

MININDI 903-2

THE PROGRESS OF  
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY  
OF  
TASMANIA,

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1903.

COMPILED BY

W. H. TWELVETREES, ESQ.,

GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE CARMICHAEL LYNE,

MINISTER OF MINES.



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART.

1903.



PROGRESS OF THE  
MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1903.

*Launceston, 26th August, 1903.*

THE following Table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised and exported during the Quarter ending the 30th June, 1903, compared with the corresponding Quarter in 1902, and the previous Quarter ending 31st March, 1903:—

	During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1903.		During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1902.		During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Gold won .....	ozs. 13,925 <sup>·801</sup> *	59,153	18,435 <sup>·038</sup> *	78,307	14,167 <sup>·106</sup> *	60,178
Auriferous Quartz and Pyrites exported .....	tons 521 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>20</sub>	1079	55	1032	34	796
Silver Ore exported .....	4299	46,578	7786 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	41,342	4545 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	43,434
Blister Copper exported .....	1548 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	108,338†	2576	188,790†	755	35,659†
Copper Ore exported .....	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	60	1809 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	20,823	...	...
Iron Ore exported .....	1484 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1635	355	355	310	310
Coal raised .....	14,694	12,856	10,981 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	9334	10,414	8852
Silver-lead Bullion exported .....	1757 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	61,489	1618 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	56,635	2065 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	70,416
Tin Ore exported .....	45 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>20</sub>	2230	3	96	76 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	3464
Tin (metallic) exported .....	597 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>20</sub>	79,089	440 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	57,975	515 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	66,738
Gold Quartz exported .....	...	...	...	...	13	25
Copper Matte exported .....	1815 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	44,366	100	2000	1912	39,258
Cyanide slag exported .....	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	150	...	...
Zinc Ore exported .....	100 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	402	...	...	102 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	309
Sulphide Ore exported .....	5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	17	...	...	...	...
Gossan Ore exported .....	7	20	...	...	...	...
Galena Ore exported .....	16 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	101	...	...	...	...
Oxide Ore exported .....	4	16	...	...	...	...
Zinc-blende exported .....	...	...	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	60
<b>TOTAL VALUE .....</b>	... £	417,429	... £	456,779	... £	329,493

\* Fine gold, including gold obtained from blister copper and silver-lead bullion.

† Value of gold contents deducted.

## GOLD.

During the past quarter 4139 $\frac{3}{20}$  ounces of gold were obtained from quartz, 242 $\frac{1}{2}$  ounces from alluvial, and 1889 ounces by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, valued at £59,153.

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 1902, and the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1903 :—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1903.							Totals corresponding Quarter, 1902.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st March, 1903.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & Chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	From Sulphide Ores.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	
Beaconsfield	2581	23	1096	...	...	...	3700	8533	4518 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mathinna ...	1425	...	641	...	...	...	2066	3843 $\frac{3}{20}$	3043
Mt. Victoria Warrentinna )	60 $\frac{3}{20}$	...	...	...	...	...	60 $\frac{3}{20}$	347 $\frac{14}{20}$	129
Lefroy .....	73	...	152	...	...	...	225	265	382
Lisle .....	...	129	...	...	...	...	129	...	159
Golconda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92	14
Mangana ...	...	14	...	...	...	...	14	5	16
Bell Mount.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Middlesex...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Coast.	...	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	6302	781	1119	8278 $\frac{19}{20}$	6593	6632 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTALS	4139 $\frac{3}{20}$	242 $\frac{1}{2}$	1889	6302	781	1119	14,472 $\frac{3}{20}$	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter 1902.....	10,534 $\frac{11}{20}$	118	2433 $\frac{5}{20}$	5556	688	353	...	19,683 $\frac{1}{20}$	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31 March, 1903.....	6129 $\frac{1}{2}$	219 $\frac{1}{2}$	1931	4896	653	1065	...	...	14,894

Value £59,153; equal to 13,925·801 ozs. fine gold.

