

MINING NEWS.

SHAREMARKET.

THE gold returns for the past week have been satisfactory, the yield from the Waikoi mine being again a record one, totalling £22,852. The immense ore reserves in this wonderful mine may be estimated from the fact that during the 28 days 6690 tons were treated. The March yield from this mine was £18,445, which was considered a record, but it is evident the new battery was capable of treating a still larger quantity of ore. If the same average is kept up for the succeeding six months, the yield from the Waikoi mine for 1898 should be near £300,000. The return from the Waitekauri mine was also a good one, and the developments in this mine are of a very satisfactory character. At No. 2 level the reef has been driven on for 310 feet, and is intact for 100 feet overhead. The ore has been of high grade the whole distance, and, as the lode is from 8 to 12 feet in width, there should be a large body of payable quartz to be worked from this part of the mine alone. It is also worthy of note that in the official gold returns for the quarter ending March the output from Auckland is greater this time than from any of the other districts, although the West Coast makes a very good second. The report of the annual meeting of shareholders in the Hauraki Company, to land this week by mail, shows that a dividend of 6s was paid upon the 2/6 shares, which is very good interest for original holders. The prospects of the mine for the future are also spoken of as very encouraging. The return from the Woodstock mine this month shows a slight increase on the previous four weeks' yield. Mr. McCombie having resigned his position as manager of this Karangahake mine, his place has been filled by Mr. Rich, a gentleman with American experience. Several parcels of picked stone have been obtained during the week from the Queen of the North mine, and as the property adjoins the famous Royal Oak on the Tokatea range at Coromandel, it is quite possible that a rich patch may be discovered. An important development has occurred in the Owharoa Syndicate's property. After the expenditure of a lot of money in opening up this mine, the company have at last cut what is known as the Radical lode, in the drive from the bottom of the shaft. The reef has already been cut into six feet, and the ore looks promising, but sufficient work has not yet been done on the lode to properly gauge its value, but as the reef produced a lot of gold in the upper levels in the early days of the field, there is a good chance for the future when the reef is driven upon. Business has been quiet on the Exchange during the week, few transactions being reported, but notwithstanding there were no noteworthy alterations in values. Monowal shares had most attention owing to samples assayed from 20 tons of ore sent Home for treatment having shown its value to be from £8 3/9 to £9 10 per ton. As the Waikoi ore is of a refractory nature, this parcel is being despatched to London in order to ascertain the most suitable method of treatment.

WAIHI RETURN.

£22,852 FOR THE MONTH.

TOTAL OUTPUT, £702,837.

The return from this mine for the past four weeks was bullion valued at £22,852 the proceeds of 6,690 tons treated. This is the largest output from this mine for any four weeks. The previous month £18,445 was obtained from 5,660 tons of ore treated. This brings up the total output from the Waikoi mine to £702,837 2s 10d.

The following table shows the return per year from this mine since 1890:—

Bullion won	£	s	d.
In 1890	21,112	13	6
1891	23,585	5	11
1892	44,894	3	4
1893	61,500	10	11
1894	82,827	2	2
1895	126,314	2	2
1896	137,321	6	2
1897	143,291	8	8
1898 to May	67,231	0	0
Total	£702,837	2	10

WAIHI - SILVERTON.

£1,025 FOR THE MONTH.

The Waikoi-Silverton Company had 23 stamps working for 26 days in April. They crushed and treated 775

tons of ore for a return of 713oz, estimated to yield £1,025.

WAITEKAURI RETURN.

£4,851 FOR THE MONTH.

The month's return of the Waitekauri G.M. Co. shows that 1,680 tons of ore were crushed and treated for a return of £4,851. In March 1,675 tons of ore were treated for a return of bullion worth £4,760.

WOODSTOCK.

THE MONTHLY RETURN.

For the four weeks ending April 23rd, 582 tons of ore were crushed and treated at the Woodstock battery for a return of bullion worth £924. During the month previous 310 tons gave a return of £782.

WAIOTAHU.

THE MONTH'S RETURN.

The Waioatahu monthly cleaning up resulted in a return of 143oz of retorted gold from 85 tons of ore from all parts of the mine. The value is about £389.

MAHARA ROYAL.

