

MININDI900-2

THE PROGRESS OF  
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY  
OF  
TASMANIA,

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE EDWARD MULCAHY,

MINISTER OF MINES.



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1900.



## PROGRESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1900.

*Hobart, 16th July, 1900.*

The following Table shows, so far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised and exported during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1900, compared with the corresponding Quarter in 1899, and the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1900 :—

	During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1900.		During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1899.		During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1900.	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Gold won .....	14,737	55,264	15,569	58,384	11,726½	43,974
Auriferous Quartz and pyrites exported .....	tons 28½	279	92¼	852	120½	497
Silver Ore exported .....	2284¾	31,845	3131	38,378	2532¾	39,940
Blister Copper exported .....	2306¼	209,954	1562¾	137,885	1966½	178,316
Copper Ore exported .....	24½	230	889¾	12,837	10	159
Iron Ore exported .....	1447	1227	460	415	1366	1366
Coal raised .....	12,484	10,611	11,834	9462	11,284	9027
Silver Bullion exported .....	1069½	35,162	...	...	340¾	13,087
Tin Ore exported .....	1	30	...	...	2	69
Lead exported .....	½	8	...	...	2	30
Tin (metallic) exported .....	437¼	60,087	474	55,134	474½	62,681
Wolfram ore exported .....	11½	382	...	...	24½	1056
Asbestos exported .....	33	29	...	...	51	40
Gold Tailings exported .....	1	10	...	...	...	...
Zinc-Lead exported .....	¾	15	...	...	...	...
Zinc Ore exported .....	18	216	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL VALUE .....</b>	... £	405,349	... £	313,347	... £	341,242

There is an increase of £64,107 in the total value for the previous quarter, and an increase of £92,002 in the total value as compared with the corresponding quarter in 1899.

## GOLD.

During the past quarter 9309 ounces of gold were obtained from quartz, 269 ounces from alluvial, and 5159 ounces by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, valued at £55,264.

The following Table shows the quantities obtained from the various sources on the different fields during the period under review, together with the totals for the corresponding period of 1899, and the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1900 :—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1900.				Totals corresponding Quarter, 1899.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1900.
	Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & Chlorination.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Beaconsfield .....	4538	36	3690	8264	8196	6737
Mathinna .....	4420	...	1117	5537	5577	4120½
Mount Victoria, Warren- tinna, &c. ....	99	5	...	104	830	31
Lefroy .....	252	...	352	604	599	603
Lisle and Golconda .....	...	150	...	150	175	150
Mangana .....	...	...	...	...	42	9
West Coast, Middlesex, &c. ....	...	78	...	78	150	76
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>9309</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>5159</b>	<b>14,737</b>	...	...
<b>TOTALS for corresponding Quarter, 1899</b> .....	<b>10,668</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>4557</b>	...	<b>15,569</b>	...
<b>TOTALS for Quarter end- ing 31st March, 1900</b> ..	<b>6844½</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>4490</b>	...	...	<b>11,726½</b>

BEACONSFIELD.—At the Tasmania mine 65 heads have been kept going. During the past quarter 5280 tons of quartz were crushed, and yielded 4538 ozs. 6 dwts. retorted gold, as against 5340 tons crushed and 3570 ozs. 3 dwts. for the preceding three months. In addition to this, 3690 ozs. 5 dwts. of smelted gold were produced by the chlorination plant, totalling for the quarter, 8228 ozs. 11 dwts. The total output from the mine to 30th June, 1900, has been 487,534 ozs. 10 dwts. 5 grns. from 410,965 tons quartz crushed: value £1,780,684, and the amount

paid in dividends, £721,071 12s., including £9000 paid during the past quarter. The new main shaft has been sunk to 833 ft. 6 in. from surface.

At the Moonlight-cum-Wonder, the shaft is down 535 feet, and still sinking. Winding plant has just been erected at a cost of £800. A large Root's blower is now being put in, with engine attached, to improve the ventilation of the mine.

The Amalgamated West Tasmania has had 12 men employed, and is driving at the 359 feet level.

