

MININD1906-4

THE PROGRESS OF  
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY  
OF  
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

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MINISTER FOR MINES.



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART.

1907.



PROGRESS OF THE  
**MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA**

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1906.

Launceston, 27th February, 1907.

The following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 31st December, 1906, as compared with the previous quarter ending 30th September, 1906 :—

	During the Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1906.		During the Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
* Gold won .....	ozs. 13023·436	55,320	9897·295	42,041
Silver-lead Ore produced	tons 20,703 $\frac{3}{4}$	119,886	20,468	109,272
† Blister Copper produced	„ 1919	218,999	2375	226,848
Copper Ore and Copper produced.....	„ 441 $\frac{3}{4}$	20,496	619 $\frac{3}{4}$	23,507
Tin Ore produced.....	„ 1283 $\frac{1}{2}$	173,197	1120 $\frac{1}{2}$	139,872
Iron Ore raised.....	„ ...	...	...	...
Coal raised.....	„ 14,342	12,191	14,743 $\frac{3}{4}$	12,533
Wolfram Ore produced...	„ 6	480	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	470
	...	600,569	...	554,543

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

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## GOLD.

During the past quarter 4634½ ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 1059½ ozs. from alluvial, 1558½ ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 5227 ozs. from blister copper from the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, and 698 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works, Zeehan, valued at £55,320.

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 September, 1906 :—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 31st December, 1906.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.	Totals for Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1906.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Beaconsfield	3907	905½	1401½	...	...	6214	9873	2686½
Mathinna ...	662	...	67	...	...	729	2021½	724
Mt. Victoria	} 65½	20	...	...	...	85½	229½	118½
Warrentinna								
Mt. C meron	...	...	90	...	...	90	73½	207½
Lefroy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lisle .....	} ...	89	...	...	...	89	75	78
Golconda ...								
Mangana ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bell Mount.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
King Island	...	1½	...	...	...	1½	...	...
West Coast.	...	43½	...	5227	698	5968½	7389½	6179½
TOTALS	4634½	1059½	1558½	5227	698	13177½	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1905.....	10,540½	175½	1672	6448	826	...	19,662	...
Totals for Quarter ending 30th Sept., 1906.....	1153½	321	2380	5449	691	...	...	9994½

Value £55,320 ; equal to 13,023·436 ozs. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced, ozs.	Men employed.
Tasmania Mine.....	5292	600
North Tasmania.....	16½	2
Tasmanian Tailing Syndicate....	848	18
Prospectors.....	—	20
Others.....	57½	13
Total.....	<u>6214</u>	<u>653</u>

*Tasmania Mine.*—10,766 tons quartz crushed, and 6214 ozs. gold obtained (by amalgamation and chlorination), which makes a total of 625,502 tons quartz crushed, and 663,679 ozs. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

Mr. C. F. Heathcote, A.M.I.C.E., the general manager, reports:— During the past quarter the third of the large pumping engines has been completed and put to work. Grubb's shaft and Hart's shaft, in which these engines are installed, have been prepared for further sinking.

The battery re-started on the 15th October.

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

	Gold produced.	Men employed.	
	ozs.	Europeans.	Chinese.
New Pinafore.....	90	14	—
Prospectors and others.....	—	36	2
Totals.....	<u>90</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>2</u>

LISLE-GOLCONDA, &C.—86 ozs. of gold have been won from the Lisle field, and 3 ozs. from Golconda. Twenty-six men have been employed on these fields.

MOUNT VICTORIA.—Twenty-nine men were engaged in these mines, winning 65¾ ozs. of gold from 38 tons of quartz crushed and sand treated.

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

	Quartz crushed.	Gold produced.	Men.
	tons.	ozs.	
New Golden Gate.....	900	682	45
Constant G.M.....	656	16	6
Miner's Dream.....	24	27	3
Roberts P.A.....	8	4	1
Others.....	—	—	61
Totals.....	<u>1588</u>	<u>729</u>	<u>116</u>

*New Golden Gate.*—The shaft is to be sunk another 200 feet in order to test the reefs which, at 1600-foot level, were strong and gold-bearing, although not in payable quantities.

