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THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA,

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1903.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE CARMICHAEL LYNE,
MINISTER OF MINES.



Tasmania:

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1903.



PROGRESS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1903.

*Launceston,
30th November, 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 September, 1903, compared with the corresponding quarter in 1902, and the previous quarter ending 30th June, 1903:—

	During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1903.		During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1902.		During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1903.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold won	ozs. 15,704 ^a ₂₂₂	£ 66,723	18,549 ^b ₁₄₀	£ 78,793	13,925 ^c ₈₀₁	£ 59,153
Auriferous Quartz and Pyrites exported	tons 252 ¹ ₄	8314	27	491	52 ¹³ ₀	1679
Silver Ore exported	3319 ¹ ₁₀	35,858	5741 ¹ ₂	53,580	4299	46,578
Blister Copper exported	1954 ¹ ₂	146,610†	1552	91,500†	1548 ³ ₄	108,338†
Copper Ore exported	6 ³ ₂	17	1324 ³ ₂	15,561	6 ³ ₂	60
Iron Ore exported	972	1104	...	...	1484 ¹ ₂	1635
Coal raised	14,873	13,014	14,259	12,120	14,694	12,856
Silver-lead Bullion exported	1302	45,731	1406	49,092	1757 ¹ ₂	61,489
Tin Ore exported	85	2364	7	557	45 ² ₀	2230
Tin (metallic) exported	594 ³ ₄	75,759	527 ¹ ₂	66,515	597 ¹ ₁₀	79,089
Gold Quartz exported .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Copper Matte exported .....	...	...	325	6500	1815 ¹ ₂	44,366
Copper exported .....	...	...	168	5903	...	...
Zinc Ore exported	84	252	...	...	100 ¹ ₂	402
Sulphide Ore exported .....	...	...	...	...	5 ² ₄	17
Gossan Ore exported .....	...	...	...	...	7	20
Galena Ore exported	334 ³ ₂	4643	...	...	16 ³ ₄	101
Oxide Ore exported .....	...	...	4	9	4	16
Ironstone Flux exported	50	100	...	...	...	...
TOTAL VALUE .....	... £	400,489	... £	380,621	... £	417,429

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

GOLD.

During the past quarter 6834 ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 328 ozs. from alluvial, 1920 ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 5503 ozs. from blister copper from the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, 880 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's Works, Zeehan, and 1137 ozs. from the sulphide ores from Mount Read, valued at £66,723.

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 30th June, 1903:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th Sep., 1903.							Totals corresponding Quarter, 1902.	Totals for Quarter ending 30th June, 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.	ozs.
Beaconsfield	3220	27	1124	...	...	...	4371	6931 $\frac{1}{2}$	3700
Mathinna ...	3247 $\frac{3}{20}$	...	796	...	...	...	4043 $\frac{3}{20}$	3879	2066
Mt. Victoria	} 48	} 6	} ...	} ...	} ...	} ...	} 54	} 125	} 60 $\frac{3}{20}$
Warrentinna									
Lefroy	318	...	...	...	...	...	318	204 $\frac{1}{2}$	225
Lisle	} ...	} 138	} ...	} ...	} ...	} ...	} 138	} 93	} 129
Golconda ...									
Mangana ...	15 $\frac{3}{20}$	...	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{3}{20}$	250	...
Bell Mount.	...	14	...	...	...	...	14	16	14
Middlesex...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
West Coast.	...	143	...	5503	880	1137	7663	8053	8278 $\frac{13}{20}$
TOTALS	6834	328	1920	5503	880	1137	16,602	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1902.....	9188 $\frac{1}{2}$	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	2199 $\frac{1}{2}$	6126	570	1352	...	19,555 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
Totals for Quarter ending 30th June, 1903.....	4139 $\frac{3}{20}$	242 $\frac{1}{2}$	1889	6302	781	1119	...	...	14,472 $\frac{13}{20}$

Value £66,723 ; equal to 15,704.222 ozs. fine gold.

