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THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1906.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE ALEC. HEAN,

MINISTER FOR MINES.



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1906.



PROGRESS OF THE
MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA
 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 1906.

Launceston, 12th November, 1906.

The following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 30th September, 1906, as compared with the previous quarter ending 30th June, 1906:—

	During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1906.		During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
* Gold won	9897·295	42,041	17,983·886	73,842
Silver-lead Ore produced tons	20,468	109,272	23,115	118,547
† Blister Copper produced ..	2375	226,848	2116	199,255
Copper Ore and Copper produced.....	619½	23,507	463	16,072
Tin Ore produced.....	1120½	139,872	1096	135,470
Iron Ore raised.....	...	...	1200	500
Coal raised.....	14,743½	12,533	13,091	11,127
Wolfram Ore produced... ..	6¼	470	5½	375
	...	554,543	...	555,188

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

GOLD.

During the past quarter 1153½ ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 321 ozs. from alluvial, 2380 ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 5449 ozs. from blister copper from the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, and 691 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works, Zeehan, valued at £42,041.

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 30th June, 1906:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th September, 1906.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st June, 1906.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	
Beaconsfield	313	194½	2179½	...	...	2686½	10,461½	9640½
Mathinna ...	680	...	44	...	...	724	2379½	1313½
Mt. Victoria	73½	...	45	...	...	118½	116	273½
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron	87	9	111½	...	...	207½	132½	88
Lefroy .....	...	78	...	...	...	78	45	56
Lisle								
Golconda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	...
Mangana ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...
Bell Mount.	...	39½	...	5449	691	6179½	7036	6180
West Coast.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	1153½	321	2380	5449	691	9994½	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.....	11,177½	164	2199½	6419	540	...	20,499½	...
Totals for Quarter ending 30th June, 1906.....	8464½	358	2591	5297	841	...	...	17,551½

Value £42,041; equal to 9,897,295 ozs. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced, ozs.	Men employed.
Tasmania Mine.....	2057	476
North Tasmania.....	35½	3
Tasmanian Tailing Syndicate....	400½	16
Prospectors.....	194½	25
Others.....	—	12
Total.....	<u>2686½</u>	<u>532</u>

Tasmania Mine.—812 tons quartz crushed, and 2057 ozs. gold obtained (by amalgamation and chlorination), which makes a total of 614,736 tons of quartz crushed, and 657,465 ozs. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

Mr. C. F. Heathcote, A.M.I.C.E., the general manager, reports:—The reduction in output is due to floods in Blythe's Creek filling all the lower workings, and closing down the battery on the 4th July last. During the past month the pumps and baling tanks have raised 8,000,000 gallons per day, from a depth of 1000 feet. The mine has now been unwatered, and full work should be resumed about the end of October.

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

	Gold produced, ozs.	Men employed.
New Pinafore G.M. Co.	78	14
Creek Cyanide Syndicate.....	53½	5
Gee King Syndicate	33	4
Kitto Bros. Pros. Syndicate...	11½	2
Others	31½	31
Totals.....	<u>207½</u>	<u>56</u>

LISLE, GOLCONDA, &c.—75 ozs. of gold have been won from the Lisle field, and 3 ozs. gold from Golconda. Twenty-seven men have been employed in these districts.

MT. VICTORIA.—22 men were engaged in these mines, winning 118½ ozs. of gold, from 185 tons of quartz and sand treated.

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

	Quartz crushed, tons.	Gold produced, ozs.	Men.
New Golden Gate	755	718	60
Scott & Pickett.....	35	6	3
Other Prospectors.....	—	—	80
Totals.....	<u>790</u>	<u>724</u>	<u>143</u>

Woody Hills and Macquarie Mines.—Messrs. Murray Bros. report:—50 tons have been crushed, but not having finally cleaned up, its value is not included. Seven men employed.

Alluvial Mining.—The returns for alluvial gold from the only available source are 39 ozs. 15 dwts., which production is from the operations of 26 prospectors.

TIN.

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

	Ore won.		Men employed.
	tons.	cwts.	
Northern and Southern Division	4	5	20
North-Eastern Division.....	637	8	818
Eastern Division.....	154	5	429
Western Division.....	26	3	214
North-Western Division.....	298	8	357
Totals.....	1120	9	1838

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION:—

Cox's Bight.—This field is on the south coast of the island, near S.W. Cape, and alluvial mining is being carried on upon the flat terrace-land between the mountain ranges and the sea shore. It has recently been examined under instructions from the Mines Department, and a report thereon is in course of preparation.