*South Mt. Cameron.*—20 ozs. of gold have been produced from the tin at the South Mt. Cameron mine during the half-year.

*Waterhouse and Lyndhurst.*—After an interval of 30 years work is to be resumed on this field. Three parallel lines of reef, known formerly as the Imperial, Pioneer, and Railway and Alliance reefs, pass through ground which is being taken up with a view of giving the reefs a thorough trial.

The old Southern Cross and North Cross reefs are also to be developed.

The field has not had a fair trial yet, but there is now every prospect of serious work being started on it.

*Woody Hills.*—Messrs. Murray Bros. report that a few small parcels of quartz have been crushed, but no gold sold during the quarter, work being chiefly prospecting. Seven men have been employed.

*Alluvial Mining.*—From Flannigal's Flat, Coronation, Queen River, and Darwin, the gold won totals 43 ozs. 7 dwts., which represents the earnings of 24 men. A track direct between the two first-mentioned locations would be of service in opening up a probable area of alluvial ground for prospecting, in addition to making the first-mentioned more easy of access than at present.

## TIN.

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

	Ore won.		Men employed.
	tons.	cwts.	
Northern and Southern Division	8	3	12
North-Eastern Division.....	838	7	913
Eastern Division.....	165	6	409
Western Division.....	52	4	110
North-Western Division.....	219	9	359
Totals.....	1283	9	1803

## NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff .....	180	0	299
Mt. Bischoff Extended .....	20	0	30
The Waratah Alluvial.....	5	17	5
Stanhope Alluvial .....	5	18	6
Weir's Bischoff Surprise .....	...	17	16
Bischoff Taylor.....	...	...	3
King Island .....	6	17	...
Totals.....	219	9	359

*Mt. Bischoff Mine.*—Mr. H. W. Ferd. Kayser, general manager, reports:—Since the brown face has been worked out, and the sudden and unexpected collapse of No. 3 bench, unforeseen difficulties have presented themselves, which will in the near future compel us to face a still further reduced output. Several works are under consideration, and surveys prepared, to start work as soon as the electric scheme is finished and an air-compressor can be supplied, and it is to be hoped that some of the operations will turn out satisfactory, and enable us to recover some lost ground.

The quantity of crude ore treated during the half-year is as follows:—60 head battery, 35,452 tons, producing 277 tons 19 cwts. 1 qr. of dressed ore; 15 head battery, 9,443 tons, producing 95 tons 12 cwts. 3 qrs. of ore. The reduction of ore by the stampers, after allowing for holidays and other stoppages, is 4,533 tons per stamp head per 24 hours. The average percentage of ore obtained from the whole mine is 1.178.

The diamond drill plant is at present employed at No. 8 hole, and a depth of 864 feet has been reached without meeting with anything of commercial value.

Work in connection with the electric power scheme has been delayed owing to severe climatic conditions, but the end of the work is now in sight. The power-station at Ringtail is finished, and the erection of machinery and all other work is in a forward condition.

The following particulars will show the cost of mining, crushing, and dressing a ton of crude ore:—

Mining, including new works, maintenance, and other expenses .....	s.	d.
.....	3	0.860
Filling, hauling, and emptying trucks .....	0	5.809
Crushing, dressing, and maintenance of plant .....	0	9.320
Slime sheds.....	0	1.288
Ringtail sheds.....	0	2.405
Management and supervision .....	0	9.493
Plant, including all machinery .....	0	3.632
Development and progressive work .....	1	0.747
Waterworks .....	0	0.122
Ore-bagging .....	0	0.381
Stores .....	0	9.495
Sundries .....	0	0.427
	7	7.979

The expenditure on diamond-drilling during the half-year amounts to £1586 10s. 1d.

The ore obtained since the formation of the company has been 65,832 tons 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs.

**KING ISLAND.**—*The British Flag P. and M. Syndicate.*—Mr. H. M. Rivett-Carnac, general manager, reports:—The machinery had its trial run on 1st January, 1906, and work was finally suspended on 30th June. During this time four machines ran for 1290 hours. The sand excavated was 1584 cubic yards, and the quantity passed over tables was 866 cubic yards. The marketable ore produced was 8½ tons tin ore, of a net value of £243, and 1 oz. 14 dwts. gold valued at £7 2s. 7d.; average tin contents, at 50 per cent. = 9 lbs. per cubic yard.