BEACONSFIELD.—Three hundred and ninety-four men were employed in this district during the quarter. Of these 24 were prospectors and tributors, and 370 were employed by mining companies.

The Tasmania Mine has passed into the hands of its new owners. It is understood that the question of installing additional plant, as well as the general programme of operations, is under consideration in London.

During the quarter 5106 tons of quartz were crushed, and 4237 ozs. 12 dwts. gold produced (by amalgamation and chlorination), bringing the total since the formation of the company to 502,956 tons crushed and 575,081 ozs. 4 dwts. 17 grs. gold obtained, of a value of £2,110,615 15s. No dividends were distributed this quarter. The total dividends to date amount to £772,071 15s.

Moonlight-cum-Wonder Mine.—Work here has been suspended for a time, the result of the surface tributes having proved unsatisfactory.

Tasman Ophir Mine.—Work is continuing in the body of wash.

The other mines in the district at which work is being carried on are the Bonanza, North Tasmania, New Tasmania United, besides which prospectors are at work at several points in the field.

LEFROY.—Sixty-five men were at work here, of whom 41 were employed by the New Pinafore Company. This mine produced 246 ozs. of gold during the quarter. The Point Mine is being developed by this company with encouraging results. During the last half-year (to August 31) 350 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. gold were won from 675 tons quartz crushed, and 149 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. gold from the tailings by cyanidation. The total amount of gold won by the company since its formation in 1890 is 49,016 ozs. 19 dwts. 21 grs., value £190,314 8s. 2d. Dividends declared, £71,500.

The prospects of the work are considered brighter than for some time past.

Volunteer Mine, worked by the Digney and Casey syndicate, has yielded 58 ozs. gold with 11 men employed. Stoping is going on in gold-bearing stone above the 300-foot level.

Laird and Sons have won 14 ozs. gold. The old tailings at the Volunteer are being worked by Gray and Sons. Three or four prospecting parties are at work on the field.

LISLE.—The Dredging Company employed 18 hands, and produced 138 ozs. gold.

LYNDHURST.—The reef is being tested on one of the new claims taken up here, and the prospects are considered favourable.

MOUNT VICTORIA.—Mining operations are going on in the shallow zone on five leases, 20 men being employed. 54 ozs. of gold were won.

MATHINNA.—The production statistics for this field for the quarter are:—

	Crushed.	Gold produced.	Men.
		ozs.	
New Golden Gate	5450 tons quartz.	2726 }	160
" " " "	10,093 " sand.	796 }	
Golden King	350 " quartz.	143	42
Volunteer	740 " "	211	50
Volunteer Consolidated..	60 " "	66	20
Revenue	109 " "	21	8
Golden Queen. ....	...	80	3
	Total.....	4043	283

In addition, 64 men were employed on the non-producing mines of the Mathinna field.

The half-yearly report of the New Golden Gate Gold-mining Co. to 31st July states that during the half-year 10,100 tons of quartz have been crushed, from which 3071 ozs. of retorted gold have been obtained at the battery, valued at £11,230. 66 tons of pyrites were also obtained by concentrating-tables, containing 299 ozs. of gold, valued at £1061 7s. 10d.; and 19,812 tons of tailings and slimes were treated by cyanide of potassium, which produced 917 ozs. of gold, valued at £3518 11s. 11d., making a total revenue of £15,809 19s. 9d. The cost of raising and crushing quartz, treating concentrates, repairs and renewals to plant, progressive and surface works, and all other expenses incidental to working the mine and managing the company amounted to £12,911 11s. 5d., or £1 5s. 6.809d. per ton of quartz crushed. This does not include cost of stores and labour at cyanide plant, which amount to £2434 3s. 11d., or 2s. 5.47d. per ton of tailings and slimes treated.

The total quantity of quartz now obtained from the mine is 222,106 tons, which has yielded 193,080 ozs. of gold, an average of 17 dwts. 9 grs. per ton, realising £736,950 2s. The total amount paid in dividends is £326,400, or £10 4s. per share.

