

**MINING NEWS.**

to carry lights for their own protection, quite independent of cyclists. Vans and buses rumble along unit in London in a style worthy of the dark middle ages. An amusing instance of inconsistency was quoted recently at Reading by a championship umpire. He was riding at night and nearly ran into a covered cart ahead of him. Though wrapped in gloom it was covered with traps, the most prominent being 'Let your light shine before men.'

The new wheel woman has been much before the public lately. At a meeting of the Holborn Board of Guardians, a letter was read inquiring as to the character of an assistant laundrymaid in their employ who was seeking another appointment. A member observed that he was afraid the lady in question was more in touch with the bicycle and the piano than with the prosaic life of a workhouse laundry. Spoken to with reference to her work, the lady herself answered: 'I could not do that for the life of me. I was out all yesterday on my bicycle and am too stiff for that to-day.'

A comparison between The Grafter's time in this year's Melbourne Cup and that of the winner of last year's Austral Wheel Race (two miles) affords interesting reading. The Grafter's time was 3min 29 3-5sec, as against J. Carpenter's 4min 40 1-5sec last year, both performances being ridden on the turf. Although the Austral Wheel time was over a minute slower than that of the Cup, the difference is largely accounted for by the fact that the competitors in the Austral Wheel Race are at a great disadvantage owing to the slowness of the Melbourne Cricket Ground track. The Australian cycle record for two miles is T. Relph's 3min 38 1-5sec, or nearly 10sec slower than the Cup time, whilst the world's record is held by McDuffie (America) in 3min 25sec, or 1sec faster than the great Flemington race has ever been ridden. It is thus seen that whilst the Cup times beat the Australian cyclists' times the record for two miles on the wheel beats the equine record over the same distance by 1sec.

A few weeks back a well known Melbourne cyclist was proceeded against for riding his machine through the streets 'hands off,' and, despite the defence that he could steer the machine as well with his feet as his hands, he was fined. He has now applied for and obtained from the Chief Justice an order nisi to review the magistrate's decision, on the ground that there was no evidence of negligence.

'I smoke myself during training, but in a reduced measure. I don't think that I have any great influence, unless for the worse if overdone. Still, I should say...at no harm can be done by discontinuing the practice, and some good may accrue.'—Stocks, on training.

The most important feature on the Exchange during the past week was the advance in the price of Waitakauri shares. A week or two ago Waitakauri were offered at 25s, but failed to find buyers at that figure, then a record return was followed by good news from the mine, with the result that as high as 27s 6d was offered, but no sellers could be found under 31s. While the price was advancing transactions took place at 25s and 26s. Talisman shares also firmed, there being steady buyers at 12s 6d, with no sellers under 13s. Moanatairi shares also increased in value, owing to over £1600 being obtained from the mine this month, part of which belonged to tributaries. Waihi-Silvertons had an upward move to 6s 8d, but subsequently sold at 6s, and now the best buying offer is 5s 10d. The upward move in Tararu Creeks stopped at 2s 6d, at which figure frequent sales were made during the week, after which the buying price dropped to 1s 10d. Some very rich specimen stone was obtained during the week from the Bunker's Hill mine at Coromandel, and as this stock is always very sensitive free sales were made in shares at from 2s 2d to 2s 3d. Sanguine people are once more talking about Legge's reef, which yielded such large returns in the Hauraki mine, having been at last discovered in the Bunker's Hill. As three leaders are converging together where the specimens were obtained, it is quite possible that this company is at last to be rewarded for the persistent prospecting done during the last couple of years.

As will be seen by glancing at the gold output tables below, the return this month was an excellent one, approaching £52,000, being an increase of £2668 over last month's yield, which was the then record. There is no doubt that the steady increase each month in our gold output must soon have an effect on the London market, and, in fact, already some disposition is being shown by representatives of English capital to take up desirable mines. Apparently the depression is passed, and mining is once more on the up grade, the difference this time being that instead of nominal mines on paper, shares in proved remunerative properties may be secured at rates which should shortly ensure a handsome profit to the investor.

**GOLD OUTPUT.**

**A RECORD RETURN.**

OVER £51,000 FOR THE MONTH.