BEACONSFIELD.—The field has furnished employment to 446 men during the quarter, of whom 408 were working for mining companies, the remainder being tributors and prospectors.

The shareholders of the Tasmania Mine have granted the necessary power to the directors to dispose of the property on the terms mentioned in last Report, and negotiations with the pur-

chasers are, it is understood, in an advanced stage. The transfer will introduce a considerable amount of outside capital into the district, and other mining propositions in the locality will also receive a stimulus. Meanwhile hands have been shortened at the Tasmania, 370 being the average for the quarter. The work of unwatering is proceeding, and rising will begin from the 1000-ft. level; but no further driving will be done at that level before new pumping plant is installed.

During the quarter 6331 tons of quartz were crushed, and 3514 ozs. 9 dwts. gold produced (by amalgamation and chlorination), value £13,064 6s., bringing the total, since the formation of the company, to 497,850 tons crushed and 570,843 ozs. 12 dwts. 17 grs. gold obtained, of a value of £2,094,833 2s. 1d. No dividends were declared this quarter. Previous dividends amount to £772,071 15s.

*Moonlight-cum-Wonder Mine.*—This Company had 12 men at work, and produced 14 ounces of gold at the battery for its tributors, and 24 ounces for tributors at the North Tasmania. The 500 feet level has holed into the winze from the 400 feet, but the stone in the bottom was not up to expectations, and, as nothing but bunchy quartz has been met with throughout the level, further driving has been relinquished. It is understood that the Company will now turn its attention to the works from the Moonlight tunnel on the east side of the hill.

*Bonanza Mine.*—Since the end of the quarter the shaft has been sunk to 300 feet and a chamber cut; 7 hands employed.

*New Tasmania United Mine.*—Work has been resumed here with 4 men.

*Tasman Ophir Mine.*—The main shaft has been sunk further 60 feet, making 460 feet altogether, and a drive has been put in at this level to connect with the winze from the 400 feet. At 185 feet from the shaft a rise has been put up, and the lead cut overhead. The old prospecting shaft, two chains west of the main shaft, has been cleaned out to 90 feet, on black slate, with 25 feet of wash. One hundred tons of this wash was crushed, but the result was disappointing, as, although the assay returns average over 13 dwts., the yield at the battery from the parcel treated was only 5 ozs. 3 dwts. retorted gold. The explanation hazarded is that the fine gold was not saved by treatment. Twenty-two men employed.

*Salisbury Mine.*—The lode was not struck in the drive where it was anticipated, and operations are suspended for a time till further capital is introduced.

*Middle Arm Creek Gorge.*—A small syndicate has been prospecting for some time at the end of the Cabbage Tree Hill, and has, it is believed, reasons for anticipating success.

**LEFROY.**—Sixty-one men were employed here, of whom 30 were at the New Pinafore. This mine produced 148 ounces of gold during the quarter from the Point and Crown workings. Stone payable, but on the whole poor. Thirteen ounces gold were obtained from Laird and Sons and Digney and Casey's workings, and 64 ounces cyanided by Johns Bros., who have now ceased operations. Eight parties have carried on prospecting work in different parts of the field, but any results are not obtainable.

**LISLE.**—The Dredging Company obtained 129 ounces gold with 18 hands. The new pump is working well, and the poorer ground is supposed to be left behind.

**LYNDHURST.**—Two or three prospecting associations have been formed for proving the ground here, and one (the North Cross) has discovered a reef carrying gold, and promising well. Sinking has been started, and prospects met with in sinking.

