

MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The following meetings of mining Companies were convened this week:—

Bay View.—The annual meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed total receipts £406 17s 6d, and the expenditure left a balance in the bank of £209 10s.

Mit or Miss.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed a credit balance of £84 16s 4d.

Tamihana.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed receipts £800, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £523 10s.

Adelaide.—The ordinary general meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts for the half-year showed receipts £1,750 1s 1d, of which £187 16s 6d was gold won from the mine. The expenditure left a balance in the bank of £409 13s 4d.

Coromandel Freehold Proprietary.—The half-yearly meeting was held in Mr H. Gilfillan's office. The balance-sheet showed receipts £365 10s 10d, and the expenditure left a balance in the bank of £2 1s. The Chairman (Mr W. Gorrie) said that the £235 that had been deposited in the Warden's Office to protect the property in the event of an adverse decision in the case of Aitken v. Swindley had now been withdrawn, and would be available for working the mines.

British Empire.—The half-yearly meeting was held in Mr H. Gilfillan's office. The statement of accounts showed receipts £660 13s 2d, and the expenditure left a balance in hand of £5 4s 10d. Under the heading of wages £444 9s appeared. A special meeting was held subsequently at which a resolution was passed confirming the action of the directors in buying in 17,000 shares forfeited for non-payment of the call.

Big Reef.—At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders a resolution was passed that the Company may at any extraordinary meeting remove any director or directors before the expiration of his or their period of office and appoint another in his or their stead.

Napier.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed the receipts for the half year to be £187 6s 1d, while the expenditure left a credit balance of £42 9s 9d.

We-t Derby.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed receipts £612 10s, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £218 3s 10d.

Golden Spur.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. In the balance-sheet the receipts are set down at £413 9s, and the expenditure left a credit of £34 18s 8d.

Moanatairi Extended.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The balance-sheet showed receipts £437 10s 8d, and the expenditure left a credit in the bank of £84 19s 3d.

Bell Rock.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed receipts £603 7s 11d, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £234 9s 5d.

Prince of Waiki.—At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders held in Mr J. H. Harrison's office it was resolved that steps be taken to voluntarily wind up the Company.

Mount Aurum.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed receipts £277 4s 10d, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £24 0s 4d.

Golden Band.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The balance-sheet presented showed receipts to 31st March were £504 8s 4d, and disbursements £446 16s 10d, thus leaving a credit balance of £57 11s 6d.

Charleston.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The bank balance on 31st March was £24 8s.

Karangahake.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The bank balance on 31st March was £71 9s 7d.

Original Great Barrier.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The balance-sheet showed receipts to be £542 13s, and expenditure £336 14s 2d, leaving a credit balance of £205 18s 10d.

Golden Giant.—The balance-sheet presented to the half-yearly meeting showed that the expenditure for the past half year was £374 3s 9d, of which £278 was spent on rent, wages, mine requisites, etc. At the end of March there was a cash balance of £5 9s 2d in hand.

Mataura.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. Expenditure for the past half-year was £524; of which £100 was in connection with Dixon's No. 1 special claim, and £282 18s 2d on wages, mine requisites, etc. The cash balance in hand is £37 4s 8d.

Aotea.—At the half-yearly meeting the balance sheet showed receipts £294 3s 10d and the expenditure £187 0s 9d, leaving a credit balance on hand of £107 3s 1d.

Kaitoke.—The receipts of this Company for the past half year were £349 19s 9d and the expenditure £220 8s 7d, leaving a credit balance of £129 11s 2d.

Mount Argemont.—The receipts of this company for the past half year were £215 18s 6d, and the expenditure £74 1s 6d, leaving a credit balance of £141 17s.

Wentworth.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The balance-sheet at 31st March showed a balance at bank of £50 8s 10d.

Katie.—The half-yearly meeting was held in the Chamber of Mines, Captain Harris presiding. Receipts £305 8s 4d, expenditure £551 5s 4d, leaving a debit balance of £245 17s. It was resolved to wind up the present limited company and form a no liability one with a capital of 100,000 shares of 1s each, the shares to be offered to the shareholders at 1d per share in the same proportion as they held in the original company. The following officers were then appointed:—Directors, Captain Harris, Messrs J. Heron, W. R. Vines, A. Board and P. B. Cook; legal manager, Mr John Clurton.

Sovereign.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The bank balance on March 31st was £519 13s 11d.

Alpha.—The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held in Mr H. Gilfillan's office. The statement left accounts showed receipts £691 8s 1d and the expenditure of a credit balance of £321 19s 5d. On wages and mine supplies £269 8s was spent. The chairman, Mr Barnes, stated that an arrangement had been made to float the property locally. The Alpha had 50,000 shares, of which 35,000 were issued. It was proposed to give the 15,000 reserved shares for the Rainbow property, which adjoined the Alpha. Then they would have to increase the capital to 120,000, of which number 50,000 shares would be allotted to a syndicate that had undertaken to erect a 20-stamper battery and complete cyanide plant. Another 50,000 shares would be allotted to the shareholders in the Alpha and Rainbow, and that would leave 20,000 reserve shares held for the Company.