The tin ore has been shed from quartz veins in a spur of granite which descends to sea-level from the south end of the Bathurst Range. The Cox's Bight Tin Mines Company is hydraulicizing the upper-terrace drift, and has despatched for sale the last half-year $4\frac{1}{4}$ tons of ore, of an assay value varying from 73 to 75.2 per cent. metallic tin. Messrs. Weber, Gourlay, and Hawson are interested in several lagoon sections along the coast of the western bay, and it is contemplated to test these by bores. Messrs Pender and Atkins hold a section comprising the high granite spur between the two bays. Altogether, considerable interest is being taken in this district, which, since mining work was first started on it, is responsible for an output of about 120 tons of tin ore.

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

	tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff	273	0	294
Mt. Bischoff Extended	15	12	30
The Waratah Alluvial.....	4	2	5
Weir's Bischoff Surprise	2	0	17
The Stanhope Alluvial	3	14	6
Others .....	...	...	5
Totals.....	298	8	357

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.—RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Tin-pot Creek.....	7	10	17	...
Cascade River.....	4	14	26	5
Black Creek.....	5	9	17	4
Dorset River.....	5	7	15	...
Mt. Maurice.....	1	13	10	...
Hope Creek.....	0	17	3	...
Star of Peace.....	1	11	9	...
Ringarooma River.....	0	13	4	...
Branxholm.....	0	13	...	3
Totals.....	28	7	101	12

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese
Pioneer Tin Mines.....	139	0	100	...
Pioneer Extended.....	22	8	22	...
South Mt. Cameron.....	18	7	30	...
Gladstone Dredge.....	11	18	14	...
Ringarooma „.....	3	7	13	...
Cybele Tin Mines.....	1	0	20	...
Scotia „.....	1	13	7	...
Grove's Claim.....	3	6	6	...
Garibaldi Mine.....	2	15	3	4
Argus Tin Mines.....	7	19	16	...
White Rock.....	2	10	24	...
New Aberfoyle.....	1	18	6	...
D. Betts.....	2	18	2	...
Others.....	93	19	51	45
Mt. Horror Claims.....	11	13	16	...
Totals.....	264	11	390	49

Pioneer Tin Mine.—Mr. Cecil G. Ryan, general manager, reports to the directors, under date of 30th June:—439,400 cubic yards of drift have been pumped and sluiced during the past year, for a yield of 422 tons 18 cwts. 3 qrs. 5 lbs. of stream tin, the average recovery being 2·156 lbs. of stream tin per cubic yard, and the total mine cost per ton £35·623; as against, for the previous year, 327,100 cubic yards, yielding 308 tons 11 cwts. 3 qrs. 6 lbs. of stream tin, at a cost of £39·932 per ton, from drift, averaging 2·113 lbs. per cubic yard.

Since the inception of sluicing in June, 1900, 1,782,800 cubic yards of drift have been pumped and sluiced, for a yield of 1795 tons 17 cwts. 3 lbs. of stream tin, at a cost of 7·448d. per cubic yard.

The increase in the cubication sluiced during the period under review is due to an ample supply of water during the dry months, which was maintained by No. 3 plant pumping the water from the tailings paddock back into the working face when required.

This enabled an output of 67 cubic yards of drift per hour to be kept up during the year, and increased the production by over 100 tons of stream tin.

The recovery of tin per cubic yard shows a slight increase for the year. This improvement was more marked during the last six months, when it increased from 1.875 lbs. to 2.4 lbs., due to the bottom of the lead being worked for the first time in the present paddock. As the upper bench of ground is always kept well in advance of the lower, there is a large area of this latter ground exposed.

The quantity of ground sluiced represents the maximum cubication to date of a 12-months' period, and has been taken from a width of 1000 feet across the lead, and to an average depth of 60 feet; the average depth of this ground to bedrock is 72 feet.

GLADSTONE DISTRICT—Star Mine.—On the hill above the old Star workings tin-bearing quartz veins in granite have been uncovered in prospecting. Bands of quartz and greisen carrying clean coarse tin occur, and the adjoining granitic rock is also more or less impregnated with the ore. Trenches have been cut across the formation without proving its full width, and show the tin line to be persistent. The crushing material is friable, and the tin is free from base metals. It is intended to develop this discovery without delay.

