

MININDI906-1

THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH, 1906.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE ALEC HEAN,

MINISTER FOR MINES.



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1906



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MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH, 1906.

Launceston, 24th May, 1906.

THE following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 31st March, 1906, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1905:—

	During the Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1906.		During the Quarter ending 30th Dec., 1905.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
* Gold won ozs.	19,718·78	83,760	19,447·813	82,609
Silver Lead Ore produced tons	22,831	114,738	21,890	73,908
† Blister Copper produced „	2298	217,342	2323	204,842
Copper Ore and Native Copper produced..... „	697	12,405	301	14,719
Tin Ore produced..... „	972 $\frac{3}{4}$	108,727	1171 $\frac{1}{2}$	117,624
Iron Ore raised..... „	1400	600	1500	600
Coal raised..... „	10,719	9111	11,086	9423
Wolfram Ore produced... „	2	140	8	588
Bismuth Ore produced.. „	$\frac{6}{20}$	24	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	250
...		546,847	...	504,563

* Fine gold, including gold contained in blister copper and silver-lead bullion.

† Value of gold contents deducted.

GOLD.

During the past quarter 9935 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 206 ozs. from alluvial, 2899 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 5893 ozs. from blister copper from the

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, and 889 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works, Zeehan, valued at £83,760.

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 1905, and the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1905:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 31st March, 1906.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1905.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.		
Beaconsfield	8959	165	2819	...	...	11,943	9040	9873
Mathinna ...	930	..	...	...	...	930	3456	2021½
Mt. Victoria	}	...	...	...	...	...	27½	229¾
Warrentinna	}	...	...	...	...	...	210¼	73¼
Lefroy	31½	...	80½	...	...	112	...	75
Lisle	}	12	...	...	...	12	...	...
Golconda ...	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mangana ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bell Mount.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Coast.	15	29	...	5893	889	6826	6080 ⁸ / ₂₀	7389½
TOTALS	9935½	206	2899½	5893	889	19,823		
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.....	11,080½	105 ¹³ / ₂₀	1583	5604	441	...	18,814 ³ / ₂₀	
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1905.....	10,540¾	175½	1672	6448	826	...	...	19,662

Value £83,760; equal to 19,718·78 ozs. fine gold.

BEACONSFIELD.—The quarter's statistics for the district are as follows:—

	Gold produced. ozs.	Men employed.
Tasmania Mine	11,739	774
North Tasmania.....	39	10
Other Companies and Prospectors	165	22
Total.....	11,943	806

Tasmania Mine.—15,784 tons quartz crushed, and 11,731 ozs. fine gold obtained (by amalgamation and chlorination), which makes a total of 598,333 tons quartz crushed, 646,095 ozs. gold won, since the mine was first started.

Mr. C. F. Heathcote, A.M.I.C.E., the general manager, reports:—

During the past quarter Grubb's shaft, which in the smallest part is 32 ft. 1 in. by 8 ft. in the clear, has been sunk and timbered to a total depth of 986 ft., communicating with the cross-cut from Hart's shaft. The valve and balance-weight chambers are nearly completed.

The engines for second and third units of the pumping plant have been erected, and are ready to be connected to the pitwork as soon as the shaft is completed to the 1000-ft. level.

A tailings wheel 43 feet in diameter, a tailings separating plant, and cyanide plant for treating sands have been erected and put into use.

LEFROY.—The quarter's statistics are as follows:—

	Gold produced, ozs.	Men employed.
New Pinafore G.M. Co.	112	12
Others Claims and Prospector tors	—	45
Total.....	112	57

Mr. J. T. Stubbs, manager of the New Pinafore, reports:—

No developments of value have taken place during the past quarter, and the field generally is now quieter than it has been for years, with no immediate prospect of a revival.

Lisle, Golconda, &c.—12 ozs. of alluvial gold have been won from the Lisle field. Twenty-two men have been engaged in these districts.

Mount Victoria.—Twenty men were engaged in the mines in this district. A cyanide plant is being erected at Alberton for treating tailings.

MATHINNA.—The quarter's statistics are as follows:—

	Quartz crushed. tons.	Gold produced. ozs.	Men.
New Golden Gate	194	58	44
Tasmanian Consols	2013	847	80
Queen of the Earth .....	...	...	6
Volunteer Consolidated.....	15	8	12
King Edward	63	17	4
Others shows and prospectors	...	...	63
	2285	930	209

May Gold Mine.—Lynchford crushed 103 tons for a return of 15 ozs. of retorted gold. A winze has been sunk 25 feet from the lowest level on likely-looking stone, but, so far, its quality has not improved. Six men employed.