**LEFROY.**—The New Pinafore crushed 93 tons of stone from surface prospecting, which returned 30 ozs. 3 dwts. The output from the cyanide plant was 196 ozs. 14 dwts: 64 men have been employed. The Government grant will be applied to exploratory work, by driving and cross-cutting at the 1200-foot level. This is the deepest mine working on Lefroy, and has the good wishes of all interested in the discovery of payable gold in deep ground on that field.

The White Pinafore is still in the shallow zone. Its shaft is down to 200 feet: 25 men have been employed driving and stoping 235 tons of stone have been crushed during the past quarter, yielding 217 ozs. 17 dwts. gold. The only other mine now working on the Lefroy field is the New Monarch. Its workings, also, are not deep, the shaft being down to 245 feet. 186 feet have been driven on the lode at the 245-foot level. Three rises have been put up, and a winze has been sunk in the 180-foot level. The stopes average 6" to 15" payable stone, and there are now about 45 tons of quartz in paddock. The mine employs 18 men. It is hoped to start a small crushing in July.

**LISLE.**—The Lisle Dredging Company is now having a more powerful plant constructed than was at first contemplated. The one now being made will cost £4000. The dirt from the excavation now being dug (70' × 60' × 9') for the dredge is under treatment. The ground intended to be worked has been carefully prospected; it is said, with satisfactory results.

**MATHINNA.**—At the New Golden Gate, tenders are about to be called for driving the 1400-foot crosscut. All the stopes are reported as showing large bodies of payable stone, and it is expected that the quality will improve very soon. It is believed that the half-year's results will show that the usual average has been kept up. The slime plant is being improved. The cyanide plant has continued to give the highest satisfaction,

Hicksons' is continuing sinking. At the Mabel, there have been two crushings: one of 100 tons, giving 7 dwts.; one of 30 tons, returning 18 dwts. The City of Melbourne has taken up an old property in its vicinity, and is driving a tunnel for securing crushings from various parts. A party of cyaniders are at work on the old City of Hobart tailings, and are getting payable returns. The Salmon Gold Estates has a 10-head battery and stone at grass, but this has been idle for want of water, on account of the exceptionally dry season.

**MANGANA.**—The Mangana Gold Reefs is crosscutting at 400 feet from the shaft, at the New Sovereign; the crosscut is in 100 feet, and the reef is expected to be cut in another 15 feet. The only other work at Mangana is that being done by the Golden Entrance, a Melbourne syndicate, to the north of the abovementioned property. A crushing has been taken out, and 10 tons of stone are being sent to Melbourne. Sinking is proceeding—now 30 feet down.

**MOUNT VICTORIA**—The Ringarooma Company's Wilfley concentrator has been giving satisfactory trial results; but battery work has been greatly interrupted for want of water. The Central Ringarooma has been in the same plight. A low adit is contemplated, to intersect the lode in 550-foot driving, which will give 90 feet of backs. At the close of the quarter the battery (12 heads) was started to crush stone, which it is expected will return £1000 worth of gold. This company was started with only £400 capital, and has won to date about £700 worth of gold.

The Caxton has been worked by a small partnership, a 5-head battery being got from Warrentinna.

**WEST COAST.**—Madame Melba Flat continues to give employment to a few men. Prospecting work on a small scale has been carried on at Mount Ellen, on the old Mount Huxley claim. At the King River Mine, near Lynchford, the crosscut put in by former tributors has been extended.

A Sydney company is about to begin work on six dredging claims and leases on the Queen River, near Lynchford. Tenders have been called for the construction of dredge and pontoon.

## TIN.

The long drought has seriously interfered with the output during the past quarter. The Anchor Mine is proceeding with the erection of its smelting works and the construction of water-race,

The Australian Tin Mine (formerly the Puzzle) has been breaking stone from sections acquired some little time ago, known as the Don Sections. The average of stone has been payable for some time past. The Ringarooma Tin Dredging Company has been stripping its ground, and does not seem to have got properly to work yet. The other Dredging Company, the Moorina Hydraulic, has taken up leases, but not started yet. The Briseis Company, at Derby, and the Mount Rex, on Ben Lomond, are both making extensive preparations for future work. The Brothers' Home Extended and the Old Triangle property, at Derby, have been bought by a Scottish company (Ringarooma Tin Mining Company). The South Esk has been stripping, and the Esk Proprietary is building a dam and cutting a race.