Mr. Carnac describes the deposit as having an average width of 2 chains as far as proved, about 60 chains long, and from 7 to 15 and 20 feet deep, overlying an old beach of cobbles and secondary pyritic nodules containing no mineral of any economic value. The sand itself consists of spinel, garnet, zircon, magnetic, and titaniferous iron ores, and contains cassiterite, monazite, gold, and osmiridium. Below the old beach deposit is a false bottom of brownish sand, with occasionally pipeclay and blue clay, and in one place decomposed porphyry. Mr. Carnac believes that the sand deposit has originated locally from the gradual wearing down of porphyry or greisen which ought to be found near the present workings. A mile from the Fraser River is a serpentine intrusion which is no doubt responsible for the osmiridium. The tin ore is extremely fine and colourless to grey, yellow, ruby, and black, showing, Mr. Carnac says, a foxy-red colour in the dish and brownish-grey when dry.

The directors say they have discontinued work on the Fraser River leases, as it was found impracticable to work the open face in winter with the available appliances, and, in addition, the recovery only of the tin contents of the sand did not admit of a profit with the small trial plant. An option has been granted to an English firm which it is expected will be exercised.

#### NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

##### RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Tin-pot Creek.....	8	17	25	5
Cascade River.....	4	11	18	3
Black Creek.....	6	2	24	...
Dorset River.....	4	13	13	...
Mt. Maurice.....	1	11	5	...
Hope Creek.....	3	2	4	...
Star of Peace.....	1	19	4	...
Ringarooma River.....	1	5	6	...
Britannia Creek.....	0	12	2	...
Dunne's Creek.....	0	2	2	...
Ruby Flat.....	0	10	...	1
Totals.....	33	4	103	9

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine.....	138	0	105	...
South Mt. Cameron .....	21	1	30	...
Gladstone Dredge .....	12	5	16	...
Ringarooma „ .....	3	14	14	...
Cybele Tin Mines .....	3	2	54	...
Argus „ .....	10	9	15	...
Scotia „ .....	2	5	2	...
White Rock .....	5	0	21	...
Grove's Claim .....	4	0	4	...
Garibaldi Mine.....	3	3	4	2
New Aberfoyle .....	0	4	7	...
Chinese Claims.....	21	6	...	51
Miners' Claims.....	14	8	57	4
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>57</b>
Mount Horror Claims .....	10	7	11	...

*New Aberfoyle Mine.*—Mr. Leigh Hancock reports:—A headrace is being constructed 21 miles long from the Boobyalla River to bring on about 30 heads of water. Preparations are being made for sluicing, getting ready for laying on pipe columns, &c.

*Mussel Roe Tin Mine.*—Race is being constructed 20 miles long from the Mussel Roe River, and has been completed since the end of the quarter, though seriously damaged after completion by recent floods.

DERBY DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mines.....	243	1	109	...
Briseis Tin Mines, from last quarter.....	70	19		
New Brothers' Home, No. 1.....	94	2	46	...
New Brothers' Home, No. 1, from last quarter.....	23	2		
Briseis Extended .....	15	0	35	...
Other Derby Claims .....	11	15	26	33
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>33</b>

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine.....	33	0	42	...
New Ruby Flat .....	22	0	18	...
South Arba .....	1	0	4	...
Other Branxholm Claims.....	7	5	11	21
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>21</b>

## THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

## MOORINA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Weld Tin Mine.....	8	9	9	...
Native Youth .....	4	10	9	...
Abbotsford Tin.....	1	0	5	...
Wyniford Tin.....	5	0	9	...
Moorina Mine.....	2	15	7	...
Other Claims .....	1	4	6	...
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>...</b>

## MT. STRONACH:—

Mt. Stronach Mine (for half-year).....	11	17	14	...
<i>Total for North-Eastern Division .....</i>	<i>838</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>793</i>	<i>120</i>

## EASTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>				
Weldbrook Tin Mine.....	12	2	20	...
Weldborough Tin Mine .....	4	13	5	...
Mt. Lyell Co., Cream Creek	10	15	5	...
Fancy Creek.....	4	4	10	...
Symon Bros.....	1	16	3	...
C. Dickenson .....	1	1	2	...
Abbotsford T.M.....	3	5	7	...
Eyers Bros.....	2	15	3	...
Chinese (Weldborough).....	12	18	...	60
European Claims.....	9	9	23	...
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>60</b>

*Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.*

Anchor Tin Mine.....	57	10	122	...
Mt. Lyell Blue Tier.....	1	19	4	...
W. P. Kirwan.....	...	11	2	...
Ryde and Dishington.....	1	12	2	...
Other Claims .....	1	19	15	...
Chinese Claims.....	...	7	...	6
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>6</b>

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>				
Royal Ruby .....	5	11	7	...
J. C. Macmichael.....	4	9	8	...
A. Williams.....	3	1	6	...
Thureau's Deep Lead.....	1	18	4	...
C. Miller .....	2	15	5	...
Transit Co.....	3	17	25	...
Others .....	4	7	18	...
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>				
Gipp's Creek.....	4	18	12	...
Mount Rex .....	1	10	4	...
Foster's Freehold.....	1	0	3	...
Long Struggle .....	1	10	4	...
South Esk .....	1	8	4	...
Others.....	2	6	19	...
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total for Eastern Division</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>67</b>

*Anchor Tin Mine.*—Mr. James B. Lewis, general manager, reports under date of 8th January, 1907:—For the quarter ending 31st December, 1906, we have crushed 39,880 tons of ore for a return of 57½ tons of black tin, and have sluiced about 11,000 cubic yards of alluvial for a return of 4½ tons of black tin. Both results are very satisfactory. We employed on an average 122 men, but could have found employment for more as we could not quarry enough stone to keep the full battery going. The water supply has been ample, and weather suitable for work. Working costs for the three months were down to an average of 2s. 1d. per ton, and the duty of the stamps was 6 tons per stamp for 24 hours. The alluvial worked was stiff and hard to break up with the nozzle, so not so much has been treated, though more tin has been saved than for the previous quarter. The prospects of a sufficient water supply for the summer are at present good.

*Brookstead.*—The Adelaide Company, which is operating the Burnie Copper Mines, New Aberfoyle and Mussel Roe properties, is about to test the Brookstead ground by sinking pits systematically in the alluvial and proving the lode formations. Altogether this company is spending £40,000 or £50,000 in this State in preparatory working prior to obtaining any return.

## WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won.		Men employed.	
	tons.	cwts.	Europeans.	Chinese.
Mayne's Tin .....	1	0	7	...
Tasman River.....	1	6	4	...
Kelvin Co.....	3	0	6	...
Other Heemskirk Claims....	8	11	39	...
Renison Bell .....	5	0	12	...
Other Dundas Claims .....	33	7	42	...
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>...</b>

## SILVER.

## WEST COAST.

The registered out-put of silver ores in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st December is given below:—

	Ore.	Tons.	Value. £	Men.
<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>				
Zeehan-Montana	galena.....	1054½	20,450	226
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	" .....	2322	24,098	180
Zeehan-Queen	" .....	281	2151	18
Silver Queen Extended	galena, &c.....	102½	1058	17
Oonah Mine	" .....	157	564	51
Section 1816-M. (Watts)	galena .....	74	391	6
Section 1914-M. (Fox)	galena, &c .....	130	773	2
Sylvester	gossan .....	184	776	5
Lease 903 (T. S. Co.)	galena.....	89	1732	12
Queensberry	" .....	3	638	10
Zeehan-Western	galena, &c .....	615	7867	121
Austral Valley	— .....	...	...	34
New Mt. Zeehan	galena .....	73¼	669	7
Florence	" .....	112	2353	40
South Comstock	" .....	80½	1208	20
Section 1846-M. (Vincent),,	.....	37	487	5
Silver Harp	" .....	22	280	7
<i>Dundas Mines:</i>				
North Jupiter	galena and zinc ....	574	2754	8
Mariposa	gossan .....	220	88	2
West Comet	" .....	5975	2675	40
Ring Valley	fahl ore .....	56½	472	8
Comet	galena, &c .....	1672	5500	60
Hercules	zinc-lead.....	1173	4092	70
<i>Rosebery Mines:</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	zinc-lead .....	2691	8720	30
Primrose	" .....	416	2144	15
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines:</i>				
North Mt. Farrell	galena.....	710	7937	120
Mt. Farrell	" .....	37	951	30
Murchison River	" .....	391	5870	53
Mackintosh	" .....	8½	165	3
<i>Sundries:</i>				
Tasmanian Smelting Co. ....	.....	...	...	300
Prospectors and others.....	.....	...	...	142
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>19,321¼</b>	<b>106,863</b>	<b>1642</b>