Month after month the output of gold from the Auckland fields continues to show steady increase. Last month the return was a record one being over £48,000. This month the output is over £51,000, with several returns yet to come in. The yield from Ohinemuri mines alone totals nearly £43,000.

OHINEMURI.			
Company	Tons.	£	s. d.
Waihi (Record)	758	24,123	0 0
Waitakauri (Record)	177	6,075	0 0
N.Z. Talisman (Record)	374	3,738	0 0
Woodstock (Record)	1,000	2,367	0 0
N.Z. Crown	2,700	5,194	0 0
Waitakauri Extended	191	1,322	0 0
Komata Reefs	410	1,325	0 0
Young New Zealand	3	26	0 0
trial			
		£42,980	0 0

THAMES.			
Company	Tons.	£	s. d.
May Queen (Oct)	213	408	10 2
May Queen (Nov)	180	401	17 6
Cardigan	39	73	5 6
Tararu Creek (Oct)	1,410	1,715	0 0
Monowai	70	81	0 0
Mahara Royal (Oct)	310	541	0 0
Mahara Royal (Nov)	238	407	13 7
Waiotahi	191	190	0 0
Sheridan	80	110	0 0
Moanatairi Tributaries	113	785	8 9
Moanatairi Company	186	875	12 1
Eclipse (trial)	104	219	19 1
		£29,000	7 2

COROMANDEL.			
Company	Tons.	£	s. d.
Kapanga Tributaries	...	400	0 0
Hauraki Associated	160	425	0 0
Hauraki	...	1175	0 0
Tukatea Consols	...	82	0 0
Kennedy and party	...	30	0 0
Kapanga Co.	...	229	0 0
Great Mercury	28	375	0 0
Mariposa	212	170	0 0
(Including 87lb picked stone)			
		£2886	0 0

Total output for month... 251,878 7 8  
Total output for last month... 248,219 5 11  
Increase... £3668 1 3

The following returns came to hand subsequent to compiling the above tables:—Hauraki South tributaries, £46 13s 9d; Royal Oak Co., 30 tons, £334.

**MARIPOSA RETURN.**

During the past month 212 tons of ore were treated by this Kuaotunu company for a return of bullion valued approximately at £275.

**MAY QUEEN RETURN.**

£401 FOR THE MONTH.  
The May Queen return for the four weeks ending 19th of November from 180 tons ore crushed was 143oz 2dwts of gold, valued at £401 17/6.

**ROYAL OAK RETURN.**

The return for the month's operations in the Royal Oak Mine shows a considerable decrease. In all 30 tons of ore and 142 lbs of picked stone were treated for a return of bullion worth £334 17/10.

**GREAT MERCURY.**

This Kuaotunu company during the past month crushed 220 tons of ore. The actual value of the bullion obtained has not yet been ascertained, but it is estimated approximately to be worth about £375.

**ECLIPSE.**

This Upper Tararu Company has completed a test crushing at the Chicago battery. The parcel treated comprised 104 tons of ore and a heap containing about 500 tons taken from all parts of the mine. The return from a partial clean up was £249 19/7.

**MAHARA ROYAL RETURN.**

This company cleaned up after a three weeks' run of the battery for a return of bullion valued at £407 13/7. For this amount 228 tons of ore were treated, and the gold won was worth £3 1/7 per oz. In future four week runs of the battery will clean up in time to square accounts for the out-going mail.

**BUNKER'S HILL.**

A few pounds of very rich specimen stone taken from the four inch leader in this mine were on view this week at the office of the local secretary, Mr Stubbs and were inspected by many gentlemen. General satisfaction was expressed at the richness of the exhibit. Shares in the company sold freely at 2/3. During the week 30lb of specimens were obtained.

**WAIHI CONSOLS.**

The annual meeting of shareholders lapsed for want of a quorum. The half-yearly statement of accounts showed total receipts £1,323 13/, of which £1,045 4/10 was from calls. The expenditure left a credit balance of £340 18/8. On wages and mine supplies £1,613 19/ was expended; for plant and machinery £406 14/10, and general expenses £163 18/8.