Mr. T. Andrews reports that at 150 feet from shaft the 1600-foot level, the west crosscut passed through the West reef, 16 feet wide, divided by a horse 5 feet wide; not payable at that point. The south drive at the 1500-feet was advanced 120 feet on a regular low-grade reef; the rises on reef disclosed a block of payable stone between this level and the 1400. The driving on the reef at 1400 feet showed a large body of stone not payable. At 1300 feet the reef was 15 feet wide, varying in assay value. At 1200 feet the stope south showed a large body of payable stone. At 600 feet the west crosscut disclosed also a large block of payable quartz. At the 500-feet the reef has been picked up south of the slide, where it had been heaved about 175 feet. A drive south on its line showed it to be 15 to 20 feet wide of payable stone. It has now been found south of the slide at three different levels; the result is that a new mine is being opened.

Mr. T. J. Andrews reports that the No. 1 cyanide plant treated in the half-year 10,712 tons tailings and slimes, winning 511 ozs. of bullion. The assay value of sand varied from 16 to 36 grs.; an average of 25 grs. per ton; cost of treatment, 2s. 3d. per ton. No. 2 plant treated 9100 tons of tailings, from which 820 ozs. of bullion were obtained. Average assay of tailings, 1 dwt. 17 grs. per ton. Cost of treatment, 2s. 8½d. per ton.

The *Volunteer Consolidated* has encouraging prospects. Of the 60 tons stone tried, 50 tons yielded 30 ozs. and 10 tons 36 ozs. of gold. The mine is an old property, hitherto imperfectly proved. There are four levels, the deepest 450 feet, and four lodes, three of which contain payable stone; since the close of the quarter a No. 5 lode, known as the Black Boy, has been struck, 4 feet wide, and payable. This is the eastern leg of that lode, which was known on the surface for a length of 400 feet, and was found payable as far down as previously tested—50 feet.

The adjoining claim, formerly known as the Yellow Boy, has been taken up.

At the Tasmanian Consols a considerable quantity of stone has been raised, and is awaiting crushing.

FINGAL.—The Abbotsford Creek Mine has employed 40 men, and crushing was started in September, but the result of the clean-up in October, after treating 1500 tons of stone, was practically *nil*, and work has been discontinued.

MANGANA.—The Mangana Reefs under tribute the past quarter (10 men) crushed 20 tons of quartz for 18 dwts. gold. The company has now resumed work. The Golden Entrance Mine is also being taken up again. Six prospectors' claims are held in this district.

WEST COAST.—At the Coronation Mine (old Harris' Reward) 8 men have been employed. The work done comprises the erection of winding-plant and unwatering the shaft.

At the Mt. Ellen Gold Mine 4 men have done a considerable quantity of work driving and breaking stone, but the gold-saving appliances are not satisfactory.

At Woody Hill the Mount Lyell Co. has ceased operations, but Murray Brothers continue prospecting this and the neighbouring sections.

At Flannigan's Flat half a dozen men are employed pining and fossicking. The difficulty of getting supplies to this camp is a drawback.

Below Lynchford, Jackson and party are wing-damming and sluicing the bed of the Queen River.

On the head branches of the Queen and around Mt. Owen fossickers are at work.

The quantity of gold purchased by the local banks and other buyers during the quarter was 143 ozs., worth £3 17s. 6d. per oz.

TIN.

The production of tin ore at Waratah during the past quarter has been:—

	Tons.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff.....	318	224
Waratah Alluvial.....	3	3
Stanhope Alluvial.....	2½	3
Total	<u>323½</u>	<u>230</u>

The half-yearly report of the Mount Bischoff Co. to June 30 shows that a total of 61,582 tons 14 cwts. 3 qrs. 19 lbs. tin ore has been obtained since the formation of the company. The half-year's cost of mining, crushing, and dressing per ton of stanniferous material is stated by the General Manager as follows:—

	s.	a.
Mining, including new works, maintenance, &c.....	2	10·092
Filling, hauling, and emptying trucks	0	5·833
Crushing, dressing, and maintenance of plant	0	9·954
Slime sheds	0	1·350
Ringtail sheds	0	2·214
Management and supervision	0	7·021
Plant, including all machinery	0	3·453
Development and progressive work	0	3·319
Waterworks	0	0·102
Ore-bagging	0	0·479
Stores... ..	0	4·815
Sundries	0	0·663
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>1·295</u>

The average percentage of ore obtained from the whole mine is 1·378 per cent.