THE MONTH'S YIELD.

The result of the monthly retorting of the Mahara Royal claim (Tapu) shows 325 tons of ore were treated for a yield of 176oz ldwt melted gold worth £3 1s 1d per ounce, or a total sum of £537 13s 9d.

IRENE G.M. COMPANY.

RESULT OF CRUSHING.

A parcel of ore from the Irene mine at Kuzotunu was crushed at the Great Mercury battery, 163 tons giving an approximate yield of £290.

BAY VIEW.

Penman and other tributaries in the Bay View mine crushed 5½ tons of ore for a return of 22ozs 8dwt of bullion, estimated to be worth £63.

KAPANGA.

The Kapanga mine return is 21oz 18dwt of gold, the estimated value of which is £65.

WEEK'S GOLD RETURNS.

Company.	Tons.	£	s	d.
Waikoi	6,690	22,852	0	0
Woodstock	582	924	0	0
Waitekauri	1,680	4,851	0	0
Waikoi-Silverton	775	1,025	0	0
Waiotahau	85	389	0	0
Irene	163	290	0	0
Kapanga	21	65	0	0
Bay View Tripton	5½	63	0	0
Total		£30,459	0	0

QUARTER'S GOLD RETURNS.

The values of gold sent for export for the quarter ended March were as follow:—

Auckland	£110,872
Marlborough	597
West Coast	100,320
Otago	59,512
Total	£271,310

For the corresponding quarter of last year the total was £275,816. This quarter Auckland leads the list.

ALPHA.

About £5,000 worth of machinery for this company is at present awaiting transit to the mine and battery site.

MONOWAL.

A parcel of 20 tons of ore from this Waikoi mine has been forwarded Home for treatment at Swansea. Assays made gave the value as follows:—£9 10/7, £8 3/9, and £9 7/7 per ton.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH.

The manager of this mine at Coromandel telegraphed this week:—"Broke down reef in Day leader. Secured 10lbs fair picked stone. Gold showing." The Queen of the North property is situated next to the Royal Oak.

HARBOUR VIEW.

Stopping operations have been continued on the Blue Peter leader. A small leader has been cut and is running along with the Blue Peter leader, which is carrying gold. A few pounds of picked stone have been obtained.

WOODSTOCK.

At No. 5 level a main branch made its appearance on the hangingwall side, and affected a junction with the body of stone being driven upon. The

lode is from 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet in width, and some of the stone carries nice gold.

PURIRI GOLD ESTATES.

Six men are engaged in driving a main tunnel to catch well-known existing reefs running through the whole length of the property. Assays of stone taken from the outcrops of two of these reefs gave a return of 17s 3d and 21s per ton. The cost of the development of the property is being done with English capital.

TE PUKE GOLD REEFS, LIMITED.

This Company has been registered with a capital of £20,000, or 100,000 shares at 2/6 each. One hundred thousand shares, paid up to 2/6, have been subscribed and will be issued to the three proprietors of the freehold estate of 1,100 acres, who have conveyed it over to the Company unencumbered. There are 60,000 shares set aside for future sale, and the Company will have ample capital for developing the property. It is intended to cut for tenders immediately to cut a low level tunnel 300 feet below the present lowest level in order to open the 32 feet reef on the south side of the hill.

WHANGAMATA PROPRIETARY.

Works of an extensive character are being carried on at this mine. All the contracts have been let for the construction of the water-race and erection of reduction works. Two tunnels have been completed along the line of the water-race. The third tunnel will be finished shortly, after which the water will be carried on wooden fluming along trestle work. The No. 3 or western crosscut is in about 570ft, and it will only require the shaft to be sunk another 60ft before a crosscut can be started to connect with this level. At present the shaft is down 185ft. Excellent prospects were obtained, some of the ore assaying as high as £10 per ton. The average value per ton of the lode is estimated to be about £4. At No. 2 level the reef is over 10 feet wide.

NOTES.

Bay View.—A start has been made to pack quartz to battery.

New Goleonda.—At the intermediate level a few colours of gold have been seen in the stone.

Taliman.—Work in the N.Z. Taliman mine during April has resulted in about 500 tons of ore being ready for treatment.