**MOUNT VICTORIA.**—Increased activity has prevailed in this district, and the returns from operations on a small scale have been satisfactory, averaging 1 ounce of gold per ton of quartz. Brown and party won 40 ozs. 1 dwt. gold from 40 tons quartz from the Ringarooma Gold Mining Company's lease on tribute. The Long Struggle is driving an intermediate level towards south boundary and breaking stone for battery. Sewell and party crushed 20 tons quartz for 20 ozs. 2 dwts. gold on their lease. The Reform Syndicate have sunk a shaft 40 feet, and have driven on the reef 15 feet, showing good gold; a trial crushing of 15 tons of stone being carted to the Long Struggle Co.'s battery, estimated to yield 15 dwts. per ton. On M'Caul and Co.'s prospecting claims, east of and adjoining the Reform, there are two shafts sunk, and a trial crushing of 10 tons of stone is being taken out. The stone shows gold freely; the reef has been traced for 100 feet in length, and its average size is from 6 to 12 inches. On H. M. Caul's prospecting claim, between the old Mount Victoria ground and the Bright Star, there is a reef from 6 to 12 inches in width giving good prospects of gold. The Hinemoa Co.'s lease, on the South Mount Victoria, is employing five men driving. The reef is variable in width and quality. The Carnegie is breaking and paddocking payable stone. The total yield of the Mount Victoria field for the quarter was 60 ozs. 3 dwts., with 33 men, of whom 18 were employed on prospecting work only.

**MATHINNA.**—At the New Golden Gate mine 140 men were employed, and 1792 ounces gold won during the quarter. What

is believed to be the missing Loane's reef has been picked up south of the slide, showing a good width of payable stone; the finest reef which the manager has ever seen in the mine. This discovery will have far-reaching effects, as this reef has not been worked on south of the slide between the 1600 feet level and surface. The reef north of the slide has returned about £750,000 worth of gold, and everyone is looking forward now to the extraction of an equal value from the southern portion.

*Volunteer Mine.*—1050 tons of quartz were crushed, and 250 ounces of gold obtained. The number of men employed was 45. The total quantity of quartz crushed at this mine to date is 5320 tons, which yielded 1661 ounces of gold, equal to an average of 6 dwts.  $5\frac{3}{4}$  grs. per ton, and realising £5779 9s. The yield for the half year to 30th June has been 5 dwts.  $23\frac{7}{8}$  grs. gold per ton of quartz, equal to £1 0s.  $10\frac{1}{2}d.$  per ton, and the actual working costs £1 7s.  $6\frac{1}{2}d.$  per ton. The Directors state that a marked improvement in the appearance of the lode is noticed, and sinking will be resumed at an early date. Another 10 head of stampers, concentrating plant, and a 40-horse power boiler are in course of erection. The mine manager reports that large quantities of low-grade stone remain in sight, and will be taken out as soon as work is sufficiently advanced to permit it. The reef at 250 feet from surface is wide and defined, heavily charged with pyrites, and promises well. The reef cut in the bottom of the main shaft is mineralised, and the stone shows coarse gold.

*The Revenue Mine* produced 24 ounces of gold from 150 tons quartz crushed. 9 men are employed.

The other non-productive mines of the Mathinna field gave employment to 100 men.

*Volunteer Consolidated.*—The cross-cut is out 300 feet south of the shaft, and has intersected four lodes.

*New Golden King* has cut the eastern reef, rather poor in quality, but payable results anticipated.

*Tasmanian Consols* has been driving north on reefs at 1200 feet, stone value 10 to 16 dwts. per ton, and cross-cutting west at 1100 feet level.

Other claims at and near Mathinna are the Yellow Boy, Loane's P.A., Dan's, City, Davies' P.A., Golden Princess, Havelock, Waterfalls, Carnegie, &c.

**FINGAL.**—At Abbotsford Creek 30 men have been employed. At the end of the quarter No. 3 tunnel had been extended to 408 feet in slate. The 30-head battery is now being erected. 84 chains of the water-race have been completed.

**NORTH-WEST COAST.—Black Bluff.**—Driving at the Lea River Mine is continuing, and good prospects are being obtained from the indicator in the course of the work. At the Devonport P.A. the formation has been traced by surface cuts for 850 feet. Assays have returned from 12 to 16 dwts. gold per ton. An adit has been started to cut the lode at a depth of 100 feet.

