December.

KARANGAHAKE.

Although an offer has been made to purchase the Karangahake property, the directors have wisely resolved not to follow a custom that has become too prevalent nowadays of practically suspending operations until some definite decision has been arrived at. At a meeting held this week it was resolved to instruct the manager to push forward vigorously with the work of developing the mine, to let a contract for 200 feet of crosscut, and to put on men to work the 2 feet reef that traverses the property.

WOODSTOCK NORTH.

After being somewhat neglected these shares met with some enquiry this week. The reef is reported to be 4ft wide, and an assay made yielded at the rate of 31ozs of bullion per ton—2ozs was gold and 29ozs silver.

WAITAIKURI.

ALPHA.

The process of floating properties on the London market appears somewhat slow. The plan of the Alpha mine at Waitaitia was sent Home early in the year, and judging by a cablegram received this week, the negotiations are only now about completed. A meeting of directors was held to consider the cable which contained a proposal that £15,000 cash for working capital shall be provided in the flotation of the Company, and a further £15,000 to be provided for by calls in two amounts, as operations may require, the capital of the Company to be £200,000; Alpha shareholders to get one and one-third share now held paid up to £1, and Rainbow shareholders to get share for share. The Alpha directors agreed to the terms proposed, provided that the floating of the Company is completed this year.

KOMATA REEF.

Reports from this mine are of an encouraging nature. Already four reefs have been discovered, the Black reef 8 feet, Komata reef 6 to 14 feet, the Argall reef 18 feet, and Lavington 14 feet wide.

KUAOTUNU.

PORT CHARLES.

There seems every chance that another valuable section of our goldfields will be opened up in the vicinity of Port Charles, an excellent stone is shown by prospectors. Mr. McLeasac, the well-known prospector, brought to town this week samples taken from the reef which he has discovered. Mr. McLeasac brought with him eight pounds of stone which he took from the reef at a depth of eight feet from the surface. There was washed and rubbed in water, but not crushed in any way. When the loose stones were picked out, the mullocky deposit in the dish was panned off, and the result was a really magnificent tail of gold. The peculiarity of the deposit was that while there were numerous coarse particles of the precious metal, there was also a tail of very fine gold of a much richer colour. The quartz is of a rubby lree milling nature, and showed gold freely. Mr. McLeasac was panning up the Ohshutahi Creek from Port Charles when he first found prospects of gold, which were so plentiful that he became convinced there was a rich reef somewhere that had shed the precious metal. About a mile back from Port Charles McLeasac discovered an eight inch lode from which the samples now on view were obtained. A claim of 100 acres was at once pegged out and called the Jay Gould. It is fortunately on Crown lands, so that there will not be any difficulty about the title. The reef has been found outcropping about four chains away, and here it also shows gold. Further on a landlip has apparently carried a portion of the reef into the creek, and it was this that most probably shed the prospects found in the creek. McLeasac states the reef is enlarging week by week, and the best prospects were obtained at the deepest point sunk. Mr. Richardson, of Whangarei, also brought over stone from the Jay Gould claim from which the assay returns were as follows: Bullion, 32ozs 17dwt 21gr; value per ton, £87 16s 3d.