

MININD1900.3

THE PROGRESS OF  
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY  
OF  
TASMANIA,

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1900.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

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MINISTER OF MINES.



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1900.



## PROGRESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1900.

*Launceston, 12th November, 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 September, 1900, compared with the corresponding Quarter in 1899, and the previous quarter ending 30th June, 1900 :—

	During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1900.		During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1899.		During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1900.		
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
Gold won .....	ozs.	13,368	50,130	12,659	47,234	14,737	55,264
Auriferous Quartz and pyrites exported .....	tons	48½	534	182	1453	28½	279
Silver Ore exported .....	"	2723	35,145	3706½	42,508	2284½	31,845
Blister Copper exported .....	"	2463½	221,704	2360½	208,965	2306½	209,954
Copper Ore exported .....	"	145½	1369	129½	1246	24½	230
Iron Ore exported .....	"	1910	1270	926	841	1447	1227
Coal raised .....	"	14,508	12,332	10,869	8095	12,484	10,611
Silver-lead Bullion exported	"	949½	31,665	637½	19,087	1009½	35,162
Tin Ore exported .....	"	...	...	25	1750	1	30
Lead exported .....	"	...	...	1½	9	½	8
Tin (metallic) exported .....	"	531½	74,050	629½	86,474	437½	60,087
Wolfram ore exported .....	"	14½	532	...	...	11½	382
Asbestos exported .....	"	22	22	...	...	33	29
Gold Tailings exported .....	"	...	...	...	...	1	10
Zinc-Lead exported .....	"	...	...	...	...	¾	15
Gold, Quartz .....	"	25	139	...	...	...	...
Zinc Ore exported .....	cwts.	...	...	4	4	18	216
Galena .....	tons.	1	6	...	...	...	...
Gold and Silver Ore ex- ported .....	cwts.	12	200	70	350	...	...
<b>TOTAL VALUE .....</b>		... £	429,098	... £	418,616	... £	405,349

There is an increase of £23,749 in the total value for the previous quarter, and an increase of £10,482 in the total value as compared with the corresponding quarter in 1899.

## GOLD.

During the past quarter 9019 ounces of gold were obtained from quartz, 302 ounces from alluvial, and 4047 ounces by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, valued at £50,130.

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 30th June, 1900 :—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th September, 1900.				Totals corresponding Quarter, 1899.	Totals for Quarter ending 30th June, 1900.
	Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & Chlorination.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Beaconsfield .....	4288	7	3010	7305	7153	8264
Mathinna .....	3160	...	853	4013	4194	5537
Mount Victoria, Warren- tinna, &c. ....	529	100	...	629	391	104
Lefroy .....	289	...	184	473	677	604
Lisle and Golconda .....	...	150	...	150	170	150
Mangana and Fingal.....	753	...	...	753	25	...
West Coast, Middlesex, &c. ....	...	45	...	45	49	78
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>9019</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>4047</b>	<b>13,368</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>TOTALS</b> for corresponding Quarter, 1899.....	<b>7899</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>4320</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>12,659</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>TOTALS</b> for Quarter end- ing 30th June, 1900 ...	<b>9309</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>5159</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>14,737</b>

**BEACONSFIELD.**—At the Tasmania Mine, in the last month of the quarter, the 818 ft. crosscut struck the reef with good stone. This is the greatest depth on the field at which a reef has been found carrying payable quartz. The stone raised from the mine has been about the usual quality. Water throughout the mine is well under control : battery, chlorine plant, and new electric lighting plant working well. During the past quarter 5619 tons of quartz were crushed, yielding 4288 ozs. 4 dwts. retorted gold as against 5280 tons crushed, and 4920 ozs. 6 dwts. for the previous

quarter. In addition to this, 3010 ozs. 4 dwts. smelted gold were obtained by chlorination: total yield for the quarter, 7298 ozs. 8 dwts. Since the formation of the Tasmania Company, 416,575 tons quartz have been crushed, producing 494,835 ozs. gold; value £1,808,562, and the dividends paid have been £727,071 15s. including £6000 paid during past quarter. Negotiations are in progress, under which the mine may eventually be disposed of to an English syndicate. If this sale comes off it is likely that future operations will include a great scheme for the development of various gold leases surrounding the parent mine.