Briseis.—This mine raised 108 tons tin ore during the quarter, 150 men being employed.

Ringarooma Tin Mine.—16½ tons tin ore were produced, with 28 men. The mine has been closed down for a time, but it is proposed to start again under a more economical system.

In the Ringarooma district 15 miners' claims and 14 leases have been worked with payable yields. The Star of Peace crushed 1177 tons of stone, the last 130 tons yielding 3 tons 3 cwts. tin ore. At the Monmouth claims a new battery is being erected.

At Branxholm the Arba Company raised during the quarter 26 tons, 41 men being employed.

The small claims at Ruby Flat yielded good returns. Fon Hock and party won 6½ tons ore, 25 Chinese miners being employed.

MOORINA DISTRICT.—The Weld claim produced 11½ tons tin ore, with 11 miners. The Moa Tin Mine raised the same quantity, the same number of men being employed.

Pioneer Tin Mine.—Eighty-four tons tin ore were produced during the quarter, 50 miners being employed. The yearly report to 27th June has lately been issued. In it Mr. C. Ryan reports that during the year 315,900 cubic yards of drift have been pumped and sluiced for 397 tons of stream tin, assaying 74·3 per cent. of metal, the average recovery being 2·815 lbs. tin ore per cubic yard, against 2·136 lbs. the previous year. The tin contents of the gutter wash are very good; the wash has been proved by boreholes sunk 400 yards in advance of the workings, and carries equally good tin at that distance ahead. The increased height now being pumped and the addition of a second sluicing-face (No. 2 plant) has increased the working cost slightly, but this increase has been compensated for by the richer nature of the ground worked. It is estimated that in the first half of next year the present tailings-dump will be filled up, and to paddock the tailings after this another plant similar to the present No. 1 is being procured; this will return the water from the paddock to the working face, providing against any shortage of water, besides dealing with increased quantities of drift.

The several small claims at the Wyniford River have yielded very well. The Ruby claims at South Mount Cameron produced 7½ tons tin ore with 19 hands.

At Gladstone preparatory work is still being carried on at the Scotia Mine, but is approaching completion.

WELDBOROUGH.—The mines in this district have produced as under:—

	Tons. cwt.s.	Men employed.
Sundry claims	19 17	36
Weldborough Tin-mining Company.....	1 19	15
Weldbrook " "	4 7	8
R. B. Inglis " "	2 14	6
Chinese claims	5 7	49
Total	<u>34 4</u>	<u>114</u>

LOTTAH.—The output of the Lottah and Blue Tier mines during the quarter has been as under:—

	Tons. cwt.s.	Men employed.
Anchor Mine	51 10	119
Australian Mine	—	7
Cambria Mine	1 12	7
Other claims	6 1	32
Total	<u>59 3</u>	<u>165</u>

ST. HELENS.—The quarter's output of this district is as follows:—

	Tons. cwts.	Men employed.
Royal Ruby Company	5 9	14
Thureau's Deep Lead	2 10	5
Other claims	6 10	40
Total.....	<u>14 9</u>	<u>59</u>

AVOCA.—The mines of this district have produced as under:—

	Tons. cwts.	Men employed.
Mount Rex Mine	45 0	45
South Esk	12 10	10
Lone Hand	0 12	4
Total	<u>57 12</u>	<u>59</u>

Other claims in the district gave employment to 13 hands.

WEST COAST.—The recorded output of tin ore from claims on the West Coast was:—

	Tons.	Men employed.
Tasman Tin Syndicate, North Heemskirk.....	3	2
Connor's Tin Mine, Heemskirk	7	8
Total.....	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>

Tasman Tin Syndicate.—Mr. W. Fisher reports that this is a local syndicate who have taken up the old Granville claims for alluvial. A couple of men have been prospecting and opening up a face for a fair start, and have now some 3 tons of tin in five months. It has been decided to put in a haulage to pull the wash up in bulk. The outlook is described as being highly satisfactory.