Cybele Tin Mines.—Mr. A. E. Thomas, A.M.I.C.E., manager, reports:—

Tin-raising has been entirely confined to the stripping, which has been operated on to an average depth of 14 feet, using the water from the Mt. Cameron race. The major portion of present work lies in the construction of tail-race and preparation generally for the erection of No. 1 pumping-plant, the barge for which is now being built. The power-station on the Ringarooma has also been cleared and foundation partly excavated and preparation made for the installation of the 1140 horse-power pumping-plant, which is to supply the mine with water from the Ringarooma River. A contour survey of 87 acres has also been effected. Contracts have been let for all steam-plant required.

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mine.....	191	16	139	...
Brothers' Home, No. 1.....	62	9	36	...
Briseis Extended	7	8	38	...
Other Derby Claims	9	6	26	24
Total.....	270	19	239	24

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine.....	11	0	38	...
New Ruby Flat	22	0	16	...
S. Hawkes.....	3	0	3	...
Ah Moy & Co.	4	6	...	15
Other Branxholm Claims.	0	18	8	...
Total	41	4	65	15

MOORINA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Weld Tin Mine.....	8	4	11	...
Native Youth	8	10	10	...
Abbotsford	2	11	5	...
Moorina T. M.....	5	15	7	...
Wyniford.....	5	11	12	...
Others	1	16	11	...
Total.....	32	7	56	...
<i>Total North-Eastern Division</i>	637	8	791	101

EASTERN DIVISION:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>				
Weldbrook Tin Mine.....	4	19	20	...
Weldborough	3	14	6	...
Mt. Lyell Co., Cream Creek	7	0	5	...
Fancy Creek.....	4	13	12	...
Symons Bros.....	2	4	3	...
C. Dickenson	1	7	3	...
Abbotsford	2	10	5	...
Chinese (Weldborough).....	12	19	...	50
W. Spinks	1	10	4	...
Cascade	0	19	...	5
Other Claims.....	7	6	10	...
Total	49	1	68	55
<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>				
Anchor Tin Mine.....	59	15	127	...
Mt. Lyell Blue Tier.....	1	1	6	...
W. P. Kirwan	0	15	3	...
Chinese Blue Tier	0	4	...	3
Other Claims	2	16	22	...
Total	64	11	158	3

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>				
Royal Ruby	3	17	9	...
Macmichael, J. C.....	2	13	8	...
Williams, A.....	2	14	8	1
Thureau's Deep Lead.....	1	12	10	...
Miller, C.	1	9	9	...
Others	4	5	37	...
Total	16	10	81	1
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>				
Gipp's Creek.....	9	13	18	...
Mount Rex	1	18	3	...
Foster's Freehold.....	1	10	2	...
Cash & Scott's	1	10	4	...
South Esk	0	10	5	...
Togo T.M.	0	8	12	...
Others.....	8	14	19	...
Total	24	3	63	...
Total for Eastern Division	154	5	370	59

Anchor Tin Mine.—Mr. James B. Lewis, general manager, reports, under date 2nd October, 1906:—For the quarter just expired we have crushed 38,878 tons of ore, for a return of 61½ tons of black tin, and have sluiced about 14,350 cubic yards of alluvial, for a return of 3 tons 12 cwts. black tin. Both results are very satisfactory. On an average we are employing 127 men. The water-supply has been ample, and the weather favourable for out-of-door work. Though the grade of the ore has not been high, the margin of profit is fair, working costs being 2s. 4d. per ton, and receipts 3s. 6d. per ton. We are expecting an improved grade of ore shortly. Working costs are higher than anticipated on account of hardness of a large proportion of the stone quarried, and heavy renewals in machinery. We have been sinking prospecting shafts, and so far have found a payable grade of stone to continue down. The alluvial has cost about 3½d. per cubic yard to sluice, and the returns are about 7d. per yard. This alluvial is of very considerable extent, and a large body of it is easily sluiced, but there is a bed of heavy wash at the bottom consisting of boulders up to half a ton in weight that requires a good deal of handling. We are preparing to work this on a larger scale while water is plentiful. The stamp duty has been gradually increased to nearly 6 tons per stamp in twenty-four hours, and the battery is doing fair work, the proportion of tin lost (as shown by the permanent tailings sampler) is not high. It is hoped that not such a severe summer season as the two last will be experienced again, but arrangements are being made to increase the water-supply to obviate future

shortage, and two schemes are under consideration, one of which will doubtless shortly be carried out.