Outside the Tasmania nothing much has been doing on this field, except that the Moonlight-cum-Wonder Mine is driving from its shaft at 613 ft. This is the second deepest at Beaconsfield, and the mine will receive state aid under the Acts for encouragement of deep mining. At five feet north from the shaft a 2-ft. lode formation was intersected, carrying auriferous pyrites. The bulk assays of stone and pyrites are from 6 dwts. to 1 oz.; the pyrites 2½ ozs. and when concentrated, 5 ozs., gold. It is also intended to drive south to prove the reef worked by the old Wonder Company.

The Tasmania United continues prospecting. Work at the North Tasmania is desultory. Tasmania West Extended has temporarily closed down, pending arrangements for sale of the property. Amalgamated West Tasmania has relinquished work the search for the Tasmania reef having been unsuccessful.

LEFROY.—At the New Pinafore Mine there has been no improvement in the prospects. It is hoped that by driving the N. crosscut (No. 5 reef) and S. crosscut (Pinafore north reef) further west below the shallow shoots of good stone these may come into better ground. No. 1 reef is considered the best in depth, and as likely to become rich in gold at any time. The No. 5 reef cut by the main crosscut from central shaft, 1200 feet level, has been prospected by driving, and has, at times, shown fine colours of gold, but nothing payable. During the half-year ending Aug. 31st., the battery has crushed, for various parties, 502 tons for 504 ozs. 4 dwts. 12 grs. gold, and for the Company, 155 tons for 40 ozs. 4 dwts. gold, besides a quantity of oxidised tailings and slimes for cyanide treatment. The quantity of tailings and slimes treated by the cyanide plant for the six months was 2300 tons for 249 ozs. 16 dwts. gold. The Morning Star Shaft is being unwatered for the purpose of testing a large body of low-grade stone left from old times.

The White Pinafore obtained 165 ozs. gold from 180 tons of stone, and is proceeding with deeper work. The Comrades Mine is still stopping payable stone. The New Monarch is driving south for a

parallel lode from the 240-ft. level: 40 tons of stone crushed yielded gold, value £464; and from the pyrites, value £64.

**LISLE.**—The old alluvial gold-field here still continues intermittently to employ some 40 diggers. Prospecting has been going on upon the Lisle Dredging Company's area. All the holes sunk are reported to show an average, from top to bottom, of not less than 10*d.* per yard. A plant, capable of treating 100 tons of dirt per hour, is being constructed. It is estimated to cost £3600.

**MOUNT VICTORIA.**—In September a fire wrecked the Ringarooma Company's battery building, concentrator, and dynamo, at Alberton. This has stopped the deep work at that mine for a time, but it is understood that very little actual monetary loss has been sustained, as the property was fully insured. At the Company's New River Mine a main shaft has been started to cut the lode at 200 ft. At the Central Ringarooma tenders have been called for the tunnel, which is to be put into the hill to cut the lode below the present level. The co-operative party carrying on work at the Caxton is sanguine of success when its battery is erected. No further work (outside Krushka's Alluvial) is being carried on near Alberton, but there is some talk of the Ringarooma Company obtaining capital from outside, and if this is introduced there will, undoubtedly, be a revival of gold-mining at Mount Victoria, which is badly in want of deep mining. A new track is being made by the Government from Alberton Mathinnawards, which will open up new country and reduce the time of journey between the two places by 50 per cent.

**WARRENTINNA.**—Mining operations have been very quiet, and no gold has been won during the past quarter.

**BURNS' CREEK.**—The Burns' Creek Gold Mining Company has been driving an adit to unwater its mine, and expects to be through into the shaft by Christmas. The ore channel is 2 ft. 6 in. wide, with from a foot to 22 inches of stone. 110 tons of stone have been crushed, the first 5 tons returning 26 dwts. gold per ton; 60 tons, 15 dwts.; and 45 tons, 14 dwts. The Burns' Creek Extension Prospecting Association is driving a tunnel to the W. of the above to intersect the same line of reef 170 ft. from surface. This has been driven about 250 ft. At 33 ft. from the entrance a 10-inch formation was cut, showing a little gold.