Discoveries of rich ore have been made in the Stanley River district, a field which is receiving considerable attention from prospectors.

SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ores in the Zeehan and Dundas districts for the quarter ending 30th September was as follows:—

Zeehan Mines:	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £
Zeehan-Montana	galena.....	810	9996
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena and gossan...	1588	16,567
Zeehan-Queen	"	7	52
Oonah	"	27	213
Oonah	stannite	120	1080
Silver Queen Extended	galena.....	15½	130
Silver King	"	11	64
Zeehan Sth. Comstock	"	4½	40
" "	zinc blende	84	168

Dundas Mines:

Hercules	zinc-lead sulphide...	3256	3978
"	gossan.....	422	855
"	fluxing gossan.....	136	30
Ring Valley	copper and silver ore	41	1272
Fraser's Siding	sulphide	75	226
Comet	galena	499½	2985
"	gossan flux	1211	817
West Comet	fluxing ore	1200	635
	Total	<u>9507½</u>	<u>39,108</u>

Zeehan-Montana.—This mine employs 200 men. The Manager reports that at No. 1 shaft the principal development work is being carried on at Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 levels. At No. 4 level a crosscut was being driven west from the north end of No. 6 lode to cut the white rock and carbonate of iron lode. A winze is being sunk on No. 6 lode near the north end of No. 4 level. At No. 5 level two drives are being put in on No. 4 lode, and at No. 6 level two crosscuts are being driven—one east to cut No. 4 lode and one west to cut No. 6 lode. At No. 2 shaft (late Queen No. 1) at No. 2 level a crosscut is being driven east from the shaft, and to the end of September has reached a distance of 300 feet. West of the shaft a crosscut has been driven 128 feet west from the old Queen main lode, (now called No. 1 lode), and a lode-formation cut and driven on north; the ore has rather less than 1 oz. of silver to the unit of lead. At No. 1 level a crosscut is being driven west of the old Queen main lode to cut the lode mentioned above. Considerable work has also been done in trying to trace the main lode north of the old workings.

Zeehan-Western.—The re-opening of this mine was taken in hand and started by the Zeehan-Montana Manager on the 9th July. Pumping began on 11th August, and to the end of September the water was lowered to 209 feet. Weather has been favourable for the work, and the extent of area drained has been satisfactory, including as it does the whole of the underground workings of the northern part of the Oonah Mine (late Junction), the whole of the late Tasmania Silver Crown, and all Simson's part of the Western Mine. Mr. Craze reports that so far as volume is concerned, the bulk of the water is now mastered, though there are still contingencies ahead. The shaft being twisted and in bad condition, principally between the surface and 200 feet down, its repair is being taken in hand, and will probably be completed by the end of the year.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).—Mr. T. Vincent reports that the Spray main lode, No. 3 level, has been driven on 200 feet, and is highly payable. Sinking is to be resumed. No. 3 lode driven on 322 feet; 320 feet payable. North tunnel cut lode at 212 feet; driven on south 258 feet, of which 150 feet are payable. No. 2 shaft has not yet met with the ore-bodies gone down in the sole of

No. 1 level. No. 6 shaft has been sunk 129 feet; opened out at 122 feet; water heavy. 193 men employed, of whom 23 are on tribute.

Oonah.—Twenty-nine men on tribute. Mr. W. Fisher reports that good gossan and galena is still being won from the old Junction tunnel, with more in sight. The stannite workings employ 20 men. Work is now confined to the lower adit level, No. 4, where stoping from 4 to 3, and driving north end is being carried on. Six inches of good ore is the average width. A tunnel (known as gossan tunnel) is being driven to cut the Junction main lode. At the end of the quarter it was in 325 feet, and the lode has since been cut, showing 8 inches of pyrites, assaying 20 oz. silver and 12 per cent. of copper.