WESTERN DIVISION:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.
Mayne's Tin	1	0	8
Section 1501	1	0	11
Tasman Tin Co.....	3	10	4
Other Heemskirk Mines	8	10	16
<i>N. E. Dundas Mines.</i>			
N. E. Dundas	12	3	35
Others .....	...		40
Total.....	26	3	114

Tasman Tin Mine.—Captain W. Fisher, manager, reports:—The Tasman River sections are under offer just now, and the men are working at the St. Dizier with fair results, a face of wash averaging 4 ft. 6 in. being taken up from the old tunnel towards the huts, which is payable at the present price of tin.

SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ores in the Western Division for the quarter ending 30th September is detailed below:—

	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £	Men.
<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>				
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena.....	3110	24,477	214
Zeehan-Montana	"	1073	18,179	221
Zeehan-Western	" &c.....	442½	5253	129
Zeehan-Queen	"	534	1981	24
Section 903, Tas. S. Co. Ltd.	"	89	1627	18
Sylvester Mine, ditto	"	194	840	7
Oonah Mine	"	233	1169	22
Section 1914, R. Fox	gossan.....	32	109	8
" "	fluxing ore.....	319	435	
Silver Queen Extended	galena, &c.....	49½	620	13
Nubeena	"	3½	56	10
Florence	"	97	1072	30
Maxim	" &c.	64½	418	16
New Mt. Zeehan	"	97	663	6
Section 1816, Watt	"	25	212	4
Colonel North	silver lead.....	14½	26	10
Queensberry	galena.....	43	451	6
South Comstock	galena & blende.....	232	2380	20
Section 1846, Vincent	galena.....	24	296	6
Victoria Zeehan	"	14	217	22
Austral Valley	— .....	...	...	17

	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £	Men.
<i>Dundas Mines :</i>				
West Comet	fluxing ore.....	5960	2899	45
Comet	various ores.....	1450	5785	60
Comet, from previous quarter	— .....	...	2340	...
North Jupiter	mixed sulphides	538	4496	8
Ring Valley	fahl ore	74	731	8
Red Lead	— .....	...	...	2
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines :</i>				
North Mt. Farrell	galena.....	750	7300	110
Murchison River	„ &c.....	259	2597	54
Mackintosh	„	17	144	3
<i>Rosebery Mines :</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	mixed sulphides.....	1862	4654	23
Primrose	„	1250	5376	16
North Tas. Copper	„ .....	...	...	10
<i>Sundry :</i>				
Tasmanian Smelting Co. ....	.....	...	...	330
Prospectors and others.....	.....	...	...	111
	Total	<u>18,851</u>	<u>96,803</u>	<u>1583</u>

MOUNT ZEEHAN (TASMANIA)—*Spray Mine*.—Mr. T. Vincent, manager, reports:—New shaft 200 feet, water under control, Boilers in position, now being bricked in. No. 5 level, north 153 feet, south 265 feet. No. 3 level, north 195 feet, good payable lode. Resumed sinking main shaft. General appearance of mine is good. No. 2 shaft, crosscut east. No. 2 level, 71 feet. Lodes Nos. 10 and 13—The faces are poor. Output fairly well maintained.

Zeehan-Montana.—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—No. 1 shaft has been sunk to 800 feet. The plunger-pumps have been fixed at that level, and drive started on No. 8 lode. Preparations are being made for erecting the new winding-engine. The mine generally is looking fairly well. No. 2 shaft has improved considerably.

Zeehan-Western.—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—A winze has been sunk to 80 feet below No. 11, or 800-foot level. The lode in bottom is small and poor. Although several small bunches of galena and fahlert have been met with, nothing of a payable character has been found. The shaft is again being sunk. It is intended to sink to 1000 feet before again testing the lode.

Oonah.—Captain W. Fisher, manager, reports:—The Bruce drive cut the lode 8 feet wide, consisting of pyrites, carrying a small percentage of copper and silver. A rise is now being put through to the Bradshaw tunnel (approximately 131 feet) for ventilating purposes. The main shaft is being unwatered by Mr. Hartwell Conder, who has an option over the mine. The water is down to within 25 feet of No. 4 level. Low-grade sulphides are

being sent to the smelters from No. 3 adit level; also sulphides from the Junction.

Mr. Hartwell Conder reports that the English option company is unwatering the mine with the object of prospecting the stannite lodes, which are known to exist at Nos. 3 and 4 levels, and probably of exploring the ground in depth for further galena shoots.