**MATHINNA.**—At the New Golden Gate Mine, the west cross-cut at the 1400-ft. level, after being driven 104 ft., struck a

new reef 9 ft. 6 ins. wide, with stone right through, assaying 1 oz. 2 dwts. 20 grs. This is the greatest depth at which payable stone has been found in the Colony. What has happened here may repeat itself at Lefroy, Beaconsfield, and elsewhere, and ought to silence the croakers who prophesy that gold need be expected only within a few hundred feet of the surface. The slates at Mathinna, Mangana, Beaconsfield, and Lefroy, belong to one and the same geological system, and the reefs which traverse them have proceeded from the same underlying granitic source. The gratifying success at Mathinna, the result of unshaken perseverance, should fortify and encourage those who are directing quartz-mining in the northern districts. Looked at in its true light, this discovery is the greatest event in our mining during the year, and if its proper character is appreciated, it will have far-reaching consequences. Mr. Andrews, the Manager, estimates the value of this new reef above the 1400 feet level to be £300,000. The last half-yearly report (the 25th) shows that for the 6 months ending 31st July, 10,060 tons quartz were crushed, returning 7699 ozs. retorted gold at the battery, worth £28,154 13s. 3d., and 88 tons pyrites were obtained by concentrating tables, containing 615 ozs. gold, valued at £2048 9s. 4d. 18,644 tons of tailings were cyanided, producing 1351 ozs. gold, valued at £5184 0s. 7d., making a total revenue of £35,387 3s. 2d. The total working cost, inclusive of general and management expenses (excluding cyaniding costs), was £1 8s. 11d. per ton of quartz raised. The total output of this mine to 31st July is 163,181 tons quartz, which has returned 155,707 ozs. gold, realising £576,824 0s. 5d. Out of this sum, £271,200 have been paid in dividends, equivalent to £8 9s. 6d. per share. The average gold contents of the quartz crushed have been 19 dwts. 2 grs. per ton. The mine has been under offer for £400,000 in cash, but the negotiations have fallen through, and the deposit of £1000 made by those who had the option, has been forfeited to the company. Additional rock-drills have been placed in the mine, and improvements made to the cyanide plant.

At Hickson's Mine the 6-stamp mill has been running on fair stone. The New City of Melbourne is now shut down again. At the Miami Mine, on the Salmon Gold Estates, the stone, generally, is described as payable down to 200 ft, but poor at the 300 feet-level, and at 400 ft containing gold in the mineral only. Stopping is proceeding east and west above the main adit, also west from No. 1 adit, near top of hill. Want of water is a drawback, but the 10-head battery has been running for some time, and, during the quarter, has crushed 575 tons quartz, which returned 526 ozs. gold.

**MANGANA.**—At the New Sovereign Mine work has been confined to keeping the water down while the English directors make up their minds whether to sink further 200 feet. The main shaft is down 409 feet, but the reef at this level is narrowing. At the South Sovereign and Majestic mines prospecting work has been going on. The shaft at the Golden Entrance is down 56 feet on the reef, and driving is going on at the 50-foot level. In all, six parcels of stone were shipped to Victoria for treatment, up to the 30th September; two of these are still under treatment at Victorian Schools of Mines. The first four parcels, weighing 21 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs., yielded 322 ozs. 2 dwts. 23 grs., or upwards of 15 ozs. of gold per ton. Sinking is expected to be resumed shortly, and plans considered for the erection of battery.

**WEST COAST.**—The Whyte River Gold Dredging Company is putting its machinery together, and expects to start shortly. The company owning the gold-dredging claims on the Queen River, in the neighbourhood of Lynchford, is starting operations.

### TIN.

The recorded output of tin ore this quarter is 882 tons 7 cwts., as against 995 tons during the corresponding quarter in 1899.