Silver King.—Five men employed. Mr. W. Fisher reports that the dressing was confined to the surface heaps of second-class ore. At Taylor's tribute on the South King the shaft, which is sunk to water level, is being unwatered. Fair ore is reported in the bottom of the shaft.

Zeehan South Comstock.—Eleven men employed. Mr. Henry Castle reports that work has been confined to the open-cut and surface.

Zeehan Queen.—Forty-two men employed, of whom 10 are on tribute. Mr. H. Vincent reports that No. 1 shaft has been unwatered. Prospecting and development work was continued by driving north on Clarke's lode and north No. 4 lode, No. 1 level. The prospects are stated to be encouraging.

DUNDAS AND MOUNT READ.—*Comet Mine.*—Seventy men employed. Mr. A. Clarke reports that the stopes south of winze between Nos. 2 and 3 levels are producing good average ore. Winze is being sunk from intermediate level north; preparing this block for stoping. From present appearances it is expected to return a fine lot of ore.

Hercules Mine.—One hundred and ten men are employed. The sulphide ore sold under contract to the Zeehan smelters contains a high percentage of zinc, giving a reasonable profit. A large quantity of ore with 41 to 45 per cent. zinc has been sold to these works for export to Europe. The deliveries of gossan are now only in small quantities. Work in the lower levels has been somewhat retarded by insufficient water supply, but this difficulty will be overcome by an oil-engine, which is being installed. Progress, too, has not been quite so rapid owing to excessive hardness of country. Judging from the rock in the upper levels, an improvement is anticipated.

Tasmanian Smelting Company.—Two hundred men employed. During the quarter ending 30th September 7358·074 tons of ore were purchased, containing 2045·692 tons of lead, 291,431·20 ozs. silver, and 1182·763 ozs. gold. The export of bullion comprised 1753·286 tons lead, 264,959·66 ozs. silver, and 880·83 ozs. gold.

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.—*Magnet Mine*.—One hundred and twenty-five men employed. The consignments of silver-lead ore sent away during the quarter were as under:—

		£	s.	d.
789½ tons to the Tasmanian Smelting Company, Zeehan,	value	1562	3	10
1320½ " Dapto, N.S.W.	"	3437	11	9
642½ " Newcastle, N.S.W.	"	1878	2	3
<u>2746</u>		<u>£6877</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>

Further contracts are being made for shipments. The main underlay shaft from No. 4 level is now being sunk. The winch is driven by compressed air, and a Cameron pump is now being installed, to be worked by the same motive power. It is intended to sink this shaft 100 feet or more, and then open out on the lode. The south workings have been of a prospecting nature, and have revealed a shoot of high-grade ore in No. 1 drive. The shoot has been proved for 300 feet in length, and still continues. The work is being carried on in the 40-acre southern section, and No. 2 south 60 feet below this is being driven to intersect the lode.

HEAZLEWOOD AND WHYTE RIVER.—Work has been proceeding at the Victorian Magnet, Confidence, and Godkin Extended mines on the Whyte River, and at the Long Tunnel, Mount Stewart.

North Mount Farrell Mine.—Forty-five men employed, and 451 tons of marketable silver-lead ore produced during the quarter, value £3907.

Mount Farrell Mine.—The main crosscut tunnel has been continued to the schist. The intention is to drive an upper level on the galena lode from the shaft higher up the hill.

Murchison River Mine.—Work here is disclosing good ore.

McIntosh Mine.—This property is being proved.

The Mount Farrell field bids fair in the near future to be an active and important mining centre.

COPPER.