**WEST COAST.**—At the Coronation Mine the small steam winding plant is being erected. 6 men are employed.

At the Mount Ellen Gold Mine 5 men were employed crushing surface material, from which  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ounces gold were produced.

At Macquarie and Woody Hill the Mount Lyell Company is testing the stone with the view of ascertaining its value as a flux. 8 men are employed.

Elliott and Gaffney's hydraulic sluicing claim has been worked with 5 men, but results are not known.

On Flannigan's Flat 5 diggers are finding employment, also 6 pine cutters, who occasionally turn their attention to prospecting.

At the head of the Queen River about a dozen men are dishing and sluicing, with results varying from indifferent to fair.

Near the top of Mount Darwin half a dozen men are prospecting, and finding exceptionally coarse gold.

The total quantity of gold from local sources sent away through the Bank during the quarter has been 70 ounces.

## TIN.

The output of tin ore at Waratah for the past quarter has been as follows :—

	Tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff.....	322	9	225
West Bischoff .....	12	0	15
Waratah Alluvial.....	3	8	—
Stanhope Alluvial.....	1	1	3
The Wombat.....	—	—	14
Total .....	<u>338</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>357</u>

The Mount Lyell Syndicate's show near Waratah is being systematically tested. A shaft has been put down to the creek level, and a drive is proceeding in the ore formation, the assay values of which are highly satisfactory.

*Briseis.*—113 tons 8 cwt. tin ore were raised at this mine during the quarter, and 105 men employed.

*Ringarooma Tin Mine.*—19 tons 3 cwt. ore were produced, with 28 men. Operations are to be curtailed here, pending the acquisition of additional plant.

*Pioneer Tin Mine.*—The output for the quarter was 127 tons, with 50 men, and two dividends of 3s. 6d. and 5s. per share were declared, making a total of 18s. 6d. for the twelve months—£23,250. Since the inception of sluicing by the present Company, 687 tons tin ore have been won, and £28,125 (22s. 6d. per share) distributed in dividends. The mine is now being worked in two benches, the upper bench of about 55 feet in height being sluiced direct to the large pumping plant, while the smaller pumping plant, working about 20 feet below this level, raises all the bottom drift to the sluicing level of the large plant, which then handles the water and drift from both faces. The present position and prospects of the mine are considered excellent. Owing to the bottom of the gutter being very uneven, and to the comparatively small extent of it yet worked, it is difficult to determine the fall of the Pioneer lead to the ancient main lead, but, judging by the level of the bottom exposed, at the head of the workings, and the depth of the furthest bore-hole put down in the gutter, the manager estimates it as about 1 in 100. This fall is not uniform throughout, but is broken up by bars, which are extensions of spurs, some of which outcrop or are found close to the surface on both sides of the lead. One of these bars is being cut through in the lower workings.

*Scotia Mine.*—This mine has produced 9 tons 6 cwt. ore with 16 men. The preparatory dead work is nearly completed, and a good yield of tin is anticipated. The deep face is 10 chains wide and 55 feet deep, and the wash at the lower level is looking well.

Near Gladstone Hee Sung and party of five Chinese raised 3 tons 7 cwt. At Boobyalla and Mount Horror five lease claims are being mined by 15 hands with satisfactory results.

**MOORINA DISTRICT.**—The Weld mine won 5 tons 6 cwt. ore with ground sluicing, nine men being employed. The Moa Tin Mine produced 4 tons 12 cwt. with nine men.

**BRANXHOLM.**—The Arba Mine employed 39 men and looks well. The Contact Association, at Ruby Flat, has been prospecting for lodes and alluvial deposits with encouraging results.

**RINGAROOMA.**—In this division the Star of Peace Company employs 30 men lode mining. The quarter's produce was 14

tons 2 cwt. tin ore from 2417 tons crushed. The workings consist of an open cut about 30 feet wide and 25 feet high, and it is estimated that it will take four months to carry the cutting up to the main shaft. The mine looks fairly well.