At the Anchor Mine the water supply has been fairly good the past three months, and 90 to 95 head of stamps were going at times; but the average would not be more than 60 heads. The stone is not quite up to the average of a year ago, but the working-faces are extended, and the quantity of stone would make up for any slight deficiency if the 100-head battery could be kept going continuously. Good things are anticipated for the mine when the water-race is finished: this work, however, appears to have been suspended. The Anchor Company's Smelting Works at St. Helens, were started on the 26th September. Some of the ore at the works was bought from small mines in the vicinity of Lottah and Weldborough, the owners of which appear satisfied with the prices obtained, and the convenience of getting a local market for their tin. At Derby the Briseis Company are pushing mining operations to the greatest limit which their water supply will admit of, but pending completion of the Cascade tunnel-race, and the construction of the works in connection with the new water scheme, the mine cannot get to work on its proper scale. Meantime, in spite of limited supply of water, and the work being restricted to the high level drifts, the quantity of tin ore raised is said to pay working expenses. Up to the present the

English company which has taken over this mine has shipped smelted tin of the value of £12,000 to London. Below the present sluicing-level the drift has been proved down to 15 feet, at which depth rich tin was obtained, and the true bottom of the lead is estimated to be about 30 feet below the present sluicing-level. The lead has been well prospected by shafts and bores, the depth being found to vary from 30 feet to 147 feet. Up to the present 130,000 cubic yards of overburden has been stripped. The new tunnel-race will command portions of the property not hitherto workable, and a branch tunnel 350 feet in length is being started in the Cascade Flat, which has been proved by boring to be tin-bearing. The Ringarooma Tin Mining Company is working with short supply of water. Preparations are being made for the machinery site for pumping. The pumping-plant and other mining appliances are expected to arrive from England in the early part of the coming year. A considerable quantity of top stuff has been removed, and satisfactory yields of tin ore won. The several small claims situate on the Cascade River and locality are being profitably worked. The increased activity in the tin mines is reacting on the township of Derby, imparting to it an air of prosperity and progress. In the neighbourhood of Moorina all the claims which have a supply of water are in full work, and with very satisfactory results. At Bradshaw's Creek the Pioneer Company's Mine has given satisfactory yields, and the output is expected to be something considerable as soon as additional water supply from the Frome and other rivers is available.

At Mount Rex Mine, on Ben Lomond, the new dam is finished, and the race from dam to battery,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, is being made. The 20-head stamper battery is in course of construction, and a calcining plant is to be erected. The working shaft, down to 137 feet on the 30th September, is being sunk east of the ore-body, which will be intersected by a crosscut 80 feet below the present workings. It is expected that this will open up a large body of stone. It will be remembered that this mine has raised, altogether, 4000 tons of stuff, yielding 310 tons tin ore.

At the Shepherd and Murphy Mine 14 tons of dressed tin ore, containing wolfram and bismuth, have been produced. Some additional dressing machinery is reported to be needful, in order to reduce losses to a minimum. Tests have been made in Melbourne on the mixed ore from this mine, establishing, to the satisfaction of the directors, that a marketable wolfram product can be magnetically separated; but the installation of a separator is to stand over for the present. The driving of the lower tunnel is to be resumed shortly, and the water-race is to be extended to the Weaning Paddocks Creek, to secure a permanent water supply, as soon as

funds are available. The new Railton-Wilmot Railway line will be within 10 miles of this mine.

**WEST COAST.**—The new West Cumberland sections at Mt. Heemskirk are being worked by the Federation Tin Mining Company, which is running a 20-head battery. No ore has been sent away yet, but it is anticipated that a regular output will shortly be maintained. The Mount Agnew Alluvial Tin Mining Company, holding about 60 acres near Mount Agnew, has begun hydraulic sluicing. During the quarter, a dam, capable of holding 70,000 gallons of water, has been constructed, and water-races of 37 and 18 chains cut; also a tail-race, 10 chains. The fall from the dam to sluicing ground is 110 feet, and the length of piping 1200 feet. A paddock, 50 feet by 33 feet, has been stripped, showing wash of an average depth of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Only one nozzle has been started, but preparations are being made for two more.