The Shepherd and Murphy Mine has about 500 tons of tin, bismuth, and wolfram ore at grass. The machinery is expected to run regularly with the beginning of the new quarter, and when this is done, underground work will be resumed.

A little tin has been obtained from the flat at the Whyte River, 10 miles from Waratah, and some prospecting work is going on upon the Khaki Ridge, above the *Whyte River Hotel*, at the same spot.

WEST COAST.—Tin-mining is being carried on at Mt. Heems-kirk, at St. Dizier, New West Cumberland, and Mt. Agnew. The New West Cumberland is making a serious start to take out the lode in an open face. It has had to lay three-quarters of a mile of horizontal tramway and 20 chains of incline.

Sluicing is going on at Whale's Head, and an output of tin ore is looked forward to.

Prospecting and development work is being carried on on a restricted scale upon the Renison Bell property, North Dundas.

## SILVER.

WEST COAST.—At the Western Mine, Simson's workings continue the same, and are yielding a large proportion of the total output. 7000 to 8000 tons of ore are reported to be in sight in that section, with every chance of increasing to 20,000 tons. In the main mine the new pumping plant was started recently, which will allow sinking to be carried down to a depth of 1200 feet: the greatest depth attained, so far, is 650 feet. The engine can be worked up to 220 horse-power, with a pumping capacity of 20,000 gallons per hour. The water has been kept under with a steam pump, but the mine is now clear of water, and sinking will be resumed.

The Zeehan-Montana shaft is now 400 feet from surface, and a No. 4 level is being opened out at that depth. No. 6 lode, in No. 3 level, is putting out large quantities of good ore. About 1650 tons of ore have been won this year, and £3000 paid in dividends. To the end of 1899, the mine raised 14,545 tons of silver-lead ore, realising £104,000; and the dividends to same date totalled £50,180.

The Silver Queen has been doing moderately well, with the help of tributors. The Spray sections in the British-Zeehan are looking well. The New Mount Zeehan has closed down, pending an attempt at reconstruction, and is working its shallow ground by tribute. Fahey's party, on the South King, has done well: the lode has been cut in the crosscut 60 feet from shaft at No. 2 level, and carries concentrating stuff, which is anticipated to improve when the drive is further advanced. The Oonah has struck the downward extension of the stannite lode in the drive north from No. 3 level. The quality of the stannite appears to have fallen off. Where it was cut in No. 3, it assayed only 9 per cent. copper and 56 ozs. silver, and a sampling of 63 tons from the tributors in May returned only £14 per ton, against a previous average value of £21. It is hoped this is only temporary. At the close of the quarter a good galena development occurred in this mine.

At the Colonel North, a good improvement took place in May, but the ore-shoot in south drive, at No. 3 level, is now irregular. The stopes continue to yield well.

The South Comstock tributors have been raising blende and silver-lead ores, which have been sold locally. Exploratory work has also been carried on in that district, on the Britannia sections, and attempts made to revive work on the Comstock and Silver Stream properties. When better communication with Zeehan is effected, there ought to be a general revival of this field.

At Dundas, improvements have taken place at the Comet mine in all three of the working-levels, and the mine, generally, is looking better. Consignments of gossan ore are sent regularly to the Zeehan Smelters as flux.

At the Great South Comet, a little good ore is being met with, but, on the whole, the proposition is a low-grade one, and its success depends upon whether profitable concentration can be effected. Kozminsky, Quinn's, and other sections have been working with moderate success.

#### NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

MOUNT FARRELL.—This is a coming field, labouring at present under the drawback of defective communication with the

railway at the Pieman, five to six miles distant. The North Mount Farrell mine is breaking good silver-lead ore, which has realised between £19 and £20 per ton—the best of it. About 60 tons have accumulated at the mine, owing to difficulty in getting the output away by the Pieman pack-track. This company has surveyed a route for its tramway to the Emu Bay railway line, a distance of five miles, with a maximum grade of 1 in 30. The Mount Farrell mine has begun a long tunnel to intersect the lode at a lower level. The Central Farrell is driving a tunnel to cut its lode, and get under where a vein of rich silver-lead ore is visible at surface. The Murchison mine has been putting out galena and blende ore, but has shortened hands till a 20-ton parcel has been sent to England and tested. The Mackintosh sections are being worked for galena and copper ores. The Osborne copper blocks, in the south-eastern part of the Farrell field, are being prospected.