The "Done Again Company" is carting machinery to erect a battery for tin lode crushing. The Red Bank Company whose leased land is situate at the Maurice River, employs six men and has won 2 tons 15 cwt. tin ore, the mine being worked by hydraulic pressure.

There are 17 miner's claims worked in the Ringarooma division, employing in the aggregate 28 men. Upon one of these claims, situate at Black Creek, Woods and party of six men have won during the quarter 2 tons 11 cwt. of tin ore, and the ground is reported as looking well. In the Ruby Flat district 25 Chinese have won 7 tons 15 cwt. tin ore during the quarter.

The Weldborough mines have produced as follows :—

	Tons. cwts.	Men employed.
R. B. Inglis .....	3 2	8
Weldborough Tin Mining Company ...	1 7	15
Weldbrook " " .....	0 9	6
Maa Mon Chin.....	1 1	9
Sin Hang Kee .....	5 17	36
Other claims.....	10 14	27
Total .....	<u>22 10</u>	<u>101</u>

The output of the Lottah and other Blue Tier mines for the quarter has been as under :—

	Tons. cwts.	Men employed.
Anchor Mine .....	63 0	115
Australian Mine .....	0 18	5
Liberator and Cambria .....	1 10	6
Other leases and claims .....	6 7	27
Total .....	<u>71 15</u>	<u>153</u>

The St. Helens mines have raised as under :—

	Tons. cwts.	Men employed.
Thureau's Deep Lead .....	1 2	5
Royal Ruby.....	4 0	9
Jones and Henslow .....	1 1	2
Daniels and Paice.....	1 11	2
Other claims .....	5 15	30
Total.....	<u>13 9</u>	<u>48</u>

In the Avoca district the output has been as follows :—

	Tons. cwt.	Men employed.
Mount Rex Mine.....	23 6	75
South Esk Mine.....	8 4	12
Storey's Creek .....	...	5
Total .....	<u>31 10</u>	<u>92</u>

WEST COAST.—The registered output of tin ore from claims on the Coast for the quarter was  $15\frac{1}{2}$  tons with 30 men employed.

### SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The recorded raisings of silver ore in the districts of Zeehan and Dundas for the quarter ending 30th June, were as follow :—

	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £
<i>Zeehan Mines :</i>			
Zeehan-Montana	galena.....	1003	12,797
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena and gossan...	1625	17,014
Zeehan-Queen	" .....	11	81
Oonah	" .....	37	114
Oonah	stannite .....	137	1306
Silver King	galena .....	8	40
Silver Queen Extended	galena.....	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	171
Zeehan Sth. Comstock	zinc blende.....	184	417
<i>Dundas Mines :</i>			
Hercules	zinc lead sulphide...	2471	2485
"	gossan.....	1434	4256
Ring Valley	copper and silver ore	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	1108
Comet	galena .....	291	1393
"	gossan .....	1205	813
	Totals.....	<u>8521<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></u>	<u>41,995</u>

*Zeehan-Montana*—This mine has given employment to 204 men. No. 1 shaft is down to 30 feet below No. 6 level or 630 feet from surface. At No. 6 level driving is proceeding on a new lode showing a little ore. The No. 2 shaft (late Queen No. 1) has been unwatered and enlarged and timbered to 20 feet below No. 2 level, or 230 feet from surface. The level has been cleaned up and examined, but there is nothing showing, which seems to warrant operating. Two crosscuts have been started at No. 2 level, one east and one west, to intersect the different lodes which

are known to exist east and west of the shaft. The ground, so far, is hard, and some time must elapse before results can be expected.

*Zeehan-Western*.—The Western mine has been refloated in London, with a capital of £60,000, of which £26,000 will constitute the working capital. The mine is in charge of Mr. J. Craze, the manager of the Zeehan-Montana. He states that pumping is to start at the beginning of August, and pipes are being laid from the Zeehan-Montana main supply to provide the Western boilers with water.