On the Renison Bell property driving has been going on under the large iron blow. Rich lumps of the gossan forming this blow have yielded, upon assay,  $28\frac{1}{2}\%$ ,  $36\frac{1}{2}\%$ ,  $52\frac{1}{2}\%$ ,  $56\frac{1}{2}\%$ ,  $60\frac{1}{2}\%$ , and  $67\frac{1}{2}\%$  metallic tin. The drive has shown the lode beneath the blow to be stanniferous pyrrhotite. A sample of it assayed 30.7 per cent. metallic tin, but such richness is exceptional. The Emu Bay Railway on this property has also cut through a tin-bearing pyrrhotite lode, which may prove of importance.

The Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company has produced 504 tons of tin ore during the quarter, and declared 3 dividends (17s. 6d. each), totalling £31,500. The total dividends paid up to the 30th September were £1,705,500.

## SILVER.

**WEST COAST.**—At the Western Mine the new pumping machinery has been working satisfactorily. The foundations for two new boilers are nearly completed, and the boilers will be laid shortly. During the quarter the mine has exported 968 tons of ore, containing, by mine assay, 84,281 ozs. of silver and  $500\frac{1}{3}$  tons of lead, of an approximate net value, at Zeehan, of £14,229.

The following shows the output of other mines:—

Zeehan-Montana.....	828 tons, net value	£13,884
British Zeehan .....	1079 " "	17,633
Silver King.....	361 " "	3347
Silver Queen.....	216 " "	2015
Colonel North .....	300 " "	4622
Oonah .....	118 " "	2077

Work has been resumed at the main shaft of the Silver Queen Mine by a tribute party. Altogether, about 150 men are working under various tribute parties on the sections held by the company. The powerful pumping and winding plant formerly belonging to the M'Kinmie Company has been conveyed to Zeehan, and is now being erected at the main shaft of the Silver King Company's Mine. A tramway is being put down to connect with the Zeehan railway station. When these works are completed, it is intended to proceed vigorously with the development of the mine. Fahey Brothers, on the south tribute, continue to raise considerable quantities of ore, and are erecting a concentrating plant, but the other tributes have not returned much. The total quantity of tribute ore raised from the Silver King Company's sections the past half-year has been 2589 tons, and the royalty receivable, £2485 7s. 10d. Work has commenced again at the Silver Bell Mine. It has been let on tribute, and the tributors have unwatered the main shaft to the 116 feet level, preparatory to resuming mining in that level.

The British Zeehan Mine has done well during the quarter. The Spray section has largely contributed to the output of the mine. At the Colonel North the stopes are carrying good milling ore. The owners of Smith's Sections are forming a company, to be called the Silver Smith Mining Company, for the development of their property. A new shaft will be sunk 200 feet. When the late tribute party left off, the lode had been driven on over 300 feet, and, in all, 8000 tons good silver lead obtained from all workings. The Western Consolidated is being unwatered, and the western crosscut being driven from main shaft.

The Oonah Mine has, during the last six months, extended its 424-foot level to a total of 260 feet, without results. Most of the other workings have been carried on by tributors, who, for that period, won 168 tons 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. of galena and gossan (£3260 2s. 5d.), and 173 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 17 lbs. of stannite (£2555 14s. 8d.). The company produced 21 tons 18 cwt. 0 qrs. 5 lbs galena, which realised £351 2s. 7d. The mine manager's recommendations for the coming year are to continue the present works—(1.) On the No. 2 lode—(2.) On the stannite—(3.) Between Nos. 5 and 6 levels, with—(4.) An extension of the main east and west crosscuts, as financial circumstances permit.

At Dundas the principal mines at work are the Comet and Great South Comet. The former has supplied 845 tons silver-lead ore to the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works during the quarter, and the latter about 84 tons. Small parcels of ore have been sent from the Fahl Ore and Curtin-Davis mines.

Work has been proceeding at the Comstock, South Comstock, and other mines in that district. At the Comstock the tributors have extended the long tunnel 65 feet towards the lode. J. M'Donald is still working on the large lode by the roadside on the Comstock property. At the South Comstock Mine, No. 2 winze on the lode has been resumed. The tributors are mining blende and galena, which they hand-crush and jig on the spot. Prospecting work is being carried on at the Britannia, the northern tunnel being extended. The Susannite claim, it is reported, is to be offered for flotation. Some work has been done on O'Neill and Bennett's 39-acre section near the Silver Stream, exposing some good clean galena.

