

MINING NEWS.

SHAREMARKET.

There was an upward tendency on the Exchange during the past week, several stocks having good advances. The most satisfactory feature is that it was shares in English companies that were most in demand, an evidence that the satisfactory increase in the gold output last year has not been without effect in London. N. Z. Crown shares, which latterly were asked for at 12/ with sellers at 14/6, subsequently had demand at 15/ with no quoted sellers under 18/. Woodstock shares changed hands early in the week at 6/9, but later on 8/ was offered without sales resulting. Talismans further advanced in price, being sold at 15/ with buyers left at 14/10. Mahara Royal shares were also a little firmer, being asked for at 1/11; and buyers of Komata Reefs advanced to 3/. The declaration of a dividend by the Waitekauri Company caused those shares to advance, buyers offering 32/ and holders asking 40/ as against sellers at 35/ earlier in the week. Thames stocks had fair demand. May Queens advanced to buyers 5/8, with no sellers under 6/. There has also been steady inquiry for Tararu Creek shares at 1/10; and buyers came in for Alburnias, Kurunui-Caledonians, but at rates which were not accepted. Bunker's Hill shares had regular buyers throughout the week at 2/6, with occasional sales up to 2/8. Four in Hand shares firmed a little in price, buyers offering 1/6, as against 1/2 formerly. In lower priced shares there were buyers of City of Auckland, Victoria, Imperial, Kurunui, Royal Oak, and Hauraki Associated shares, but in the face of a rising market holders did not accept the rates offered.

PROGRESS CASTLE ROCK.

The reef in the face is about 2ft wide, showing a well defined body of highly mineralised quartz, and appears to be improving in size and appearance as driven on. A rich deposit of gold may be met with here now at any time, as the drive is getting closer to the golden channel of country.

COMSTOCK.

The annual meeting of shareholders in this company took place this week, when Mr John Colbeck presided. The statement of accounts showed total receipts £344 9/3, and the expenditure left a credit balance of £3 17/3. On wages £208 13/6 was expended and general charges, etc., £131 18/6.

The report and balance sheet were then adopted.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Company was then held to consider the position of the Company, when a resolution to wind up was adopted.

SHERIDAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.

MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

A meeting of the paid up shareholders in the above company was held this week in the Chamber of Mines, being called by Mr C. Gray, who was voted to the chair. He explained that the Napier directors of the company intended holding a meeting of shareholders on the 6th of February for the purpose of winding up the Sheridan Company. The question was whether the paid-up shareholders would agree to such a course, seeing that there was still £4000 capital to be called up. The Napier people had spent £6000 on the mine and were getting tired of the expense.

Ultimately, on the motion of Dr. King, it was resolved to protest against winding up the company, and that steps be taken for Auckland shareholders to be represented at the Napier meeting.

BUNKER'S HILL.

The northern drive has been extended ten feet since last report, and the leader looks remarkably well, showing colours and dabs of gold all through the breaking down. It was from here the 18lbs of picked stone were obtained. The surface tunnel is in 65 feet through good sandstone.

NONPAREIL.

The Wade reef still produces quartz of a payable nature. Gold continues to be seen in the general dirt, and a little picked stone has been selected.

NEW ZEALAND TALISMAN.

Excellent ore is still being despatched to the mill from the various parts of the mine. It is rumoured that an additional forty head of stampers are to be erected, and that this new plant is to be operated by the wet crushing process. Wet crushing experiments are in progress, and it appears likely that these will be successful. Should the additional plant above specified be erected, the output of the mill will be increased by about 100 tons per day, and consequently the profits will be greatly enhanced.

WHANGAMATA PROPRIETARY.

The developments at No. 3 level are proving very satisfactory, the reef having widened to 6ft, while the ore is of good value. It has been decided to add another Krupp mill to the plant, and to increase the number of vats by six, making twelve in all. The work of battery erection is proceeding at a satisfactory speed, the internal ore hoppers having been completed, while the vats are well in hand. A tramway is now in course of construction between No. 3 adit and the mill, to which ore will be conveyed by horse traction. Good progress is also being made with the construction of the water race, and it is expected that this and all the other works will be completed early in April, by which date several large blocks of payable ore will have been developed in the mine.

ZEALANDIA.

