

stope over the back of No. 5 level on the footwall branch of the Maria lode, where the reef is 3 feet wide and carries a vein 6 inches wide showing coarse gold very freely; in fact is the richest ore ever obtained from the mine. This ore is all being saved and bagged for future treatment. In order to ascertain the real value of the ore one ton was sent to Auckland for treatment by an amalgamation at Frower's plant. The result was very satisfactory, the yield being £126 16s. The ore not being won is even richer than that apparently, and is of course being kept separate. In the face of No. 4 level a splendid reef is showing; fully six feet wide, whilst in the stopes over the back of this level south of the break the reef is 9 feet wide and increasing in size, and the ore is all of first-class quality. The tailings from this ton of ore will also be treated by the cyanide process to save the fine gold.

The crushing return for the past four weeks from this mine was also satisfactory in so far that the average value per ton of the ore treated showed improvement, being about £2 14s 6d as against £2 12s 3d last month. During the past four weeks 1,015 tons of ore were treated for a return of bullion valued at £2,765. This yield is less than last month's owing to the fact that a less quantity of ore was treated. The average value, however, shows an increase of 2s 3d per ton.

**WAITEKAURI RETURN.**

**£4,512 FOR THE MONTH.**

The return for the past month from this mine showed considerable improvement owing to the ore being of better quality. During the past four weeks 2,095 tons of quartz were treated for a yield of bullion valued at £4,512 5s 9d, or at the rate of £2 3s 1d per ton. Last month 2,065 tons returned £3,650 9s 8d, and in August 1,830 tons yielded bullion valued at £3,900 18s 10d.

**IMPERIAL.**

The prospects of this Karangahake mine are steadily becoming more encouraging. During the week a considerable improvement has taken place in the reef south of the fault at No. 4 level, where the lode is a very promising looking body of ore, about 2ft in thickness. Samples of the stone from No. 4 level were sent to the Bank of New Zealand for assay, with highly satisfactory results. No. 1 sample returned at the rate of 85oz 16dwt of gold and 295oz of silver, the value per ton being £371 14s. No. 2 sample returned at the rate of 5oz 21dwt of gold, 2oz 14dwt of silver, the value per ton being £20 12s 6d. Such results should be sufficient to guarantee the reef proving payable when treated in bulk parcels. Later in the week the manager telegraphed:—"Cut main reef of the break No. 4 level. Gold seen freely in the stone, also excellent dish prospects. Reef fully 2ft thick." As this mine is well situated alongside the Woodstock Company's property there is little doubt that it has a good future before it, and the shares in this Company should be a good investment at the present low price.

**HAURAKI ASSOCIATED.**

Rich stone continues to be got from this Coromandel mine. This week the manager secured 50lb of picked stone from the stopes on the footwall leader. In the eastern stopes the lead widened out to three or four inches, with gold more evenly distributed.

**PURU CONSOLIDATED.**

The directors of this Thames Company met during the week, and decided to accept the tender of Mr J. J. Payne for the erection of a ten stamp wet crushing gold mill, which it is expected will be able to put through 1,000 tons a month. The mortars will be a special feature, being fitted with inside amalgamating plates. The whole plant has been designed by Mr H. D. Griffiths, and the iron work is to be supplied by the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, through their local representative, Mr Bruce Lloyd. The conditions of contract stipulate that the battery shall be completed by 20th March, 1898.

Sheridan.—The Napier Company that took over this Tapu mine are pushing forward development work with all possible despatch. The battery has now resumed crushing operations, the ten stampers having been renovated, and the five additional head erected.

**GOLD RETURNS FOR THE WEEK.**

Companies.	Tons.	£ s d
Waitekauri	2,095	4,512 0 0
Woodstock	1,615	2,765 0 0
Woodstock	1 (trial)	126 0 0
Waiki	3,240	11,640 0 0
Fleming's Lease	2 (trial)	30 0 0
<b>Total for week</b>		<b>£19,073 0 0</b>

**NOTES.**

**Copper Ore.**—Two samples of copper pyrites ore sent from Manakara by Mr Robert Bell were treated this week at the Thames School of Mines. No. 1 sample gave 10.95 per cent. of copper, No. 2, 3.32 per cent., the former being valued at £5 per ton and No. 2 at £1 12s 6d. This ore was obtained from the surface.

**Curiosities.**—The reef in the winze is one foot thick and the stone shows gold.

**Paul Jones (Waiti).**—An option has been granted to representatives of English capitalists over this mine on conditions that provide for the expenditure of at least £70 per month on the property in development work.

**Great Barrier.**—One ton of ore from the reef in the low level at this mine has been sent for treatment at the Thames School of Mines.

**Chicago (Tararu).**—Good gold has been struck in No. 2 drive of this mine, which was recently purchased by a Christchurch syndicate.