Florence.—Mr. F. K. Astell, manager, reports:—Ore returns low this quarter owing to excessive water. Eight weeks lost in consequence. No. 2 level (McKay's), south end—The lode for the last hundred feet has been very productive. It has been in maiden ground, and 150 feet from surface on the underlay. Stopes from No. 3 looking very fair. Driving north and south on McKay's at No. 3.

DUNDAS MINES—Ring Valley.—Mr. John Moyle, manager, reports:—During the past quarter the intermediate drive between Nos. 1 and 2 levels has been extended to 80 feet north of No. 1 winze, and stoping carried on for an average height of 18 feet with fair results. All work at No. 2 level has been confined to the northern part of the old stopes, but results have been poor. More recently, however, the indications have been better.

Mount Read Mine.—Mr. John Moyle, manager, reports:—The extension of the 600-foot level has gone on uninterruptedly. The total distance to date is 1312 feet. In one place a body of impregnated schist was passed through for a width of upwards of 10 feet, carrying copper pyrites, galena, and zinc blende. It is anticipated that the main ore body will be found in about 70 feet further driving.

Tasmanian Smelting Company.—Mr. T. Kapp, manager, reports:—Ore smelted during the three months, 10,847½ tons, containing 2277 tons lead, 324,913 ozs. silver, 695 ozs. gold. 2343 tons bullion were exported, containing 354,957 ozs. silver and 691 ozs. gold.

MT. FARRELL DISTRICT—Mt. Farrell Mine.—Work is being resumed at this mine, where the lode intersected by the crosscut is to be driven on. Six feet of fairly good milling material is reported as exposed, and indicating further improvement.

Murchison River Mine.—Mr. G. A. Thomson, manager, reports to the directors:—The south drive at No. 3 level has been driven to 45 feet in good ore nearly the whole distance. At present (September 16) the face shows 18 inches of clean galena, 3 feet of seconds, and the remainder good milling ore. The lode here is fully 8 feet wide, and appears to be opening out. Sixteen tons of hand-picked ore, containing, approximately, 80 per cent. lead, 110 ozs. silver, and 2 dwts. gold have been recovered from this drive. Concentration was commenced on 30th April. Since then the mill has treated 5360 tons of crude ore, for 344 tons of concentrates.

NORTH WESTERN DIVISION:—

	Ore. tons.	Value. £	Men.
Magnet Mine.....	1617	12,469	192
Godkin Mine.....	...	...	4
	...	..	196

Of the above, 1266 tons of gossanous ore were sent to New South Wales, and 351 tons galena to the Tasmania Smelting Company, Zeehan

COPPER.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—
The quantities of ore treated, and metal produced, during the quarter ending 30th September were as follow:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore.....	67,657	0	2	21
North Mt. Lyell Mine ore.....	30,355	10	2	1
Purchase ore.....	143	18	2	4
By-products from Crotty.....	10	6	3	16
Metal-bearing fluxes:				
North Lyell Mine.....	663	10	2	9
Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	1078	2	2	7
South Tharsis Mine.....	253	3	0	6
King Lyell Mine.....	3	10	3	15
Total.....	100,165	3	2	23

Quantity and value of metal produced:—

	£	s.	d.
Blister Copper, 2375 tons, containing—			
Copper, 2350 tons, valued at.....	204,793	2	0
Silver, fine, 171,693 ozs., valued at.....	22,055	8	0
Gold, fine, 5449 ozs., valued at.....	23,158	5	0
Total.....	£250,006	15	0

Number of men employed:—

At the Company's Mt. Lyell Mine.....	343	
" " North Lyell Mine.....	462	
" " Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	39	
" " Royal Tharsis Mine.....	9	
	853	
	1101	(including 177 firewood cut- ters, 33 found- rymen, and 4 painters.)
Railway Department.		
Mt. Lyell Railway.....	150	
North Lyell Railway.....	26	
	176	
Total.....	2130	

Inspector Curtain reports:—

Mt. Lyell Company's Mines, Iron Blow:—A heading has been opened from the south-west, or old South Lyell side, for relieving and more expeditiously disposing of the overburden from the top bench in this direction. Pyritic extraction continues from the four lower benches; that from IV.A and IV.B having to be lifted to IV., or the level of the main storage or supply-bins. To prevent trespassing and furnish protection for the public, the western (more exposed) side of these operations is being enclosed by means of a fence.