Woody Hills and Macquarie Mines.—Murray Brothers have employed five men, but their work has been irregular for want of water.

Alluvial Miners.—29 ozs. gold; 23 men engaged in this work, nearly all complaining of the scarcity of water.

TIN.

The statistics for this metal for the past quarter are as follows:—

	Ore won.		Men employed.
	tons.	cwts.	
Northern and Southern Division	...	...	6
North-Eastern Division.....	567	16	557
Eastern Division.....	67	1	301
Western Division.....	12	4	67
North-Western Division.....	325	13	330
Totals	972	14	1261

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.—The output has been as under:—

	tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff	318	0	280
Bischoff Extended	0	19	17
Waratah Alluvial.....	2	0	5
Weir's Bischoff Surprise .....	...	...	10
Stanhope Alluvial	2	14	7
Others	2	0	11
Totals.....	325	13	330

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.—RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Cascade River Claims	2	19	17	6
Black Creek	0	15	6	2
Dorset River	0	4	3	...
Dunn's Creek	0	8	4	...
Maurice River	0	3	1	...
Tin-pot Mine	2	0	8	...
Gorge Creek	0	18	3	3
Total	7	7	42	11

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine.....	115	7	90	...
South Mt. Cameron	14	7	27	...
Garibaldi Tin Mine	3	10	2	9
Cybele Tin Mines	2	9	5	...
Gladstone Dredge	6	7	7	...
Ringarooma „	1	0	13	...
Grove's Claim	2	9	2	...
Ching Wing	1	2	...	5
Other Gladstone Claims	10	14	37	22
Yee Gee (Garibaldi).....	...	...	...	13
H. P. Allan (Pioneer)	0	16	7	...
Total.....	158	1	190	49

Pioneer Mine.—Mr. Cecil G. Ryan, manager, reports:—During this period 88,000 cubic yds. of drift have been pumped and sluiced for a yield of 115 tons of streamed tin, and a dividend of 6s. 6d. per share, amounting to £8,775, has been paid.

The building up of the tailings dam across the old workings is still in progress and will shortly be completed, when the present back water pumping plant will come into operation as an independent sluicing unit. The mine looks as well as ever.

South Mt. Cameron Mine.—Mr. H. P. Cecil, manager, reports:—During the past quarter we treated 45,000 cubic yds. of tin wash for 29 tons of tin, but only had 14 tons 7 cwts. of the tin out at the end of the quarter, the balance of the 29 tons being taken out since the 1st of April. The prospects of the mine at present are fairly good.

DERBY DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis & Brothers' Home	358	10	110	...
Briseis Extended	5	1	32	...
Other Derby Claims	2	15	16	14
Total.....	366	6	158	14

Briseis & New Brothers' Home No. 1 Companies.—Mr. Lindesay C. Clark, manager, reports:—

Removal of Overburden.

Briseis Co.....	20,900 c. yds.
New Brothers' Home No. 1 Co.....	12,416 c. yds.

Tin Drift sluiced.

Briseis Co..... 48,400 c. yds. for 259 tons 6 cwts.
 New Brothers' Home No. 1 Co. 57,700 yds. for 99 tons 4 cwts.

Rainfall.

	<i>Mine.</i>		<i>Dam.</i>
January.....	24 points on 5 days.		37 points on 6 days
February.....	121 " 6 "	147	" 4 "
March.....	159 " 8 "	236	" 6 "
Totals.....	304 " 19 "	420	" 16 "

Water supply.

January.	February.	March.
81 sluiceheads	60 sluiceheads.	77 sluiceheads.

On account of the dry weather small quantities of drift and overburden have been removed. To maintain a slightly increasing output only the rich lower drifts in the Briseis property have been worked, all of which require elevating. Both upper and lower drifts in No. 1 Company's ground have been treated. Under the working agreement with No. 1 Company the Briseis Company retain 58 per cent. of the former company's yield, so that the Briseis Company's proportion of the total yield from the two properties was 316 tons 16 cwts.