**MAGNET SILVER MINE.**—This company is still proceeding with the survey of route for its tramway to Waratah. When this line is constructed, the export of the large unworked quantities of argentiferous gossan ores existing in this mine will be rendered practicable. The output of first-class ore has been maintained. Since March the company has sent away about 100 tons of ore per month, averaging from 25 per cent. to 29 per cent. lead, and 90 to 100 ozs. silver, with a little over one dwt. of gold per ton.

## COPPER.

**MOUNT LYELL MINE.**—The length of the benches has been increased, and more ore-stuff taken in, of a lower grade than previously, with a consequent lowering of the general average of copper contents. This has been compensated by economies in reduction, and the improved price of copper. The lower levels have been explored, and high-grade ore found below the bottom level (No. 6). A serious fire occurred on the 24th June, at the No. 1 smelting plant, involving the blower-room, sampling plant, and some of the coke and ore bins.

At the North Lyell Mine good grade ore has been sent daily to the smelters: the deliveries were temporarily impeded by the fire at the Mount Lyell Reduction Works. Rich ore has continued to be met with in the mine. By the end of June the main ropes of the aerial tram were fixed. The company's railway line to Kelly Basin is approaching completion, which has been impeded by some heavy slips in the cuttings. The line skirts the foot of the Jukes and Darwin range, and, apart from

traffic derived from the Lyell field, will be fed by mines sure to be opened up in productive belts on that range.

At the Lyell Blocks, the ropeway was finished at the end of June. At 1000 feet, in No. 1 tunnel (which is now in 1460 feet, with face in conglomerate), a band of ore 10 feet wide is being driven upon, and the drive will be continued right up to the boundary. The ore is reported to bulk 10 per cent., and it is hoped that the Blocks are about to become regular producers. It will be the fifth mine of the district to send ore to the smelters.

From the Lyell Comstock it is intended to construct a tramway to the loading-station of the North Lyell aerial ropeway, 4 miles. This will be useful also to other mines at the northern end of the field.

At the South Tharsis, ore in the open cut keeps up to average quality. An extra set of rollers and a Huntingdon mill have been added to the concentrating plant, also a Wilfley table. The ore-stuff is now crushed finer, and the buddles get their fair share of material, more slimes being now produced. Some difficulty in separation, however, still remains to be overcome. This experiment in the concentration of schist ore is being anxiously watched, as its success will have an immediate effect on similar properties.

At the Lyell Tharsis the overburden above the benches is being broken. The usual output of ore is being delivered by aerial ropeway to the smelters.

At the South Lyell work has been done to prove the ore-body at the 600-ft. level, continuing drives round it. The S.W. drive, the N.W. drive, and the N.E. drive are all in over 100 feet: the latter follows the ore-body towards the Mt. Lyell boundary.

The Royal Tharsis main tunnel is now in 700 feet. The North Lyell Consolidated is continuing No. 7 tunnel (now 160 feet), and expects to reach ore shortly. The Anaconda tunnel is 400 feet, also expecting ore. Mount Lyell Consols tunnel is being driven, towards the Tharsis ore deposit, in hard hematite country. Exploratory work is also being carried on at the Great Mount Lyell, Queen Lyell, Mt. Lyell Peaks, Lyell Reserve, Crown Lyell, North Crown Lyell, Prince Lyell, Western Tharsis, and several other mines of the group. The outlook for the Lyell field is, undoubtedly, bright.

Prospecting work is being carried on in the mineral zone which runs south through Mounts Huxley, Jukes, and Darwin. On Mt. Huxley the Lady Havill and Mountain Maid sections have been at work: on Mt. Jukes, the Jukes Proprietary and Jukes Comstock. King Jukes has been unaccountably suspended.