Bunker's Hill.—The leader is becoming more compact as driving advances, and continues to show gold in the breaking down.

Golden Lead.—The reef in the face looks encouraging, and when breaking down strong dabs of gold could be seen through the solid stone.

Great Mercury.—The stone from the No. 2 stope is of a fair grade. In the two stopes in progress on the Red Mercury reef, the quartz body has narrowed down to two inches in width. Colours of gold are frequently seen in the stone.

Tokatea Consols.—A cross leader has come out in the low level of this mine. The leader is small, but carries gold. There are about 40 tons of ore ready for crushing, a portion of it being trial lots from three different reefs.

PROMINENT AUCKLAND LAWYERS.



MR. EDWIN HESKETH.

MEN AND WOMEN.

Here is a point of etiquette. When a mistress has occasion to write a letter to her housemaid, how should she address the letter? Should it begin, 'Dear Janet,' 'Dear Miss Jones,' or should it be in the formal third person, 'Mrs — requests Janet to?'

A touching romance in the life of the late Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers has (says the 'Daily Telegraph') been disclosed by his death. In early life he fell deeply in love with a Miss Mellish, and his affection was returned as far as could be done by a lady who for some reason had taken a vow to lead a single life. Mr. Villiers remained true to his first love, and never married, and his constancy so touched Miss Mellish that in her will she left all her fortune—a considerable one—to him absolutely. He however, never touched the money, leaving it to accumulate with interest, while he lived very simply on his own modest revenue, supplemented by his Cabinet pension. By the time of Mr. Villiers' death the capital originally left by Miss Mellish had grown to a sum considerably over a quarter of a million sterling. Of this total he will, left, £150,000 to the Rev. Montague Villiers, vicar of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and a somewhat similar sum to Mr. Ernest Villiers.

There are over 200 women across the Atlantic who have been regularly ordained as ministers, besides nearly three times as many evangelists and lay preachers, the Church of the Disciples having no fewer than 46 of its regular ministers women, the Universalist Church 40, the Free Will Baptists 38, the Unitarians 24, the Congregationalists 23, the United Brethren of Christ 21, and the Protestant Methodist Church 8, while Mrs. Solomonus has recently officiated as Rabbi at the Sinai Temple, Chicago, so well known in connection with the liberal Jewish movement. If England were America we should be looking forward in the near future to hearing a woman from the pulpit of St. Paul's.

Nearly all the members of the Royal Family have their photograph albums, amongst the most elaborate of these being those possessed by the Empress Frederick of Germany, Princess Beatrice and Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne). But perhaps the most interesting of all the Royal albums is the one belonging to the Queen. It is of the old-fashioned scrap-book pattern, and contains many beautiful little sketches by the Queen herself and the Prince Consort. There are also many little contributions and mementoes from many eminent people of thirty and forty years ago. Not the least interesting part of the contents is a piece of the lace which decorated the Queen's wedding cake.

One of the duties of the Lord Chamberlain on the occasion of a State concert is as follows:—The member of the Royal Family representing Her Majesty occupies the centre chair on a raised dais at the end of the room, facing the orchestra. Immediately she is seated the Lord Chamberlain, bowing very solemnly, approaches, kneels down, and gently takes the right foot of the Royal lady and even more gently places it on a crimson and gold foot-stool. Then the Lord Chamberlain retires.

The municipal year-book of Berlin for 1898, just published, contains an interesting section on the size of Berlin families. In that year a lady, forty-one years old, presented her husband with his twentieth living child. There were five families with nineteen children, sixteen with eighteen, seventeen with seventeen, thirty-two with sixteen, sixty-three with fifteen, eighty-three with fourteen, and one hundred and twenty-six with thirteen. Two hundred pairs of Berlin patients counted a dozen children each, the mother in one case being only twenty-six years old. A mother of eighteen offspring was thirty-five years old, while women of twenty-three and twenty-four had borne eight and five children respectively. On the whole, however, early marriages are much rarer here than in London. There were only sixty-two husbands under twenty years of age during 1896, and only sixty-three wives under seventeen. On the other hand, one hundred and fifty bachelors over fifty-six years old changed their estate, and one lady became a mother for the first time in her fifty-fifth year.