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese
Arba Tin Mine.....	20	12	31	...
New Ruby Flat	4	3	12	...
Other Branxholm Claims . ....	...	19	3	13
Total	25	14	46	13

MOORINA DISTRICT.—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Native Youth	5	2	10	...
Weld Tin Mine Co.	3	8	9	...
Frome Tin Mine Co.	1	0	6	...
Other Moorina Claims	0	18	9	...
Total	10	8	34	...
<i>Total North-Eastern Division</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>470</i>	<i>87</i>

EASTERN DIVISION.—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>				
Weldbrook Tin Mine.....	0	7	4	...
Cascades	0	14	0	11
Fancy Creek	0	14	7	0
Dickenson and party	0	17	4	...
Nicholas and party	0	12	4	...
Chinese (Weldborough).....	9	16	...	53
Other Claims.....	3	19	16	...
Total	16	19	35	64
<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>				
Anchor Tin Mine	27	16	70	...
Other Claims, Lottah.....	1	17	11	...
Direen and party, Blue Tier	0	4	4	...
Other Blue Tier Claims.....	1	19	14	6
Total	31	16	99	6
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>				
Macmichael, J. C.....	2	0	6	...
Williams, A.....	0	19	4	1
Miller, C.	0	13	4	...
Thureau's Deep Lead.....	1	7	2	...
Royal Ruby	2	7	8	...
Other Claims.....	1	17	10	...
Total	9	3	34	1
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>				
Mount Rex	4	15	9	...
Cash's Freehold	2	14	3	...
Togo .....	...	...	14	...
Other Claims.....	1	14	36	...
Total	9	3	62	...
<i>Total for Eastern Division</i>	67	1	230	71

Anchor Tin Mine.—Mr. J. B. Lewis, manager, reports:—During the whole of the quarter we have been short of water, and for the greater part of the time only about 25 heads out of 100 have been running in the battery. The average value of the stone was a little better than usual. For the quarter 16,925 tons were crushed for a yield of 28 tons 6 cwts. black tin. Bush fires did serious damage to head races, the channels being blocked by hundreds of fallen trees, the flumings in some places being burnt, and saved with difficulty in others. Fair rains have now fallen, and there is promise of more, and no further shortage is likely to occur during this season. With fair weather we should now be able to make a record for quantity treated, and, with even moderate values, should show a fair profit.

WESTERN DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.
Renison Bell.....	2	10	17
Mayne's Tin Mine.....	7	0	10
Others	2	14	40
Total.....	12	4	67

Exploratory work is progressing on the Renison Bell property, under the supervision of Mr. J. D. Millen, A.S.T.C., the Company's engineer, and with satisfactory results, especially from the alluvial workings, which are now putting out tin regularly.

SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ores in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st March is detailed below. The values are gross, *i.e.*, they represent the export value of the metallic contents of the ores when the latter are smelted in the State, and deducting freight and reduction charges when shipped for treatment abroad. They are thus values for which the State is entitled to take credit as representing the worth of its mineral output.

	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £	Men.
Zeehan Mines :				
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena.....	1893	24,959	196
Zeehan-Montana	"	1162	22,926	220
Zeehan-Western	"	745	10,900	191
Zeehan-Queen	low grade	332	598	30
Onah	galena & gossan	107	957	12
Silver Queen Extended	galena	15½	199	10
New Mount Zeehan	"	60	651	7
Florence	"	187½	2203	50
Maxim	"	34	350	12
Zeehan-South Comstock	"	155	2297	37
"	zinc blende.....	112	443	
Nubeena and Austral Valley	.....	...	...	34
Dundas Mines :				
West Comet	fluxing ore	4800	2100	40
Ring Valley	fahl ore	27	222	10
Mt. Read	zinc sulphide	150	150	7
Comet	galena.....	283	1892	70
"	gossan flux.....	3066	1367	
Mt. Farrell Mines :				
North Mt. Farrell	galena.....	611	8582	105
Rosebery Mines :				
Primrose	mixed sulphide	2831	11,324	39
Tasmanian Copper	"	3432	11,713	35
Tasmanian Smelting Co.	.....	...	...	260
Others	.....	...	...	148
Total		20,003	103,833	1513

MOUNT ZEEHAN (TASMANIA)—*Spray Mine.*—Mr. T. Vincent, manager, reports:—No. 5 level—North drive, 75 feet, lode 8 feet wide, antimonial and second-class ore. South drive 43 feet, lode 5 feet, antimonial. No. 4 level, north, winze sunk 56 feet, lode highly payable. New shaft—poppet legs erected, and foundations for boilers making good progress. No. 2 shaft—No. 30 lode, 860 feet, opening up good stoping-ground. Mine looking well.