Elvira.—An extraordinary general meeting was held at the office of Mr W. Elliot. It was resolved that the Company be wound up voluntarily.

Magazine.—The half-yearly meeting was held in Mr D. G. MacDonnell's office. The statement of accounts showed receipts £376 19s 9d, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £4 7s 6d.

Jay Gould.—The meeting lapsed. The accounts showed receipts £390 2s and expenditure £254 8s 1d, leaving a credit balance of £135 13s 11d.

Waiki Reefs.—The annual meeting lapsed. Receipts for the year were £1,216 3s 4d; and the present credit balance £36 15s 4d.

Maritana.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The accounts showed receipts £492 9s 3d, the expenditure £445 0s 8d, leaving a credit balance of £47 1s 7d.

Club.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The expenditure left a credit balance £77 0s 2d.

Conquering Hero.—The meeting lapsed. Receipts, £350 12s 9d; credit balance, £21 3s 4d. The amount spent on the mine was £227 2s 5d. The report referred to the negotiations for the sale of the property and mentioned that £200 had been deposited by the option holder.

Waiki Monument.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. Receipts, £1,154 19s 7d; expenditure, £499 15s 11d; credit balance, £655 3s 8d.

Premier.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The expenditure was £284 11s 8d, about £200 of which was on the mine in the shape of wages, mine requisites, etc. At the 31st March the credit balance was £98 in calls due, most of which have since been paid.

Royal.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The balance-sheet showed an overdraft of £10 13s 3d.

De Hirsch.—The meeting lapsed. The statements of accounts showed a credit balance of £21 2s 6d.

Hauraki North.—A largely attended meeting of shareholders in this company was held in the Chamber of Mines. The meeting was called to decide whether or not the majority of the shareholders were in favour of the directors purchasing the crushing plant erected on the ground by the syndicate owning the Robinson patent ore crusher. Two parcels have been treated by this crusher, 20 tons having yielded 1130z 11dw of gold, valued at £320 15s 6d, and 85 tons returned £493 16s 1d, making a total of £814 11s 7d obtained from 105 tons. The Chairman pointed out that a modern 10-stamper battery would cost from £2,000 to £3,000, and the present plant cost £470, while a duplicate crusher to make it equal to 10 stampers would cost another £150. With stonebreakers' engine, berdans, etc., the total cost of this plant was £826. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved by a majority of £47 25s shares to purchase the Robinson patent ore crusher.

Occidental.—The annual meeting was held at the office of Mr S. C. Macky. The directors' report stated that 91 loads of quartz had been crushed for the return of 200oz 9dw melted bullion, valued at £564 18s 4d. The balance-sheet showed a credit of £27 0s 10d. Messrs W. Hellaby and Robt. Comer were re-elected directors.

Ajax.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The credit balance of the Company on March 31st was £415.

Welcome Find.—The annual meeting was held at Mr Gilfillan's office, when Mr B. Kent presided. The statement of accounts showed receipts for the year £3,901 8s 8d, and the expenditure left a balance of cash in bank and on hand of £272 16s 7d. The principal items of expenditure were £2,004 15s 2d, for wages and coal £461 4s 7d. Major George and Messrs B. Kent, and J. Smith were re-elected directors.

Jupiter.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The cash in bank and on hand, on 31st March, was £195 6s 2d.

Clunes.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The balance sheet showed an overdraft of £12 10s 11d, and cash in hand £5 17s 11d.

Wynyardton.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The statement of accounts showed a credit balance of £107 8s 3d.

Prospect.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The statement of accounts showed receipts for the half-year £619 4s 10d, while the expenditure left a credit balance of £92 5s 1d.

Golden Link.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed. The receipts totalled £475 16s, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £117 4s 11d.

King of Waiki.—The half-yearly meeting lapsed for want of a quorum. The statement of accounts showed a credit balance of £342 4s 5d.

Hercules.—The half-yearly meeting was held in Mr D. G. MacDonnell's office. The report stated the mine was now protected. The balance-sheet showed total receipts £833 8s 9d, and the expenditure £739 8s 1d, leaving a credit balance of £94 0s 8d.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex. Gravel, and Pain in the Back, Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in boxes of 41 each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors, Sole Proprietors THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG CO., LINCOLN, ENGLAND.

ROSS AND A FINE OLD PROSPECTOR.