Mount Lyell Mine.—The returns of ore treated at the reduction works during the quarter ending 30th September are as follows, in two schedules covering the work of the old and new company respectively:—

(A) Old company, July 1 to August 10, 1903:—

	Dry Weight.			
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	27,469	8	3	0
North Lyell Mine ore	6104	8	1	4
Purchased ores	98	3	1	26
	<u>33,672</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Metal-bearing flux from the Company's South Tharsis Mine	2139	18	2	16
Total.....	<u>35,811</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18</u>

The metal produced was—

Blister copper, 878 tons, containing—			
Copper, 868 tons, valued at	£	s.	d.
Silver, fine, 77,392 ozs., valued at	52,968	9	0
Gold, fine, 2422 ozs., valued at	8061	13	4
	10,293	10	0
Total.....	£71,323	12	4

Number of men employed—

At the Company's Mount Lyell Mine	379
" " South Tharsis Mine	53
" " North Crown Lyell Mine ...	8
" " Central Lyell Mine.....	6
" " Section 136-86	4
" " Reduction Works	1070
" " Railway	147
	1667
" " North Lyell Mine	288
For the South Lyell Mine	3
Total	1958

(B) New company, August 11 to September 30, 1903—

	Dry weight.			
	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	38,366	13	0	6
North Lyell Mine ore	7674	9	1	25
	46,041	2	2	3
By-products from Crotty Smelting Works.....	646	15	2	6
Metal-bearing flux from the Company's South Tharsis Mine.....	3474	17	3	9
Royal Tharsis Mine	17	19	1	1
Total.....	50,180	15	0	19

The metal produced was—

Blister copper, 990 tons, containing—			
Copper, 979 tons, valued at	£	s.	d.
Silver, fine, 87,298 ozs., valued at.....	60,453	5	0
Gold, fine, 3081 ozs., valued at	9457	5	8
	13,094	5	0
	£83,004	15	8

Number of men employed—

At the Company's	Mount Lyell Mine	335
"	" North Lyell Mine	320
"	" South Tharsis Mine	40
"	" Royal Tharsis Mine	3
"	" North Crown Lyell Mine...	9
"	" Central Lyell Mine	6
"	" Section 136-86	4
"	" Reduction Works	1072
"	" Mount Lyell Railway	143
"	" North Lyell Railway	28
At Crotty		40
For the South Lyell Company		2
	Total.....	<u>2002</u>

At the Iron Blow the production is derived from the four lower benches of the open-cut workings. Underground the ore-body has been circumscribed at No. 8, from which level a bore has been put down a further depth of 1060 feet, or 200 feet below sea-level. The core obtained was, with few exceptions, hard, folded conglomerate. At the North Mount Lyell Mine alterations and equipments are proceeding, the more important being the location of a main shaft in the south-eastern toe of the principal ore-body, on which work is going on simultaneously, rising and sinking from all open and accessible portions of the mine. From No. 2 level a crosscut is being driven east towards the body of sulphide ore worked by the Lyell Blocks Company to the boundary. At No. 3, or the present deepest level, timbering of the first stope floor is well under weigh, and a main drive directed from here to connect with the main shaft. Below this level the winze or auxiliary shaft has been sunk 40 feet to 357 feet below the floor of the western open-cut workings. Its object is to prospect and ventilate each succeeding level. All the underground stopes and open-cuts are producing fair to high-grade ore, which can be regulated to a total output of 300 tons per day when required. In and adjacent to the open-cuts several rises are being put through in order to permit of the overburden being disposed of for stowing purposes through all parts of the stope workings with expedition and little (if any) second handling.

The present power (compressed air) is somewhat limited, but when the connections between here and the chief distributing station at the Iron Blow are completed, all difficulty will be removed. The tramline connecting with the main haulage is receiving attention, deviations made, and grades relieved, &c.

At the South and Royal Tharsis Mines the usual quantities of siliceous copper-bearing fluxes are being mined. The work on the North Crown Lyell Mine shows prospects of an improved character.

Lyell Blocks.—Work has been chiefly confined to prospecting at the 550-foot level. On the surface a site has been selected, and

work commenced on another main shaft. A concentrating plant, capable of dealing with the copper-bearing clays of this mine, is about to be erected. Twenty men were employed.

Crown Lyell Mine.—The main drive has been extended to a total of 771 feet, a rise put up 30 feet, and two crosscuts driven 47 and 21 feet respectively. 13 men employed.