Zeehan-Montana.—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—No. 1 shaft is being sunk, and is 60 feet below the 700-foot level. The lodes recently reported as producing good ore still continue to show up well, and, as a whole, the mine never showed larger reserves of ore. No. 2 shaft—No. 1 lode has been cut at No. 4 level, and where cut showed 2 feet of second-class ore of fair value and free from pyrites. At No 3 level the crosscut has reached a point where the No. 1 lode was expected. A rise has been put up from No. 3 level and communicated with the old workings; driven 70 feet north and south in search of the lode.

Zeehan-Western.—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—At No. 11 the north and south drives have been driven a total distance of 731 feet. A short shoot of second-class ore has been passed through in the north drive 30 feet long, and a shoot of about 20 feet in the south end, but neither is of sufficient value to be considered of much importance. A rise is being put up on the ore. The west crosscut, No. 11 level, has reached a point 350 feet west of the shaft in hard ground. The shallow levels are being worked on a system of tribute, fairly advantageous to both tributors and company.

Oonah.—Capt. W. Fisher, manager, reports:—The main crosscut has been driven some 90 feet past the east stannite lode, and by survey has still nearly 30 feet to go to cut the supposed line of the west stannite lode. The bulk of the ore has been obtained from the gossan tunnel. Junction main tunnel.—A seam of good galena is being driven on, running just west of the old mine-site, and promises to be of some value. The old copper show has been let to a party intending to open it up on a large scale, and produce 500 tons of pyrites per month for chemical manure purposes.

DUNDAS AND MOUNT READ.—At the Mount Read Mine a tunnel is being driven to attack the ore bodies 350 feet below the old workings. It has been driven 1170 feet, and the end is now close to the ore.

Tasmanian Smelting Company, Limited.—Mr. T. Kapp, manager, reports:—Ore purchased during the quarter, 13,033 tons, containing 2550 tons of lead, 396,759 ozs. silver, and 1061 ozs. gold. Exported 2292 tons bullion containing—

	£	s.	d.
2178·381 tons lead	31,085	11	7
361,216·050 ozs. silver	49,064	18	9
889·065 ozs. gold.....	2905	15	3

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.—

	Ore produced. tons.	Value. £	Men employed.
Magnet Mine.....	2722	9878	115
Long Tunnel.....	106	1027	16
Other mines.....	...	...	10
	<u>2828</u>	<u>10,905</u>	<u>141</u>

COPPER.

Mount Lyell Mine.—At the reduction works the following quantities have been treated during the quarter ending 31st March:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	68,850	16	2	5
North Lyell Mine ore	28,774	7	2	15
Purchased ore.....	156	0	0	23
By-products from Crotty	29	6	2	9
Metal-bearing fluxes :				
From North Lyell Mine	1934	11	0	25
" Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	3560	13	0	15
" South Tharsis Mine.....	15	5	3	9
" Royal Tharsis Mine.....	9	14	3	25
Total	<u>103,330</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>

And the metal produced was:—

Blister Copper, 2298 tons, containing —	£	s.	d.
Copper, 2271 tons, valued at.....	193,273	9	1
Silver, fine, 191,401 ozs., valued at.....	24,068	13	6
Gold, 5893 ozs., valued at	25,045	5	0
Total.....	<u>£242,387</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

The number of men employed was:—

At the Company's	Mt. Lyell Mine	316
"	North Lyell Mine	481
"	Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	15
"	North Crown Lyell Mine ...	9
"	Royal Tharsis Mine	37
"	South Lyell Mine	4
Sundry		6
Reduction Works.....		1010
On the Company's Railways		145
Total		<u>2023</u>

Mt. Lyell Blocks.—Mr. Robert Ferguson, mine manager, reports that 12,176 tons of cupriferous clay were milled, and produced 193 tons of concentrates, containing 138 tons of fine copper; 967 feet were driven, 556 feet risen; 238 men were employed.

Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended.—Mr. Edward Holehan, mine manager, reports having started work with 9 men.

Inspector Curtain reports as follows:—The work at the Mt. Lyell Company's Iron Blow continues on the lines prescribed. The connections on the footwall with the lowest bench from No. 5 and from No. 8 with the old South Lyell workings have been completed. The south drive from No. 8 continues on the contact, and is now past the stope that was mined in the South Lyell workings, but without any fresh developments.

At the North Lyell a depth of 108 feet below the 700-foot level in the main shaft has been reached. The present sink is being continued for a well. At the auxiliary or winze shaft, chambers have been cut and completed on a level with those at the 700-foot level of the main shaft, with which opposite but converging connections are being made in order to facilitate the work and improve the ventilation. Improved prospects exist at both the 600-foot and 700-foot levels; in the south contact drive at the latter a solid face of high grade ore is showing.