**ZEEHAN SMELTING WORKS**—The patented Huntingdon and Heberlein process is to be adopted in roasting the sulphide ores, and pending the arrival of machinery and apparatus from Europe, and the carrying out of the necessary alterations, there will be a temporary suspension of smelting. In about another three months it is expected that smelting will be resumed. In the meantime supplies of ore are being purchased as usual, and stacked at the company's works.

**NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT—Mount Farrell**—The North Mount Farrell Mine is still opening up good ore, a recent parcel of 42 tons having returned £21 per ton gross, £15 net, value. The Central Farrell has cut its lode with galena assaying 60 per cent. lead, 90½ ozs. silver per ton. Prospecting continues on the other properties of this promising field. At the Mount Farrell Mine, after driving the low-level tunnel 90 feet, it was found possible to avoid hard ground by starting an intermediate tunnel higher up, which will obtain 70 feet of backs. This is being driven E.N.E., and is now in 90 feet.

**Magnet Silver Mine**.—The survey of tram-line to Waratah is not yet complete. Additional capital, £15,000, has been obtained for its construction, purchase of locomotive, mechanical ore-dryers, and electric light installation. The mine manager estimates the quantity of suitable ore in sight as 60,000 tons, of a gross value of £350,000. This quantity is estimated to carry 32 ozs. silver, 12 per cent. lead, and 1 dwt. gold per ton, worth £5 18s. per ton. About 10,000 tons of second-class ore, worth £45,000, are estimated to be lying on the dumps, and when the tramway is complete it is expected that large quantities will be profitably raised and shipped. The deepest workings are 230 feet on the underlay, and a lower level will be brought in from the North Magnet 90 feet below the bottom adit. The minimum width of the lode

in this mine is 5 feet, and the greatest 31 feet, or an average of 18 feet, and the shoot of ore, as far as proved, is 400 feet in length. During the past quarter an important development has taken place in the east crosscut from the intermediate level, where the eastern branch of the lode was cut, carrying banded sulphide ore of good assay value. Driving north and south on this show the ore-shoot continues here for 127 feet in length, and strong in both ends, especially north. No. 4, north end, is showing indications of another ore-shoot coming in. The company's exports the last quarter have been 267 tons 5 cwt. 3 qrs. ore, of a gross value of £3522 9s. 5d., nett £3375 11s. 8d.

At the North Magnet the lower tunnel is entering the line of dyke.

At the Confidence Mine, Whyte River, a little work has been done, and driving has been going on at the Discoverer, Heazlewood.

At the Devon Mine stopping and packing out ore has been proceeded with. The stope is reported as looking well.

### COPPER.

The past quarter has been a fairly prosperous one for the Lyell Mines. Thorough prospecting work has been carried on in most of the smaller shows, and the prospects and condition of the Mt. Lyell and North Mt. Lyell mines are satisfactory.

Mount Lyell Mine.—The Company has taken over the South Tharsis mine, where the ore is being broken in large quantities ready for the smelters, to which a daily delivery of 70 to 80 tons has been started. The new sampling plant at the Mt. Lyell has been put to work, and is giving satisfaction. During the quarter 81,614 tons of ore were treated at the reduction works: of this quantity 13,498 tons were purchased from neighbouring mines. The metal produced was 2404 tons blister copper, containing:—

Copper, 2376 tons, valued at .....	£180,576
Silver, 170,647 ozs., valued at .....	19,909
Gold, 5687 ozs., valued at .....	24,170
	<hr/>
	£224,655
	<hr/>

The men employed at the Company's mine, works, and railway, have numbered 2110.

North Mt. Lyell Mine.—The rich ore is still being proved from the crosscut in No. 2 level. The face of No. 1 bench shows solid ore. The aerial ropeway has been running regularly, supplying ore to the bins at the Linda terminus of the company's railway.

During the quarter 5000 tons of ore, value £40,000, were delivered to Mt. Lyell Smelters, and 800 tons, value £12,000, to Kelly Basin, for shipment. The schist overburden has been continuously removed at bench No. 0. Ore has been broken at bench No. 1. The underground drives have been continued; 130 men employed.