*Mount Zeehan (Tasmania)*.—This mine never looked better than at present. One hundred and ninety-two are at work, of whom 26 are on tribute. The No. 3 lode has been driven on 245 feet, ore payable: this lode is expected to be cut 400 feet north almost immediately. At No. 2 shaft it will take another two months driving in No. 2 level to get into the main bodies of ore. No. 6 shaft machinery about ready to start. The tributes are getting nearly worked out. Those on the outcrop of Spray No. 3 lode, are raising some rich gossan up to 500 ozs. One lot of 901 ozs. has been sold from the Argent, near where No. 6 shaft is being sunk.

*Oonah*.—Twenty-four men are on tribute. The stannite lode is looking much better again in the lowest level above water, where 12 inches of marketable ore exists, from which the supply should be maintained for some few months. The ore in the higher levels is worked out. Good gossan is still being won from the old junction in small quantities, but rich in silver.

*Silver King*.—Six men are on tribute. The tributors at the south workings are keeping going with surface ore until they get their shaft down, already sunk 32 feet. It is intended to sink to water level, and then open out. Two men are prospecting west of the known lode from the main workings. At the main workings the heaps of second class ore are being hand treated for the time being.

*Zeehan-Queen*.—Thirty-four men, of whom 14 are on tribute. No. 1 shaft is being unwatered.

*Zeehan South Comstock*.—Eleven men, of whom three are on tribute. The work here is confined to the open cut.

DUNDAS AND MOUNT READ.—*Comet Mine*.—Seventy men are employed. The stopes above No. 3z, off No. 1 winze, are winning a fine lot of metal, and the mine throughout is looking

well. The published half-yearly report states that for the six months ending 31st May, the sales have been as under :—

	Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.				£ s. d.			Per Ton.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Concentrates.....	385	2	3	15	1731	3	1	=	4	10	0
Galena .....	194	4	1	0	1159	17	11	=	5	19	7
Gossan flux .....	2493	2	2	1	1696	7	4	=	0	13	8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3072</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4587</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>				

The mill treated 2348½ tons crude ore, which produced 381½ tons of concentrates, being an average of 16·24 per cent. The returns for January and February exceeded £1000 per month, but were interrupted by a terrible flood on the 21st February, and reduced to an average of £500 per month for March, April, and May. The men in the early part of May came to the assistance of the Company by allowing their wages to stand over till the work of repairing the damage done by the flood was completed. This has now been done, and the mine is in full swing.

*Hercules Mine.*—125 men are employed. More sulphide ore is being sent to market than hitherto. Large bodies of this class of ore have been met with, and can be stoped at a profit. The gossan ore, on the other hand, has not come forward so plentifully. No. 6 tunnel is still being driven, and is in country mineralised, with occasional bands of copper ore. The Company has now entered the dividend list, and has further £5000 in hand.

*Tasmanian Smelting Company.*—200 men are employed. During the quarter ending 30th June 6897·315 tons of ore were purchased, containing 1956·569 tons of lead, 294,217·53 ounces of silver, and 781·449 ounces of gold. The export was 1854·443 tons of bullion, containing 1777·230 tons of lead, 299,994·91 ounces of silver, and 781·449 ounces of gold. 2208 tons of ironstone were quarried for flux at the Company's Balstrup Mine under contract.

**NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.**—The *Magnet Mine* sent away the following quantities of silver-lead ore during the quarter :—

		£	s.	d.
790 tons to the Tasmanian Smelting Company, Zeehan,	value	1825	18	1
1423	„ Newcastle, N.S.W.	4157	2	0
1192	„ Dapto, „	2957	0	3
<b>3405</b>		<b>£8940</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

The mine continues to send out 1000 tons per month. The prospects in the southern part of the mine are extremely satisfactory, large quantities of high-grade ore being won. Lower levels are now being put in to prove this part of the mine at a depth. A permanent working winze is being sunk from No. 4 level, the prospecting winze having disclosed rich ore. 121 men are employed.