**Orlando.**—In breaking down the reef nice colours of gold were seen this week.

**Hauraki North.**—The western face and the stopes are supplying payable ore to the crusher.

**Kathleen Crown.**—Systematic development is proceeding in this mine, and it is encouraging to note that the main reef at the 200 feet level has shown signs of improvement lately.

**Mount Argemum.**—A block of fine-looking ore from the seven feet reef in the Great Barrier mine was sent to town this week. The stone is of first-class description, being almost black on account of the amount of mineral in it. Assays made from this reef went over £8 per ton, and showed a much larger proportion of gold than silver.

**Kaitoke.**—In No. 1 drive several small leaders have been cut during the month, also a reef, one foot thick, intersected, which shows silver freely.

**Ni Desherandum.**—No. 2 lead still carries a little gold, and the ground is getting much firmer as the drive advances.

**Fleming's Leases.**—Two tons of ore from this Tairua property have just been treated at the Thames, for a return of 11oz 21dwt melted gold, total value about £30. The ore is free milling.

**Aulelaide.**—Below the level the reef is now about 12 inches wide, and when broken down showed strong colours of gold.

**New Golden Point (Tapu).**—In the winze below the low level, the reef formation is now fully two feet wide, and some of the quartz looks very promising, a little gold being seen.

**The Royal Standard.**—Rich stone is being taken from the footwall of No. 1 reef. Assays all show the value to be £10 to £44 per ton.

**Konata Reefs.**—The battery is working most satisfactorily. At the mine on the reef in the low level the quality of ore so far as explored is first-class.

**Native Chief.**—The directors of this Company have accepted a working option. Home people paying working expenses of not less than £60 per month. On the ultimate formation of the English Company the shareholders of the local Company will receive one-fifth of the shares paid up to £1.

**Golden Shore (Coromandel).**—Considerable vigour is being displayed in sinking the shaft on this property.

**Waitana.**—At the low level the main reef carries a payable class of ore. Assays made going south prove that the ore should run about £5 10s per ton, and while going north as high as £11 4s per ton has been obtained.

**Floesie (Kenesly Bay).**—In winze now being sunk on the main leader the stone shows gold at breaking down.

**Welcome Final.**—In the stopes above No. 2 level the Southern lode is from 2 to 6 inches in width, and a few pieces of gold bearing stone have been selected from the general stuff.

**Alpha.**—Sufficient clearing at the battery site has been completed to permit buildings and excavations to be gone on with.

**Hauraki North.**—In the western drive the reef continues to give payable results at battery. In the rise the reef measures three feet in thickness. Two stopes have been started, and gold is frequently seen in all faces.

**Grace Darling.**—At the battery everything is in readiness to start crushing. Stone is being broken out from different parts of the mine, in which gold can be seen. The reef in the south end is fully eight feet wide, in the stopes five feet, and in one of the rises six feet. The ore is of a free milling character, and the manager does not anticipate any difficulty in saving the gold.

**New Golconda.**—Work is to be resumed at once in this mine, the requisite pumping and hauling machinery having been procured by the directors.

**SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS.**

During the past week the following meetings of shareholders in mining companies were convened:—

**Kapai Vermont.**—A meeting of local shareholders in the above Company was held in the Chamber of Mines. Mr N. A. Nathan presided, and explained that the meeting was called in reference to the liquidator being empowered to receive £1,000 as interest in connection with the sale of the property. He moved "that the liquidator of the Company be and is hereby authorised to accept payment from the mortgagees of the second instalment of interest due on November 1st. This was seconded by Mr S. T. George. Mr J. Russell said the Committee had decided that it was the most desirable thing to ratify the sale. Litigation to upset the sale would be a very costly affair, and meant calls. The position was difficult. It would involve a commission of some kind to take evidence, and if they did upset the sale they would have to repay all the money expended by the purchasers and that meant from £8,000 to £10,000. It was one of the conditions in assenting to liquidation that the claims for commission should be submitted to arbitration. He thought it was in the interest of the shareholders that they should ratify the sale under the circumstances. The motion was agreed to.

**Royal Shield.**—A meeting of shareholders was held at the Company's office. Mr C. C. McMillan, the Chairman, moved, "That the Company be wound up." This was agreed to. Mr E. J. White was appointed liquidator.

**Rocky River Sluicing.**—At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders this week a resolution was adopted that 5,000 of the unallotted shares be offered first to shareholders at 1s 6d each, and any balance to the public.

**Flemington.**—The half-yearly meeting of shareholders lapsed for want of a quorum. The directors' report stated that assays from the 60 feet reef discovered on this property yielded from 10s 9d to £3 0s 8d per ton. The statement of accounts showed total receipts £753 8s 8d, of which £518 16s 6d was expended in wages, and £41 8s 7d on mine requisites. The credit balance was £15 14s 0½d.