Tasman Comstock Consolidated.—Prospecting on the western fall of Mount Lyell continues, with 8 men employed.

Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended.—One hundred and seventy feet of crosscutting by way of prospecting have been driven on the sides of the main adit. Six men employed.

Ballarat and Lyell Mines.—Operations are again suspended.

JUKES AND DARWIN FIELDS.—At the Lake Jukes Mine Mr. H. S. Muir, with 5 men, has re-started work. A prominent band of rock is being prospected. Cuts into its flanks have shown bands and segregations of high-grade copper ore.

At Darwin, Mr. Jno. Findon, with two men, on behalf of the Tasman Copper Syndicate, is prospecting a property charted in his name. Recently the ground was visited by Mr. Orange, a Home expert, and work of a prospecting character laid out. It was in this locality that the rough gold mentioned in last report was found.

NORTH-WEST COAST.—Copper ore shows east of the Dial Range have been receiving attention lately. Hardstaff's workings south-west of the south-west corner of W. Russell's land on the Leven River, about seven miles south of the Penguin, comprise an adit crosscut being driven to intersect a copper-pyrites lode below its outcrop (1½ feet wide), in granite country. A few inches of rich pyritic ore show in the outcrop.

The old Dial P.A. Mine on P. H. W. Sams' claim, between the Dial Range and the Leven, is also being revived. There is a good deal of crystalline iron pyrites here, mixed in the bottom workings with some copper pyrites.

On Walloa Creek, near Gunn's Plains, is Appleby and Johnson's copper claims, with bands of slate carrying copper pyrites. A little prospecting has been done on this lately.

Near Burnie the Blythe P.A. has a copper claim east of the Blythe River, on which sinking is going on, and the Rutherford Prospecting Syndicate is developing a copper-ore deposit further south, to the east of Chasm Creek. Some fair copper ore has been bagged from below the tunnel, not far from its mouth.

At the Heazlewood some good copper ore has been found at the Wealth of Tasmania Proprietary's Mine, and samples have been shipped to Melbourne.

COAL.

The raisings for the quarter have been 14,873 tons, as against 14,694 tons 2 cwts. the previous quarter. The different collieries have contributed to the output as under:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Mount Nicholas	5640	50
Cornwall	7900	67
Mount Cygnet	847	9
Spreyton	240	7
Dulverton	169	8
York Plains	71	3
Sandfly	6	4
Total	<u>14,873</u>	<u>148</u>

The seams at the Sandfly, which are in the hands of two associations, viz., the Sandfly Mines owners and the North-West Bay P.A., are receiving attention after many years of neglect. There are several seams, some of which are decidedly important, being of workable size and good quality, but owing to the distance from a port (11 miles) they have not been exploited. It is now proposed to take these properties in hand, prove the extensions of the seams, and connect the field by a tramway, with a shipping port in North-West Bay.

Coal seams near Thompson's Marshes, west of Picanini Point, on the East Coast, are being taken up by the Dalmayne Coal Association. There are good seams here, and it is believed that the coal can be shipped at the Point.

IRON.

The Tasmanian Iron Company at the Penguin raised 1650 tons of hematite, giving employment to 25 men. Shipments of this ore are being made to the smelting works at Cockle Creek. A new quarry of good ore has recently been opened.

CONCLUSION.

The total value of the mineral output and export for this quarter was £400,489, as compared with £380,621 for the corresponding quarter of last year. It falls short of the total for the June quarter, however, by £16,940. As against last year there has been a decrease in quantities and values of gold and silver, but an increase in copper and tin.

Return showing the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 30th September, 1903:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	542	...	542
North-Western	367	...	367
North-Eastern	542	140	682
Eastern	758	73	831
Western	3108	...	3108
Total	5317	213	5530

Value of the mineral output per man employed, £72 8s. 5d.

The dividends paid during the quarter were:—

	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines	72,187	0	0
" Gold	3200	0	0
" Tin	19,750	0	0
" Silver	8881	0	0
Total.....	<u>£104,018</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>