The half-yearly meeting of shareholders in this Company was held this week in Mr D. G. MacDonnell's office and was well attended. Mr G. S. Kissling presided. The statement of accounts showed total receipts £456 17/8. The expenditure left a credit balance of £2 0/2. On wages and mine requisites £200 was expended. The balance-sheet was adopted. The directors' report stated there was a debt of £54 10/3 and that protection expired on the 9th of May. The report was adopted.

BROKEN HILL.

The half-yearly meeting of shareholders lapsed. The accounts showed receipts £377 6s 11d and the expenditure left a credit balance of 1/9, apart from the proceeds of call since made.

BARRIER REEFS.

The east end drive is in 217 feet. The reef is eighteen inches wide. More water is making. The west drive is in 190 feet. The quartz is at present 2 feet 6 inches wide, and promises to widen out. A little water is making. Favourable progress is being made on the road constructions to Whangaparapara.

ENTERPRISE CLAIM.

S. Cohen brought several pounds of stone from this claim to Coromandel showing fine gold throughout. This reef has only been lately discovered on this claim at Guntown.

MAY QUEEN TRIBUTERS.

Messrs Comer and party, who are working a tribute on the Cardigan No. 2 reef in the May Queen Company's mine at the Thames, have crushed 42 tons of quartz which returned bullion worth £232 2/.

TARARU CREEK RETURN.

During the past month 1,200 tons of ore treated by this Company yielded bullion worth £1,670, an increase of £350 upon the previous month's output.

WAITEKAURI.

A dividend at the rate of 1/ per share has been declared by the directors of this Company, payable on February 9. This means the distribution of £8,500.

WAIOTAHU RETURN.

The Waiotahi Company completed a crushing of 75 tons of ore which resulted in a yield of 120 ozs. 16 dwts. of melted gold, value £339 1/2.

HARBOUR VIEW.

Cape and Edgar, tributaries to the Harbour View Mine, got nineteen pounds of fair picked stone this week.

REPORTED NEW GOLD FIND.

Several samples of quartz have been shown in Stratford during the week, which are alleged to have been found

near Wangamomona in the creek by men in Sladden's survey party. The quartz shows gold freely. Several leading men in Stratford have subscribed to send out a party for prospecting purposes.

Wangamomona Creek is about fifty miles from Stratford, and is on the line of the proposed Auckland-Stratford railway. The discovery of a payable goldfield there would settle the question of the rival routes.

GREAT BARRIER.

Mr Barney, the recently appointed manager of the Great Barrier Mine, left this week for the island to take up his duties. It is understood the option holders purpose pushing forward development works vigorously.

TALISMAN EXTENDED.

THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Talisman Extended G.M. Co. (Limited) was held this week to confirm a special resolution that the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1882. After some explanation this was agreed to.

WEEK'S GOLD RETURNS.

The following crushing returns came to hand since last report:—

Companies.	Tons.	Picked stone.	£ s. d.
Waioahui	75	—	330 1 2
May Queen (tributers) 42	—	—	232 2 0
Tararu Creek	1,200	—	1,670 0 0
Total			£2,232 3 2

Surely the craze for the 'lady' servant reaches its height in the following advertisement:—'Two gentlewomen wanted, as cook and house-parlourmaid.' Why not say peesseses at once and have done with it?

N Z GRAPHIC

STORY COMPETITION PRIZES.

1899.

First Prize	£7 10 0
Second Prize	£5 0 0
Third Prize	£3 0 0
Fourth Prize	£2 0 0
Fifth Prize	£1 0 0

The Stories MUST NOT be less than 400 nor more than 500 words in length, and free from anything unsuitable for all classes of readers. It will be seen by Rule 5 that the broadest scope is allowed. So that the scene of the story is laid in New Zealand, the choice of subject is unlimited.

NOTICE TO AUTHORS.

1. A motto instead of the writer's name must be written under the title of the story. The author's real name must be enclosed in a separate envelope addressed to the editor, and all such envelopes must have the motto and words 'Story Competition' on the top left corner. This envelope must not be placed in the MS. packet, but MUST BE POSTED SEPARATELY. It must also contain a declaration that the work is original and entirely the sender's own.