*Zeehan-Montana.*—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—Driving commenced at No. 8. There are at present 7 levels in operation. The ends are as a whole very poor. The erection of new winding engine is well in hand, and it will be in actual work very shortly. A new boiler is also being installed. Eighteen men are employed at the No. 3 shaft. Late Tasmanian Silver Crown raising ore of fair value. The erection of a small plant will be taken in hand at once to pump out the old shaft.

*Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).*—Mr. H. Vincent, acting manager, reports:—Spray Mine.—New shaft sunk to 240 feet. Lode in shaft, 8 inches galena. Old shaft sunk to No. 5 level, driving north, lode payable antimonial ore. Winze 40 feet below, lode rich. No. 2 mine producing usual quantity high grade galena.

*Silver Queen Extended.*—Mr. Chas. Stevens, mine manager, reports:—Developmental work proceeding, and 388 feet driven, sunk, risen and stoped during the quarter.

*Oonah.*—Capt. W. Fisher, manager, reports:—The ore has been won from the Junction and No. 3 level of the main workings. The optionees have about 150 tons crude stannite ore stacked for future treatment. They are driving on the stannite lode at Nos. 3 and 4 levels with moderate success; also driving crosscut out east from No. 4 level to intersect a galena lode which was worked at surface and known as Sinclair's lode. Three tributes have also been let in the old workings.

*Zeehan-Western.*—Mr. J. Craze, manager, reports:—Development work during the quarter has been confined to Nos. 4 and 5 levels, but nothing of value has been met with. Preparations are being made to sink the shaft further 200 feet. The main rods of pumps have been changed and heavier ones put in. New connecting rods and plummer blocks to pumping engine all in course of erection, and when completed, sinking will be resumed.

*Florence.*—Mr. F. K. Astell, manager, reports:—Work for the past quarter has been confined to one lode—McKay's—at the 128 and 200 feet levels. The crosscut at 200 feet level going east towards Flaherty's is out 120 feet from Currie's. Two small veins have been cut through.

*Dundas Mines—Ring Valley.*—Mr. John Moyle, manager, reports:—Operations during the past term were confined principally to stoping on hanging wall veins between Nos. 1 and 2 levels with poor results. Recently a winze from the floor of No. 1 tunnel was commenced, and rich ore was discovered carrying high values in silver and copper. This was at a depth of 18 feet, and the lode was three feet wide.

*Tasmanian Smelting Company.*—Mr. T. Kapp, manager, reports:—Ore smelted during the three months, 11,934 tons, containing 2619 tons lead, 400,197 ozs. silver, 768 ozs. gold. Exported 2345 tons bullion, containing 364,240 ozs. silver, and 698 ozs. gold.

## NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Exploratory work was carried on at the Devon Silver-lead Mine on the Dove River with three men.

## NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

*Magnet Mine.*—1382½ tons of silver-lead ore were raised and consigned during the quarter, consisting of 1091¾ tons gossan ore and 290¾ tons galena. Of this quantity, 889¾ tons gossan ore was sent to the smelters at Cockle Creek, N.S.W., and the balance to the Tasmanian Smelting Co., Zeehan. The gross value of consignments was £13,023, and the number of men employed 170.