The October number of the 'Pall Mall Magazine' is as usual remarkable for the illustrations and interesting letterpress. Among the first those of Wilton House will convey to colonials a very good idea of the magnificence of some of the English country seats. In a country like this where we have little or nothing of that sort of thing, these pictures are especially interesting. The Northamptonshire village jottings with the accompanying letterpress are pleasant glimpses into the rural life of a part of England that is not nearly so well known as it deserves to be. An amusing article profusely illustrated is the 'Follies of Fashion,' and among the stories, in addition to the continuation of Louis Stevenson's 'St. Ives,' which, by the way, Mr Quiller Couch manages well, there is a tale of the Mexican prairie, and another ('Staine by Honour') by Jacques de Boys, and a third ('Amaranth and Asphodel') by Helen Hetherington. The article on that great soldier, Lee, of Virginia is continued, while there is the usual amount of poetry and the delightful notes from a Cornish Window.

**CYCLING.**

The New Plymouth Cycle Club had their first run on Thursday, and after an enjoyable spurt up Frankley Road, they were entertained on their return by the Te Henui Tennis Club at an afternoon tea, which they greatly appreciated.

The Christchurch polo season was opened on Saturday afternoon, on their ground, Hagley Park, the green being perfect. The pavilion was filled with spectators, but the delicious tea dispensed by Mrs and the Misses Gerard could scarcely keep them warm. Some interesting games were witnessed, but most of the visitors left early. Amongst the number I saw Mrs A. E. G. Rhodes, Mrs Stead, Mrs G. Gould, Mrs R. Macdonald, Mrs A. Scott, Mrs Fox, Mrs Pyne, Misses Bewick, Murray-Aynsley, Cotton, Tabart, etc.

The enormous sum of £100,000 has just been arranged as payment for the patent rights of a newly-invented bicycle wheel on the spiral spring principle. The inventors claim that it will supersede the pneumatic tyre, but it will have to do something very, very extraordinary to do this. Personally, I am unfavourable to any cycle appliance in which springs play a part, and if I were the inventor of a wheel such as I have described I should be more than satisfied to receive such a nice little present as £100,000 for it.

Some further particulars of the Pedersen cantilever bicycle, which is being introduced by the Humber Company, are to hand. One or two sample machines have been built, and these are fitted with 24in wheels, single tube tyres, wooden rims, a saddle made of cord, very light tubes, no brake, no footrests, or mudguards, and therefore scale very little. It is doubtful, however, if, when built with larger wheels and with all the accessories that the everyday cyclist requires, the Pedersen cantilever bicycle will weigh much less than the present type of machine, and, of course, its peculiar construction will make it a very expensive machine to build.

The Czar of Russia is very fond of cycling, and while riding his bicycle he is never happier than when he is handling a rook rifle. He prides himself on being able to bring down three rooks out of seven while going at a good pace. Most of these tidbits of information about Royal cyclists, however, have to be accepted with considerably more than the proverbial grain of salt.

In Australia (says a Sydney paper) there is a decided and an unreasonable objection to lady cyclists appearing on the wheel in knickerbockers. It is the only dress that can be described as suitable for bicycling, and until our fashions evolve to the point of accepting that costume unconditionally, cycling by women in Australia will not reach the stage of popularity which it has assumed in other countries. In France fashion censors are much more tolerating, and the whirling wheeling members of the fair sex in the gay centre not only discard the objectionable skirt, but also find stockings an encumbrance. This is what a well-informed correspondent from Paris says:—"Tout le monde" on the wheel! Bicycles, bicycles everywhere, and never a chance to cross the street. And such sights as one sees! Mon Dieu!—to be French—they are awful. Fancy a woman, all red bloomers and long limbs, without gaiters, and sometimes without stockings, and a big lace hat heaped with roses—that's what we are treated to in Paris, and there's no law against it, either. I have been here a week now, and I haven't seen a skirt yet. All bloomers and knickerbockers and gaiters, and not pretty ones very often, at that. The bare-legged women wear little short socks just above their low shoes, and their limbs gleam out pink and shocking in the Paris sunshine. You gasp at first, but you get used to it in a little while, and don't even turn your head as the bare extremities flash past. But they are daring riders, dashing in and out among the carriages and horses in the crowded boulevards, and accidents are exceedingly rare. Some of the women lean so far over their handle-bars that from the rear you don't quite know whether the thing is human or not. As in London, the best and the worst ride, and they ride all together and side by side. The President's daughters, countesses, duchesses, and the best of the American colony, wheel to wheel, with painted oocotes in costumes that make you groan. Even the Favourite St. Germain has bundled up its proud dignity, and gotten itself a-top a wheel, and there you are.

To the non-bicyclist it certainly seemed as though this year fewer wheels were to be seen in the streets of Paris and the Bois than last season, but if the figures given by the 'Figaro' are to be trusted the idea is a huge error. The number of bicycles taxed in 1896 reached a total of 329,816 for

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