At the Mt. Lyell Blocks excavations for a main shaft have been started. 3526 tons of ore, averaging 10 per cent. copper, have been despatched during the quarter; 70 men employed.

The Lyell Tharsis Mine is looking well, both above and below ground: ore raised during the quarter, 4500 tons; approximate value, £11,000: 110 men employed.

The Royal Tharsis has 13 men at work. 400 tons of ore are raised and stacked on the surface, assaying 4 to 5 per cent. copper, 1 oz. silver, and 1 dwt. gold per ton. The extension of the east drive is proving good ore.

At the South Mt. Lyell driving has been stopped, and sinking the main shaft resumed. The shaft is down to 648 feet, and is to be carried down another 200 feet. The ore-body has been prospected in the different drives at the 600-foot level: 24 men employed.

The Mt. Lyell Reserve Mining Co. has raised 130 tons, assaying 5 per cent. copper, and has disclosed a cupriferous formation on Section 3580, 20 feet wide, estimated to yield 4 per cent.

The Duke Lyell Mine has packed out 10 tons of ore to the Mt. Lyell Smelters. Prospecting has been carried on here for over a year, and about £1000 spent in driving and sinking, the object being to cut a large formation which was known to contain payable copper ore. In all, about 250 feet of tunnel-driving has been done, besides crosscutting and winze-sinking. The ore which has been taken out is high-class pyrites, and is said to have good fluxing contents.

The Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended has raised 30 tons of ore, assaying 25 per cent. copper, 1 oz. silver, and 1 dwt. gold per ton.

The Crown Lyell, with 40 men employed, has raised about 100 tons of ore, assaying, on the average, 10 per cent. copper.

The Prince Lyell has confined work principally to the extension of the mine. The tunnel, which is now 505 ft. in, has intersected in its course some low-grade copper ore-bodies, as well as veins and bunches of high-grade ore. A bulk sample,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  tons of the latter, assayed 30 per cent. copper.

The Glen Lyell has done a fair quantity of surface work, showing four copper deposits from 25 to 40 ft. wide, assaying 3 to 4 per cent. copper, 4 to 6 dwts. silver, 3 dwts. gold. Five tunnels have been driven to prove the deposits to a depth of 300 feet from the

surface, all showing well at that depth. Two tunnels are being driven with a view of cutting the lodes about 200 feet deeper. About 400 tons of ore have been taken from the workings, and are stacked on the surface for future treatment.

The West Lyell Extended No. 2 tunnel is in 269 ft., and has passed through 12 ft. of siliceous fluxing ore. When this mine was formerly shut down, the tunnel face was within 5 ft. of the present ore-body.

The Western Tharsis No. 1 south drive is in 450 feet, and will eventually prove whether the discovery on the Tharsis Consols is in the western ground at depth.

At the Tharsis Consols, an intermediate level has been started to drive underneath the new discovery. The mine had been closed down for some time, but has now been amalgamated with the Lyell Blocks Consols Company, and is known as the Tharsis Consolidated. A good-looking ore-body has been disclosed by trenching on the high ground close to the Western Tharsis.

Tunnelling and exploratory work has been going on at the Tasman Comstock, North Lyell Consolidated, Anaconda, Lyell Consols, North Prince Lyell, North Crown Lyell, Queen Lyell, Mount Lyell Peaks, West Lyell, Great Lyell South, and other mines of the group.

**MOUNTS JUKES AND DARWIN.**—Prospecting and development work has been carried on at the mines situated in this important belt of country, with somewhat greater vigour. Inelement wintry weather has hindered work considerably. Tracks are being cut to get machinery to the ground by connecting with the North Lyell railway, which skirts the whole field on the eastern side. In spite of difficult access a few mines have kept at work, viz., Mount Jukes Proprietary, Jukes Consols, Prince Darwin. At Lake Jukes, prospecting is going on, and veins of bornite occur, but what is wanted is to strike a main ore-body. Mount Jukes Proprietary has twelve men employed. Jukes Consols has expended £300, and is reported to have improved prospects. At Prince Darwin the manager and six men are at work. The King Jukes Company has expended nearly £1400, and the Tasman Darwin £350, and both of these companies will probably get to work again shortly, but nothing of importance can be achieved without improved means of access.