2. Every MS. must be prepaid, and if left open at both ends will be carried at book rates. It must be addressed 'Editor NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC, Shortland-street, HOKIANGA, NEW ZEALAND.' ABOVE THE ADDRESS, MUST BE CLEARLY INSCRIBED THE MOTTO MENTIONED IN RULE 1.

3. Any competitor who may desire to have his MS. returned in the event of it not being successful must clearly state his wish in a note attached to the above declaration, and must also enclose stamps for return postage. When such a desire is not expressed, the MS. will become the property of the GRAPHIC.

4. All contributions must reach the office before May 15, 1899.

5. Choice of subjects rests with the writer, BUT THE SCENE MUST BE LAID IN NEW ZEALAND AND BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO NEW ZEALANDERS. It may deal with any subject, natural, supernatural, love, heroism, adventure, life on the gumfields, gold mines, or country, search for treasure, fighting, or peace. In fact, anything bright and interesting, and free from anything unsuitable for family reading.

6. Write clearly on one side of the paper only.

7. Writers who fail to comply with the above simple rules and conditions will be rigorously disqualified.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ARTHUR BOULT.

Musical circles in Auckland have been very much interested in the arrival in their city of Mrs Boulton, wife of Mr Arthur Boulton, who has been for some time engaged in teaching voice production and singing in Auckland. Mrs Boulton took the interview quite as a matter of course; her position, musically, in Adelaide, having naturally made her well-known, popular, and subject, therefore, to these little journalistic incursions into her domestic privacy. She is a thorough lady, with a marvellously clear enunciation, petite, with a grand forehead, blue grey eyes, and a charming manner.

Mrs Boulton remarked on the general absence of 'twang' in New Zealanders, and said she thought many of the voices would be easy to train. 'Indeed,' she added, 'there are many people who have latent talent of which they are not at all aware. Once aroused their musical enthusiasm, and they will display a genius for work, and attain a success which will surprise themselves and delight their friends.'

Mr Boulton here suggested that he thought the absence of the Australian twang in this colony was due to the musical tone of the Maoris in a certain degree, which had its influence on the Europeans. He also cleverly explained how the voice was produced in the mouth, and how, therefore, it could be immensely improved by anyone who understood its wonderful mechanism.

'You will find,' commented Mrs Boulton, 'that people who sing usually have a very much pleasanter voice in conversation than people who have not studied this art.'

'What is your system of teaching, Mrs Boulton?'

'Mine is,' she said, 'I understand, quite new in this colony. It is entirely German. I use the books which are employed in the great conservatoriums in Germany, also now in Melbourne and Adelaide.'

'May I ask what these books are?'

'Most certainly. They are two: "Advanced German" for elder pupils, and "Elementary German" for younger pupils. I have just been making arrangements for a large supply of these books in Auckland, for,' she added, laughing, 'I hope to have very soon, almost as great a number of students at my classes as I had in Adelaide.'

Mrs Boulton here supplied some startling figures, which caused her interviewer to exclaim that she must have made a great sacrifice in leaving such a connection.

'It was absolutely necessary, on account of Mr Boulton's health, unless, indeed, we had been content to live apart.'

'This arrangement, it was evident, would not suit Mr and Mrs Boulton. They have been fortunate enough to secure more rooms in the A.M.P. Buildings, where Mr Boulton has been located since his arrival, and where they are pretty nearly ready to receive visitors. Mrs Boulton says she has a very keen and pleasant recollection of the hospitality of Aucklanders whilst she was over for seven weeks last summer.

'I need hardly ask if you will feel the heat in Queen Street?'

'Well, no, I did not even mind our maximum in the shade, 108 deg. In the sun it was 163 deg. in Adelaide. Then, of course, we had a very large house, with every appliance for warding off the sun's rays.'

Mrs Boulton then explained a few of their hopes in regard to music in Auckland. Both she and her husband are intensely enthusiastic in their profession, and trust some day to see Auckland on a par with the Australian cities as regards opportunities for developing and encouraging musical talent.

'They are fond of pet names in the Royal Family. The Duke of Fife is called 'Marduff'; the Duchess is called 'Her Royal Shyness,' because she is so very retiring in disposition; little Prince Edward of York is known as 'The New Boy,' and Princess Patricia of Connaught, who was so christened after her father, and because she was born on St. Patrick's Day, is affectionately dubbed 'Paddy.'