North Lyell Mine.—The main shaft has been sunk 160 feet below the 700-foot level, and the opening out of the plats is proceeding, where indications of bornite have already been located. The winze or auxiliary shaft is down 120 feet, and on attaining a similar level to that of the main shaft both will be connected for ventilation and other purposes. Favourable developments continue at the 700-foot level, the most recent being in the south contact, or No. 15 stope, where another new make of high-grade ore has appeared. At the 300-foot level, close to the main shaft, a new stope of fair grade ore is assuming some importance.

Lyell Tharsis Mine:—Both by open cutting and underground mining serviceable quantities of fair-grade fluxing ore continue to be obtained.

South and Royal Tharsis.—A well-equipped three-compartment self-delivery incline shaft has been sunk and timbered 100 feet, which will be increased to 180 feet on the completion of a rise from a lower adit level in order to work the silicious ores which have already been located in these properties.

Reduction Works.—In the electric power house a turbo blowing machine, capable of supplying 18,000 cubic feet of air under 54-ozs. pressure, at a maximum speed of 4250 revolutions per minute has been installed and will henceforth supply a part of the requirements of the blast furnaces. The main ore-bins have been mounted with door chutes, which make the handling of the ore and fluxes more convenient.

Lyell Blocks Mine.—Mr. R. Ferguson, manager, reports that 17,644 tons of clay, worth $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of copper, have been mined and concentrated, for a return of $185\frac{1}{2}$ tons of fine copper, value £20,483. The mine work comprised 980 feet driving, 582 feet rising, 343 feet crosscutting, 59 feet winze-sinking. Two hundred and fifty-four men employed.

Lyell Consols Mine.—Mr. R. Ferguson, manager, reports that work has been resumed on this property, and that the main, or Callaghan's level, has been advanced to 330 feet, and 45 feet rises for air. Fourteen men employed.

Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended.—Mr. Carter, manager, reports that prospecting work has been stopped in the lowest (No. 3) tunnel, and an intermediate is being driven from the long rise, where some mineralised schist was passed through. Nine men employed.

DUNDAS DISTRICT—*Ring River Mine.*—Mr. George Barker, manager, reports raising 400 tons of copper sulphide, valued at £2680. Eight men employed.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION—*Copper King Mine.*—34½ tons copper ore were raised during the quarter, valued at £344. The mine employed 12 men.

WOLFRAM.

The output of wolfram during the quarter was as follows:—

	tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Ben Lomond, Tungsten Mine	3	8	6
Storey's Creek claims	2	15	6
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>

COAL.

The output this quarter was 14,743½ tons, against 13,091 tons the previous quarter. The raisings at the respective collieries were as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Mount Nicholas Colliery	7079	73
Cornwall	5998	60
Dulverton	64	3
Spreyton	542	10
York Plains	106½	2
Mount Cygnet	254	2
Catamaran	400	4
Sandfly	300	53
Total	<u>14,743½</u>	<u>207</u>

CONCLUSION.

The total value of the mineral production for this quarter was £554,543, as compared with £555,188 the previous quarter. The total for the nine months of the present year amounts to £1,656,578, and the outlook at present is that the output for this year will be well over 2,000,000 sterling. The improvements this quarter have been under the heads of copper and tin ore, while there have been decreases in the output of silver-lead and gold, notably in the latter,

on the Beaconsfield and Mathinna goldfields. Since the close of the quarter, however, the Tasmania mine has been unwatered, and gold-winning resumed. Most of our established mines are in a thriving condition. Developmental work is being pursued very generally, and there is quite a revival of prospecting.

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 30th September, 1906:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	710	1	711
North-Eastern	813	101	914
Eastern	658	59	717
North-Western	553	...	553
Western	4145	...	4145
Total	6879	161	7040

Value of mineral output per man employed:—£78 15s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Dividends paid by Mining Companies during the quarter ending 30th September, 1906:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines—						
Mount Lyell Blocks	7500	0	0	7500	0	0
From Gold Mines			Nil			
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered	18,600	0	0			
Pioneer T.M. Co., Ltd.	8775	0	0			
New Ruby Flat T.M. Co.,	1050	0	0			
Briseis Tin Mining Co.	22,500	0	0			
Wilberforce Pump Co., No. 1, N.L.	75	0	0			
Brothers' Home No. 1	3000	0	0	53,400	0	0
From Silver Mines:—						
Mt. Zeehan (Tas.) S.L. Mines, Ltd.	11,400	0	0			
Zeehan-Montana Mine, Ltd.	8000	0	0			
Mt. Farrell Silver Lead	859	0	0			
Magnet Silver Mining Co., N.L.	2000	0	0	22,299	0	0
Total .....	...			£83,199	0	0