Lake Jukes has been vigorously worked, and the result appears to show that the rich ore-veins seen at surface live down into the heart of the mountain. The same belt extends to Darwin, where, on the east side, Mt. Lyell Extended and Mt. Lyell Consols have been working. Lying against this country, on the east, is a narrow cupriferous schist belt, in which the South Mt. Lyell and Mount Darwin Proprietary mines are situate. Some nice-looking copper ore has come out of the drives of these two mines. Some of the mines here are very high above the plain, as much as 1500 feet, but are favourably situated for aerial transport to the North Lyell railway at the foot of the mountain.

On the western side of Mt. Darwin, and accessible only with difficulty from the eastern side, are the Prince Darwin and Tasman Darwin group of mines, associated with large outcrops of hematite and magnetic iron. Prospecting for copper ore has been carried on intermittently, but no serious work can be achieved until the valley between Mts. Sorell and Darwin is provided with a pack-track, to permit of ingress and egress.

The Red Hills and Tyndall Mountains comprise similar country to the preceding. The Tyndall copper mine has been resumed, and the shaft carried down to 60 feet. Since the relinquishment of work at Red Hills by the Victorian syndicate, only a little prospecting has been done—about 5 chains N.E. of the No. 1 north workings, and near the outcrop of hematite. The formation is reported to be charged with iron pyrites, carrying a little copper.

**ROSEBERY AND MOUNT READ.**—Rosebery is still expectant of a practical solution of the zinc problem. The Mount Black Proprietary is still engaged erecting dressing-floors. When the concentrating plant nears completion, it is intended to resume work in the mine.

The Mount Reid mine has been sending regular consignments of ore to the Zeehan smelters. The richer ores are reserved for later treatment. The route for tram-line from its machinery site to Williamsford is being prepared.

The Hercules Company has had a large development of copper ore in its lower workings; and its present policy is to develop this discovery and erect a smelter in the Ring Valley, for the reduction of its copper and gossan ores.

## COAL.

The small seam of coal found outcropping near Eden, on the Zeehan-Strahan line of railway, has been prospected by means of a small shaft, but was not worth working. The syndicate

has resolved to continue the exploration of these coal measures from the bottom of the 50-ft. shaft, by boring.

At Farm Cove, near Kelly Basin, boring is proceeding, with the view of striking a seam of Tertiary coal (brown coal and pitch coal), which has been exposed on the shore of Macquarie Harbour.

### IRON ORE.

The owners of the iron ore deposits on the Blyth river, near Burnie, are surveying a route for a line to connect with the Coast railway.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Tungsten.*—The Ben Lomond Tungsten Co. has been crushing and storing ore for treatment on the tables in the rainy season. The purchase of tungsten from other properties is contemplated with a view to attempt to regulate market prices of this metal. A discovery of wolfram ore is being prospected north of the Pieman Heads.

*Asbestos.*—Specimens have been exhibited from the vicinity of the Gordon river. Small quantities of asbestos rock have been shipped from the Australasian Company's mine, near Beaconsfield. This company appears to be making sure of its market before developing the mine very extensively.

*Iridium*, or rather osmiridium, has been won from the sands of the Savage River. The British syndicate, represented by Major Hughes, has raised its offer now to £2 10s. per ounce.

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A review of the Industry at the present juncture shows that legitimate mining is being carried on more vigorously and seriously than at any previous period in the history of the Colony. The favourable market-prices of metals have stimulated prospecting. Work on old mining fields has been resumed, new fields are being discovered, and the outlook, generally, is one which foreshadows an increased development of the mineral resources of the Island.

The average number of men employed in or about the mines during the Quarter was as follows:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	TOTAL.
Northern and Southern ..	896	..	896
North Western .....	328	..	328
North Eastern .....	330	165	495
Eastern .....	790	82	872
Western .....	4300	..	4300
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>6644</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>6891</b>

Value of the mineral output per man employed, £58 16s. 5½d.

The dividends paid during the quarter were as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines .. .. .	55,000	0	0
„ Gold Mines .. .. .	15,600	0	0
„ Tin Mines .. .. .	31,545	0	0
„ Silver Mines .. .. .	19,552	16	10
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£121,697</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>

The amount of Dividends paid from tin mines during the quarter ending 31st March, 1900, was stated to be £177,000, whereas the amount actually paid in dividends was £27,000. A sum of £150,000 was paid as a bonus by the Briseis Tin Mining Company, and was included in the amount of dividends paid, in error.