In the Heazlewood district the Confidence Mine has continued driving its low level with more clean ore coming in on the foot-wall. Some of the pyrites in the face has assayed over 70 ounces silver. The Victorian Magnet Mine is driving towards the old workings of the Godkin. A new company is starting to drive below the old Godkin Extended Mine. It is understood that work is to be resumed at the Mount Stewart Mine, recently worked by the Long Tunnel Syndicate.

*North Mount Farrell Mine.*—169 tons of marketable ore were produced during the quarter. Underground operations were suspended for some weeks pending erection of concentrating mill; this is now completed and running full time two shifts. A full staff is now at work underground, and the output will be greatly increased. Thirty men are employed, and more are being taken on.

*Mount Farrell Mine.*—The cross-cut passed through a belt of lode-matter veined with a little ore, and is being continued towards the schist junction.

*Murchison River Mine.*—Work is being resumed here by a new company, the Murchison River Silver and Lead Company, with a share capital of £125,000. Tramway connection of this mine with the North Farrell dressing floors is requisite.

*Central Farrell Mine.*—This mine which yielded some very high surface assays (100 ozs., 184 ozs., 339 ozs., 407 ozs., silver) has been taken up by a tribute syndicate.

There is more activity now in the Farrell district than there has been for a long time past, owing to the tram communication with the Emu Bay line. Tramming facilities are, however, still imperfect as regards several mines.

*Devon Mine.*—The Company is resuming work at its mine on the Dove River. The object is to prove to what extent the ore deposit will justify expenditure in improving the means of exit. The funds now provided are to be spent entirely in the development of the mine, and proving it below water level. The ore is high grade argentiferous galena, carrying 5 to 8 dwts. of gold.

## COPPER.

*Mount Lyell Mine.*—The ore treated at the Reduction Works during the quarter ending 30th June was as follows:—

	Dry Weight.			
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore .....	70,258	12	0	27
North Lyell Mine ore .....	3854	6	2	27
	74,112	18	3	26
Metal-bearing flux from the Company's South Tharsis Mine	9892	12	3	21
Total.....	84,005	11	3	19

The metal produced was—

	£	ₛ	d.
Blister copper, 1548 tons, containing—			
Copper, 1530 tons, valued at .....	100,565	12	4
Silver, fine, 157,659 ozs., valued at.....	17,079	14	6
Gold, fine, 6302 ozs., valued at .....	26,783	10	0
Total.....	£144,428	16	10

Number of men employed—

At the Company's Mount Lyell Mine .....	355
At the Company's South Tharsis Mine .....	48
At the Company's Royal Tharsis Mine .....	5
At the Company's North Crown Lyell Mine ...	5
At the Company's Central Lyell Mine.....	6
At the Company's Section 136-86.....	4
	— 423
At the Company's Reduction Works .....	1097
At the Company's Railway .....	149
Total .....	1669

The extraction of ore from the open cut faces has proceeded as usual. At No. 8 the ore body is being contoured, and a drive south is advancing into new country. The diamond drill is now engaged on a vertical bore south-west of the main body. The South and Royal Tharsis supply silicious flux for the smelters. On these properties and on the North Crown Lyell, Central Lyell, and Section 136, underground prospecting is going on.

*North Mount Lyell Mine.*—Owing to the stoppage of the Smelters at Crotty on the 31st May, pending the result of amalgamation negotiations with the Mount Lyell Company,

work in general since that date has been of a desultory nature. The output has been as follows:—

	Tons.	Value.
High-grade Ore .....	5097	£42,000
Low-grade Concentrates .....	3400	7500
Total .....	<u>8497</u>	<u>£49,500</u>

besides the ore sent to the Mount Lyell Smelters. Men employed at Mine, 200; at Smelters and Railway, 320; total, 520.