*Godkin Mine.*—Six men were employed on this mine.

## COPPER.

*Mt. Lyell Mine.*—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—The ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated during the quarter ending 31st December were as follow:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore.....	71,675	10	0	7
North Lyell Mine ore.....	31,189	2	0	15
Purchased ore.....	165	8	3	16
By-products from Crotty.....	14	2	1	8
Metal-bearing fluxes:				
North Lyell Mine.....	550	13	2	26
South Tharsis Mine.....	101	12	1	4
Total.....	103,696	9	1	20

Quantity and value of metal produced:—

	£	s.	d.
Blister Copper, 1919 tons, containing—			
Copper, 1898 tons, valued at.....	194,639	18	0
Silver, fine, 180,433 ozs., valued at.....	24,358	9	1
Gold, 5227 ozs., valued at.....	22,214	15	0
Total.....	£241,213	2	1

Number of men employed:—

At the Company's	Mt. Lyell Mine.....	415
"	North Lyell Mine.....	421
"	Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	40
"	Royal Tharsis Mine.....	6
"	Reduction Works.....	1073
"	Mt. Lyell Railway.....	142
"	North Lyell Railway.....	19
Total.....		2116

Inspector Curtain reports :—

*Mt. Lyell Company's Mines:—Iron Blow.*—Surface extraction continues, in addition to which underground work has been resumed at No. 5 on the pyrites.

*North Lyell.*—At the 850-foot level flats have been cut and connecting drives commenced between the main and auxiliary shafts, where high-grade ore (bornite) has been discovered with every assurance of continuing at a further depth. The top or shallower faces maintain their production, coupled with a new make of bornite in the north extension at the 600-foot level.

*Royal and South Tharsis.*—The incline hoist has been connected with the lowest or No. 3 adit of these properties, and a flat and ore bin started at a depth of 90 feet to receive the production around and above this level.

*Reduction Works.*—Four furnaces continue in blast, and put through a tonnage which is regulated according to circumstances. The capacity of the reserve bins has been increased, which will permit of a more lengthened campaign being negotiated than formerly.

At the generating station the turbo-blower is at work and giving satisfaction. At the North Lyell Mine, signalling by electric bells and coloured flash light (one confirming the general signals recorded by the other) with "wanted" or "requirement" calls restricted to the telephone stationed at each flat, has been installed and works satisfactorily.

*Lyell Blocks Mine.*—Mr. Robt. Ferguson, manager, reports :—20,871 tons of clay have been mined, puddled and concentrated for 212 tons of fine copper, valued at £19,928; 959 feet were driven, 838 feet crosscut, 764 feet risen, and 14 feet sunk; 256 men employed.

*Mount Lyell Consols.*—Mr. Ferguson, manager, reports :—No. 3 adit has been driven 163 feet, and a crosscut driven 14 feet with 20 men. Sites have been selected for a main shaft and concentrating mill.

*Tasman and Crown Extended.*—Mr. Edward Carter, manager, reports :—Prospecting has been continued east from the long rise with 5 men, and the sulphide lode at No. 2 has been further exploited with a view to concentrating.

*Jukes Proprietary.*—Mr. H. S. Muir, manager, reports :—A trial sample is being packed and forwarded to the Mount Lyell smelters; three men employed.

Siddlar and Hyde are prospecting portions of the defunct Great Lyell South, and Duke Lyell properties. Four men are employed.

*DUNDAS DISTRICT.—Ring River Mine.*—Mr. Geo. Barker, manager, reports raising 225 tons 7 per cent. copper cre, net value £475, with 9 men.

## NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

*Burnie Copper Mines.*—This was formerly the Copper King, which was worked on a small scale for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years by Messrs. Clark and Sice, its discoverers. A main shaft is now being sunk to 160 feet. It is intended to open out at 150 feet and crosscut to the lode 70 or 80 feet. The shaft is 14 feet x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet within timbers. Mr. Leigh J. Hancock, reports:—A deep culvert has been made for the water six chains long in the basin of the mine. A road is constructed from the mine up to the main Blythe road for about 60 chains at a cost of about £400. The company has provided huts for the workmen, and settled them on its own freehold. Two substantial houses for manager and offices, etc., have been built. A small township, with post office, etc., is springing up. It is called at present Blythe Road, but the name Cuprona has been suggested. The shaft is being equipped with winding engine and a Roots' blower for ventilating. Five men were employed by the old syndicate, raising  $4\frac{3}{4}$  tons copper ore valued at £93.