**KOMATA REEFS RETURN.**

The return from this mine during the past four weeks is £2,325 from 410 tons. Work in the mine during the month has been stopping on Argall's lode and the Hartridge leader, and driving on the Hartridge leader in levels No. 2 and 3. The leader in both these levels has averaged 12 inches in width, and some small runs of payable ore have been opened up, but on the whole the quartz has been low grade.

**HURAKI ASSOCIATED.**

Since the up-to-date 12-stamp mill, erected by the Co., has been at work, which commenced running in Dec., 1897, altogether 715 tons of ore have been treated for the company, from which 2313oz of melted gold was obtained of a total value of £6570, being an average of over £9 per ton. In addition to this £1300 was obtained from the crushings prior to the starting of the battery, making a total output of £7870 since the claim was formed into a no liability company called the Pride of Tokatea.

**GRACE DARLING.**

The terms of the amended option over the Grace Darling, Portsea, and other adjacent properties are that the purchase shall be completed by 28th

February, 1899, the option holders to deposit £100 per month for development; local shareholders receive 90,000 paid-up shares in a company of 240,000 shares at 10/ each; £5,000 cash, less option money expended in developments, to be provided as working capital, and another £10,000 guaranteed to the satisfaction of the vendors, 20,000 shares to be reserved. If not floated at the date mentioned all deposits to be forfeited.

**N.Z. CROWN MINES.**

An important and gratifying development has occurred at this company's mine below the underhand stope from No. 6 level, which though not unexpected clearly demonstrates the increasing size and richness of the lode as depth is attained upon it. A winze was sunk 60 feet from the underhand stope and driving north and south on the lode then commenced, 19ft having been driven to date towards the north and 25 feet to the south. Stopping has also been commenced over the back of the level. The reef is 12ft wide and the ore is of high grade right through.

**WAIHI.**

The manager reports that at No. 4 level from No. 2 shaft in the eastern end the contractors have cut 30 feet into the Martha lode with no indications being met of the footwall. The last foot penetrated to the north-western side showed mineralised stone. All the rest was free milling ore. For fifteen feet the ore was low grade, but the balance was of first-class quality. At No. 3 level eastward the Martha lode proved to be 58 feet across, eight feet on the footwall side, produced mineralised ore worth 1oz 4dwt of gold and 29oz of silver per ton. The other 50 feet was free milling, and worth by assay 14 dwts of gold and 2oz silver per ton.

**HURAKI SOUTH.**

**GOOD NEWS FROM LONDON.**

A cablegram was received this week from London instructing the local manager to recommence operations at once in the level from the main shaft, also to go on sinking the winze from No. 1 crosscut. The cable also states that there will be no need for any reconstruction of the company. Arrangements are now being made to start the above work as soon as possible.

A parcel of eight tons of ore, obtained from the Hauraki South mine at Coromandel by Horne and party, yielded £40 15/9.

Warner and party, tributaries in this mine, have sent 12 loads of ore to the Thames for treatment.

**WAIKAKAU.**

**IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.**

The consistently satisfactory yields of bullion from this company's mine for several months past have proved a source of gratification to all interested in mining, and it is pleasing to be able to record that the development work now being carried out is placing the future prospects of the company in a brighter light than ever. No. 3 level crosscut has intersected the Golden Cross lode, and after driving on its course north for 38ft., payable ore was met and this has continued to improve in quality for the whole distance driven, namely 840ft. The ore is at present of much higher grade than was got at No. 2 level above. The lode when intersected proved to be 19ft. across.

Ten head of stampers are now working continuously on wet crushing, and although no clean up has taken place since they started, still as far as can be judged the system appears likely to prove a success. It may safely be said the mine as a whole never looked so well.

**PUPHUPI.**

**OPERATIONS TO BE RESUMED.**

The Hampton Plains Exploration Co. (Limited) has now purchased the Puphupi mine and plant at Whangarei. Negotiations for the sale had been proceeding for some time. The property consists of 300 acres. It is the intention of the Company to commence work at once with 10 men in order to break out 50 tons of quartz for the purpose of experiments to settle the question of the most suitable method of treating the ore.

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