Good prospects have been obtained from some sections on the coast line between Cape Sorell and Point Hibbs, and, should good results follow, a new district will be opened up. Prospecting on the Birthday Gift property, 21 miles south of Cape Sorell, has resulted in the discovery of native copper, glance, and carbonate

ores, some of which have been sent to Queenstown for trial, and a few tons paddocked at the mine. Copper ore was found a long time ago on a part of this ground, then belonging to the Ocean Company, but the recent discovery promises to open up a practically new field.

At Red Hills, prospecting work has been continued at the north end of the property, and the Moxon Mine is starting again. At the Mount Tyndall Copper Mine the crosscut east from shaft at the 60-ft. level has cut galena and copper pyrites, the latter carrying up to 30 per cent. copper.

**MOUNT READ**—The Mount Reid Mine has sent the usual quantity of ore (1428 tons) to the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works at Zeehan. It is probable that an aerial tram will be made between the open face and the company's hoppers. Good progress is being made with the earthworks on the company's tramway to Williamsford: the cuttings and embankments are now complete, and plate-laying begun.

At Dunne's, the tunnel is still proceeding across country charged with pyrites.

At the Hercules mine the No. 5 tunnel is in 900 ft., but no improvement shown in country passed through. A drive south, at 620 ft., is to be put into the body of copper ore which was cut in the tunnel, and a rise is to be put up at 550 ft. to connect with No. 4 level.

**ROSEBERY**.—Very little work is being done in this district. The erection of the Mount Black Proprietary concentrators is delayed, pending reconstruction of portion of the machinery to give the necessary driving power.

**EAST COAST**.—At the Scamander, work has been resumed at the Eastern Proprietary mine. Secondary copper ores are being won from above the water level. The Eastern Proprietary Copper and Silver Mining Co. has shipped the following parcels to Dapto:—

	tons.	cwts.	grs.		ozs.	dwts.	grs.		%
Aug. 30...	45	17	2	Silver...	12	1	3	Copper...	15.6
Sep. 13...	32	8	0	Silver...	12	2	15	Copper...	15.5
Sep. 26..	23	14	1½	Silver..	13	10	13	Copper...	16.55

and is continuing regular shipments.

## COAL.

The Cornwall Company's colliery has an encouraging aspect. The coal won has been good in quality and the leading headings

are being driven into good quality stuff. Since the commencement of operations by the company the marketable output has been 261,201 tons. This has been won during a period of 15 years.

The Syndicate at Eden on the West Coast, after proving two small seams of coal and testing the sandstone beds near the shaft by boring, has temporarily suspended operations. The total quantity of coal raised in the Colony this quarter, was 14,508 tons, against 10,369 $\frac{3}{4}$  tons, the corresponding quarter of 1899.

### IRON ORE.

During the past quarter 1910 tons were exported, against 926 tons the corresponding quarter of 1899.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Asbestos.*—Desultory work has been carried on at the Australasian Company's Mine near Beaconsfield, and small shipments of asbestic and serpentine rock have been made. A short tunnel has been driven into the face of the quarry to prove the rock ahead. Some long fibre asbestos has been found on sections further west. A discovery of asbestos has been made near Lynchford, about a quarter of a mile from the King Battery.

*Osmiridium.*—A small party are working the 19-Mile Creek, near the Savage River, for this metal, but a large quantity of dirt has to be treated for very little osmiridium.

*Wolfram.*—19 tons 3 cwt. 2 lbs. were produced this quarter.

Return showing the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending 30th September, 1900:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
North and South .....	959	...	959
North-West .....	335	...	335
North-East .....	448	163	611
East .....	871	84	955
West .....	4324	...	4324
	6937	247	7184

Value of the mineral output per man employed, £59 14s. 7d.

The Dividends and Bonuses paid during the quarter were :—

From Copper Mines .....	£55,000
"    Ditto (Bonuses) .....	13,750
"    Gold Mines.....	14,000
"    Tin Mines .....	31,500
"    Silver Mines .....	3075
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TOTAL .....	£117,325
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