## WOLFRAM.

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

	tons.	cwts.	Men employed.
Ben Lomond, Tungsten Mine .....	3	10	6
Other Claims on Ben Lomond.....	2	10	6
Middlesex Claims.....	...		6
	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18</u>

The above is valued at £480.

## COAL.

The output this quarter was 14,342 tons, against  $14,743\frac{3}{4}$  tons the previous quarter. The raisings at the respective collieries were as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
Mount Nicholas Colliery .....	6470	70
Cornwall .....	5605	63
Spreyton .....	351	6
York Plains .....	129	2
Mount Cygnet .....	254	2
Catamaran .....	400	4
Sandfly .....	1133	18
Total .....	<u>14,342</u>	<u>165</u>

## IRON.

The Blythe Iron Mines, Limited, is about to break 1000 tons of the ore from its lode for shipment to England.

## CONCLUSION.

The value of the mineral output this quarter was £600,569, against £554,543 the previous quarter, making £2,257,147 for the year 1906, compared with £1,729,129 for the year 1905. The increases for the quarter have been in the items gold, silver-lead and tin, while copper and coal have been stationary. The Western mineral division has increased its output for silver and lead ores, while the Tasmania Gold Mine, having been unwatered, has added to the gold production. Tin mining, both in the east and west, has been very active. An increased output is noticeable from the mines of the North-east Dundas field. From the alluvial and detrital deposits of the North-east Dundas district fully 200 tons of tin ore are estimated to have been raised during the last fifteen years, and boulders and large nuggets of ore are frequent in some parts of the field. Market conditions have led to more work being done here recently, and with satisfactory results. In the north-east a good deal of preparatory work is going on. The Cybele Company is making preparations for its pumping plant; a new company, the Purdue, is taking over the old Enterprise ground near Gladstone; and the Empress Co. is starting work with a view of developing the contact formation above the Esk dam on the Ringarooma.

The past year was high-water mark in the history of the industry in Tasmania, and the new year has begun with every likelihood of maintaining the high figures now reached.

With a view of more effectively making known what is transpiring in connection with the various properties, whether established mines or prospective propositions, mining and legal managers are requested to forward to the Government Geologist, Launceston, progress reports of work done and prospects, as well as prospectuses and reports of new syndicates and companies.

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

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern .....	788	2	790
North-Eastern .....	822	120	942
Eastern .....	603	67	670
North-Western .....	535	...	535
Western .....	4196	...	4196
Total .....	6914	189	7133

Value of mineral output per man employed :—£84 3s. 11d.

Dividends paid by Mining Companies during the quarter ending 31st December, 1906 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines—						
Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Co., Ltd.	195,000	0	0			
Mount Lyell Blocks Mining Co., Ltd ...	7500	0	0			
	<hr/>			202,500	0	0
From Gold Mines .....	Nil					
From Tin Mines :—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered .....	9000	0	0			
Pioneer T.M. Co., Ltd. ....	8775	0	0			
New Brothers' Home No. 1 T.M. Co., N.L. ....	4500	0	0			
Wilberforce Pump Co., No. 1, N.L. ....	300	0	0			
Briseis Tin Mines, Ltd. ....	22,500	0	0			
New Ruby Flat T.M. Co., N.L. ....	1921	0	0			
Fancy Creek Tin Sluicing Syndicate, N.L.	225	0	0			
	<hr/>			47,221	0	0
From Silver Mines :—						
Zeehan-Montana Mine, Ltd. ....	8000	0	0			
Magnet Silver Mining Co., N.L. ....	2000	0	0			
North Mt. Farrell Mining Co., N.L. ....	1718	0	0			
	<hr/>			11,718	0	0
Total .....	...			£261,439	0	0
				<hr/> <hr/>		