(WRITTEN FOR THE 'GRAPHIC' BY THE 'WARRIGAL')

A FEW months ago I was commissioned to visit several districts on the west coast of the South Island to report on their mining prospects. I visited Westford, Greymouth, Reefton, and Hokitika, and eventually found my way down to Ross. Ross is the most southerly of west coast towns. Southward of it is a wild and desolate region—range after range of rugged hills rising from the surf-beaten beach in tier above tier to the eternal snows of the Southern Alps; range beyond range to the majestic Fiordland. True there is, as at Gillespie's Beach, tiny groups of miners settled here and there along the coast, but speaking generally the district is a terra incognita as far as any place can be incognita in New Zealand. A few daring prospectors have pushed their way up some of the river beds. One or two adventurous explorers, like A. H. Harper, have actually climbed the western slopes of the 'Great Divide,' but all such people speak of the region as being unutterably grand, unutterably rugged, and wonderful in the extreme—where glaciers move majestically through forests of tropical luxuriance; where crags and peaks rise from fields of snow, and rivers gush bodily from gorgeous ice caverns; where there are gorges too precipitous to be explored and mountains too rugged to be climbed. I do not propose, however, to describe this region. I wish to tell readers of the GRAPHIC something about Ross, and about that famous old prospector, Antony Zala.

Ross, from a mining point of view, is unique. Ross Flat is one of our natural wonders in the way of auriferous alluvial formations. This flat, on which the township is built, is practically a huge basin filled in by the action of some ancient river which ran when New Zealand was part of a great continent. The Ross united shaft, which goes down something over 400 feet, cuts through seven different layers of wash dirt, all of which are more or less auriferous. How many more layers there are can only be determined by deeper sinking, but the lowest yet reached is certainly the richest. When I visited the Ross United mine several years ago, gold was being obtained at the rate of 4 oz. per load, and as soon after my visit the mine was closed down owing to lack of capital, breakage of machinery, influx of water, and one or two other causes, much of the gold still remains. It was in one part of the Ross Flat where Cassin and Comisky sank their famous shaft and raised such vast quantities of gold, but to the present day only a small part of the Flat has been worked, and the Ross people look on its hidden riches with as much confidence as Aucklanders on the golden reefs in the Thames deep levels, and no doubt it is one of those places where foreign capital and powerful machinery could win a rich reward. The English speculator seems to have little fondness for alluvial mining, or I suppose we should ere this have heard of big pumps and strong winding gear being consigned to this place.

Mount Rangitoto, a few miles south of Ross, is another strange feature in the way of mining. It is a veritable mineralogical curiosity, having reefs that carry nearly all the known list of metals, and some, I believe, that are not known. Then the terraces that lie on the slopes of Mount Greenland and encircle the little township like giant ramparts form another interesting feature, not only because they have yielded and still yield great quantities of gold, but because their formation is a puzzle to the miner and geologist alike. It is supposed that they are really the edges of the alluvial strata mentioned as existing in the Flat tilted up at an angle corresponding with the slope of Mount Greenland, but this suggests either such a recent elevation of the mountain, or such immense antiquity of the alluvial strata, that it calls forth more highly scientific arguments than I am inclined to give.

There is gold everywhere about Ross. I have seen boys and girls amusing themselves washing the precious metal from the shingle in the main street, and all the river beds and creek beds in the neighbourhood have yielded heavy deposits to the alluvial miner. Where all this gold has come from has never been satisfactorily explained. Many people imagine its source to have been some system of reefs way back in the hills, and much prospecting has been done to find these reefs. So far the results have not realised expectations. Reefs have been discovered on Donnelly's Creek, Cedar Creek, and Farmers' Creek. The Cedar Creek reefs were opened up about five years ago, and stone rich enough to warrant the erection of a battery was found. The reef, however, petered out, and without much effort to pick up the run of quartz again the claims were abandoned and the battery sold for a mere song. Since then, however, stone has been found in the locality which assayed up to £80 per ton, and development work is going on actively.

On Farmers' Creek a large reef has been discovered and opened up entirely by the exertions of one man—Antony Zala. Antony Zala is one of New Zealand's most daring and energetic prospectors—a little, wiry, Swiss mountaineer. To look at him one would think him unable to swing a pick; and yet this man can carry a sixty-pound awag and push his way through the roughest country in the world. He is sixty years old now, but he can leap from stone to stone in a mountain torrent, and climb through the bush in a way to astonish most young men. He did me a dance, and I reckon the compliment I received from him as the best tribute I have ever had to my activity. Antony Zala is worth a whole article to himself, and when New Zealanders begin to recognise the heroic work done by their prospectors he will be considered worthy of a place in history. It will be too late then. Who is to record the feats of daring and endurance of such men? Who is there who can adequately describe their hardships and labour?

There is rough country on the Auckland goldfields, and hundreds of men are now facing and overcoming difficulties such as the people in towns little dream of—pushing their way up deep ravines, over steep ridges, through dense forests; but Auckland country is tame compared with that of the West Coast. Where Auckland