At the Lyell Tharsis stoping has begun at the 200-foot level, in addition to which, prospecting is being prosecuted with the diamond drill.

At the South and Royal Tharsis properties a convenient and substantial design of pithead pulleys and ore bin nears completion; when finished, active work by means of an underlay shaft will be resumed on both these properties.

At the North Crown over a thousand feet separate both faces, which have been driven north and south on the contact without meeting anything payable. At present crosscutting in both ends has been resorted to.

Work at the Lyell Blocks has been curtailed for want of water at the concentrators. Advantage, however, has been taken of this opportunity for attending to repairs.

The other copper mines on the field are idle, but reports are general that the Comstock, Tasman, Crown, and Consols, are on the eve of resuming operations.

Ring River Mine.—Mr. Geo. Barker, manager of this mine at Williamsford, reports that 504 tons of argentiferous copper ore were raised. Value £2160; 9 men employed.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.—*Copper King Mine.*—13 tons of copper ore were raised and 4 men were employed. The ore was shipped to smelters in New South Wales, and its assay value was 25.5 per cent.

IRON.

The Tasmanian Iron Company at Penguin raised 1400 tons of high grade hematite ore, employing 17 men.

WOLFRAM.

The Ben Lomond mines raised 2 tons wolfram, value £140, with 4 men. The All Nations mine, with 2 men, produced no wolfram this quarter.

ANTIMONY.

Mr. Allan is prospecting in the vicinity of Hall's Creek on an antimony show on behalf of a Victorian syndicate.

BISMUTH.

The Shepherd and Murphy tributors raised 6 cwts. this quarter, value £24.

COAL.

The output this quarter was 10,719 tons, against 11,086 tons the previous quarter. The raisings at the respective collieries were as follow:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Mount Nicholas Colliery	5401	69
Cornwall "	4500	60
Dulverton "	135	4
Spreyton "	165	4
York Plains "	87	2
Mount Cygnet "	231	2
Catamaran "	200	5
Sandfly "	—	44
Total	10,719	190

The directors of the Cornwall Colliery state that the haulage plant now in use has done good work up to the present, but has become insufficient to cope with the extended workings. They have therefore decided to instal an electric plant. The boiler is being made in the State by the Salisbury Foundry Co.

CONCLUSION.

The value of the mineral output this quarter was £546,847, compared with £504,563 the previous quarter. The increase both in tonnage and value has been in copper and silver-lead. A certain proportion of the augmentation in value arises from taking credit for the full export values of the ores, which has become necessary in consequence of Customs returns of metals shipped being no longer obtainable. Great activity prevails on all our tinfields, and the silver-lead and copper-mining industry on the West Coast is steadily expanding. Fresh mines are coming to the front, and some old ones are being restarted. The good prices ruling for all metals are stimulating mining, and the several fields are showing plainly that they can put out the mineral if only taken in hand. There has never been in the history of the State more mining of a sound nature than there is to-day, and the outlook is excellent.

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 31st March, 1906:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	975	1	976
North-Eastern	490	87	577
Eastern	572	71	643
North-Western	471	...	471
Western	3894	...	3894
Total	6402	159	6561

Value of mineral output per man employed:—£83 6s. 4½d.

The dividends paid during the quarter were:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines—						
Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited	Nil					
From Gold Mines	Nil					
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered	18,000	0	0			
Pioneer T.M. Co., Ltd.	5,400	0	0			
Wilberforce Pump Co., No. 1, N.L. ....	...				
New Ruby Flat T.M. Co., N.L. ....	...				
Mayne's Tin Mine, N.L. ....	...				
New Brothers' Home No. 1 T.M. Co., N.L.	3,000	0	0			
Garibaldi T.M. Co., N.L. ....	...				
Arba Tin Mining Co., N.L.	3,000	0	0			
Briseis Tin Mines, Ltd.	22,500	0	0			
				51,900	0	0

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Brought forward</i> .....		...	51,900	0 0
From Silver Mines :—				
Mt. Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-lead Mines, Ltd.....	19,836	0 0		
Zeehan-Montana Mine, Ltd	3000	0 0		
Magnet Silver Mining Co., N.	2000	0 0		
North Mt. Farrell Mining Co., N.L....	851	0 0		
			25,687	0 0
Total .....		...	<u>£77,587</u>	<u>0 0</u>