*South Mount Lyell Mine.*—Since the end of May the pumps only have been kept going. Prior to that date 84 men were employed, producing ore for the Crotty Smelters.

*Lyell Blocks Mine.*—The main shaft has been sunk to 568 feet. At 550 feet plats have been cut out east and west of the shaft. From the former 70 feet of driving and 76 feet of crosscutting have been done in order to locate the copper-bearing clays. This has been successful, but so far no bulk trial of their value at this depth has been made. Twenty-one men are employed.

*Comstock and Tasman Lyell Consolidated.*—Prospecting is confined to the contact country on the west fall of Mount Lyell, where 13 men have been employed.

*Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended.*—The main tunnel has been driven to 1453 feet, encountering solid conglomerate. In crosscutting along the course of the main drive favourable prospects of bornite were met with. Forty tons of copper ore are stacked at the tunnel mouth. The crosscut east from tunnel at 1312 feet has been driven 35 feet, and carries a vein 18 inches wide of iron pyrites, with rich splashes of bornite. The indications are stated to be in favour of the belief that a larger body of ore exists ahead. Five men are employed.

*Crown Lyell Mine.*—The main north-west drive has been extended 89 feet, total 719 feet. Crosscuts from same 32 feet. Twelve men are employed.

*Ballarat and Lyell Mines, Limited.*—Formerly the Great Mount Lyell Copper Company, Limited. Operations were resumed by the new Company on the 1st June on Section 1282, where 155 feet have been driven on a quartz formation, assaying  $2\frac{1}{2}$  dwts. per ton. Three men are employed.

**NORTH-WEST COAST.**—At Barn Bluff No. 1 tunnel has been extended to 440 feet.

## COAL.

The raisings for the quarter have been 14,694 tons, as against 10,414½ tons the previous quarter. The different collieries have contributed to the output as under :—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Mount Nicholas .....	6097 12 cwt.	62
Cornwall .....	7244 10 cwt.	65
Spreyton .....	264	6
Dulverton .....	104	8
Mount Cygnet .....	876	9
York Plains .....	108	4
Sandfly .....	—	4
Total.....	14,694 2cwt.	158

*Teasdale's Coal Mine, Dulverton.*—This is a new venture, about 1½ mile from the Dulverton siding, and is situate on Mr. Hubbard's farm. The tunnel is in about 2½ chains, and the seam is stated to average 15 to 17 inches in thickness of household coal.

RECHERÔCHE BAY.—The bore on the shore of the Bay at Moss Glen was carried down to 515 feet, striking diabase at 454½ feet from surface. The sedimentary rocks passed through were sandstones and shales with coal veinlets. The drill was then moved 200 feet higher up the mountain, and a bore put down ahead of the Moss Glen tunnel. It was continued to a depth of 152 feet, and left off in sandstone with coal markings. It passed through a seam of coal and bands (8 feet 7 inches) at 56½ feet. This coal was of inferior quality, containing from 39 to 59 per cent. of ash. At a depth of 104 feet coal four inches thick was met with, and indications were encountered all through the bore.

## IRON.

The Tasmanian Iron Mine at the Penguin raised 1520 tons iron ore during the quarter, giving employment to 25 men.

## CONCLUSION.

The value of this quarter's output and export was £417,429 exceeding the figures of the previous quarter by £87,936, but not attaining the totals of the corresponding quarter last year by £39,350.

Return showing the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 30th June, 1903.

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
North and South .....	597	...	597
North-East .....	486	132	618
East .....	767	75	842
North-West .....	486	...	486
West .....	4118	...	4118
	6454	207	6661

Value of the mineral output per man employed, £62 13s. 4d.

The dividends paid during the quarter were :—

	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines .....	13,750	0	0
"    Tin    " .....	18,185	0	0
"    Silver  " .....	4,099	0	0
Total.....	£36,034	0	0