

MININD1908_2

THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA.

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1908.

COMPILED BY

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SECRETARY FOR MINES.

BY ORDER OF

THE HONOURABLE D. C. URQUHART,

MINISTER FOR MINES.



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART.

1908



PROGRESS OF THE
MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1908.

Hobart, 6th August, 1908.

The following table shows, as far as can be ascertained, the quantities and values of Metals and Minerals raised during the quarter ending 30th June, 1908, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1908:—

	During the Quarter ending 30th June, 1908.		During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
* Gold won ozs.	15,428·017	65,534	16,739·300	71,104
Silver-lead Ore produced tons	5060·48	38,536	17,817·71	115,633
† Blister Copper produced ..	2190	143,089	2117	144,956
Copper Ore and Copper produced..... ..	489	2095	44	684
Tin Ore produced..... ..	1095·5	101,626	1045·95	97,940
Iron Ore raised..... ..	800	400	1000	500
Coal raised..... ..	16,876	14,345	14,182	12,055
Wolfram Ore produced... ..	35	18	2·95	186
Bismuth..... ..	50	60	15	30
...		365,703		443,088

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

GOLD.

During the past quarter, 8581 ozs. of gold were obtained from quartz, 234·87 ozs. from alluvial, 2343 ozs. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, 4308 ozs. from blister copper from the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, and 144 ozs. from the silver-lead bullion from the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works, Zeehan, valued at £65,534.

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 1907, and the previous quarter ending 31st March, 1908:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1908.						Totals corresponding Quarter, 1907.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1908.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.	TOTAL.		
	ozs.	o.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.		
Beaconsfield	7050	...	1967	...	...	9017	9312·5	8801·45
Mathinna ...	1356	...	128	...	...	1484	730	1080
Mt. Victoria	} 43	119·87	...	...	...	162·87	136·75	157·97
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron								
New Burns								
Creek ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	...
Lefroy	132	...	248	...	...	380	80·5	228·4
Lisle	} ...	55	...	...	...	55	48	48
Golconda ...								
West Coast.	...	60	...	4308	144	4512	5721·75	6525·5
TOTALS	8581	234·87	2343	4308	144	15,610·87	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1907.....	7218	237	2918·5	4119	1584	...	16,076·5	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Mar., 1908.....	7924	144·47	2251·85	5446	1075	...	...	16,841·32

Value £65,534 ; equal to 15,428·017 ozs. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced. ozs.	Men employed.
Tasmania Mine	8328	556
Tasmanian Tailings Syndicate...	689	16
Others.....	...	22
Total.....	<u>9017</u>	<u>594</u>

Tasmania Mine.—Eighteen thousand nine hundred and eighty-four tons of quartz crushed, and 8328 ozs. gold obtained (by amalgamation and chlorination), which makes a total of 723,819 tons quartz crushed, and 711,617 ozs. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

Mr. Harold Evers, agent, reports:—During the past quarter the lode was cut in the north sections at the 400-foot level, and driving has been continued east on the lode.

LIFROY.—The quarter's statistics are as follow:—

	Gold produced. ozs.	Men employed.
New Pinafore	59	5
Creek Cyanide	158	15
Wilson's Cyanide	31	7
Kitto's Chum Syn	88	8
G. Digney	44	2
Prospectors and others.....	—	20
Totals.....	<u>380</u>	<u>57</u>

The Kitto's Chum reef is going to be worked by a company. It is a parallel reef a few hundred feet north of the Chums' reef. The recent crushing is promising. Two other reefs have been discovered on the property.

LISLE, GOLCONDA, &C.—Fifty-five ozs. of gold have been won from these fields. Forty-seven men have been employed.

At present nearly a couple of dozen men are at work on the alluvial diggings at Lisle. This was the largest alluvial field in Tasmania. It was discovered at the close of 1878, and early in 1879 a rush took place. Eventually about 2500 men were here. Many estimates of the total quantity of gold obtained have been made, the most conservative being half a million pounds worth. From information gathered from the most trustworthy sources there is reason to believe that this estimate may be doubled, and that some 10 tons of alluvial gold have been won from the terraces and creeks of Lisle. Singularly enough, the source of the metal has remained undiscovered, though it certainly must lie within the

basin formed by the surrounding hills. The valley has a floor of soft granite bed-rock, which extends from 300 to 500 feet up the slopes of the hills, when it junctions with the older sandstones, which are, for the most part, intensely metamorphosed. No gold-bearing quartz-reefs have been discovered, either in the granite or the sandstone. Barren quartz veins occur in the latter, and plenty of valueless quartz in loose angular stones can be seen in the workings, but auriferous quartz is absent. The hill slopes are covered with a heavy overburden of detritus, which hides the bed-rock, and makes prospecting for reefs extremely difficult. The gold is, as a rule, fine; but some rough gold has been found on the terraces, and small nuggets from 1 to 2 dwts. have been obtained, the largest known being 15 dwts. A good deal of the ground has been worked over again, but much is still untried. While over 20 men are making a living the field cannot be described as being worked out. The Tasmanian Consols Company, Limited, has recently put down bores in the western part of the valley, and is, it is said, contemplating dredging operations. But the permanency of the field as a whole may be said to depend upon the discovery of the formations which shed the large quantities of gold which were won here 30 years ago.

MT. VICTORIA.—Forty-three ozs. were obtained from quartz by six men.

Alluvial Gold and Dredging Companies.—Gold has been obtained by the following companies in streaming tin:—

	Standard Gold.
	ozs.
Briseis.....	24·52
New Brothers' Home.....	11·60
South Mount Cameron	19
Ringarooma Dredge	47
Dorset Dredge.....	11
Gladstone Dredge.....	6·75
Total	119·87

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

	Quartz crushed.	Sand treated.	Gold produced.	Men.
	tons.	tons.	ozs.	
New Golden Gate	352	1600	202	36
Tasmanian Consols.....	2429	700	1219	78
Scott and Pickett	60	...	9	6
Golden Horseshoe.....	48	...	24	7
Miner's Dream	27	...	26	3
Sunbeam.....	12	...	4	2
Totals	2928	2300	1484	132

WEST COAST.—Mr. Inspector Curtain reports:—

King River P.A. (Mr. Charles Proctor, representative).—A pumping plant, driven by a small oil-engine, has been installed, and preparations made to resume sinking. Two men were employed.

Mr. F. O. Henry reports the purchase of 6 ozs. of alluvial from five men.

Mr. Mark Langdon reports the blazing and partly clearing of a track to connect with that coming from Zeehan, and it is hoped sufficient funds will be available to make this route serviceable for traffic and exploration between these two important centres.

TIN.

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

	Ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese
Northern and Southern Division	25	36	...
North-Eastern Division.....	693·45	687	51
Eastern Division.....	85·70	271	38
Western Division.....	38·65	127	...
North-Western Division.....	252·70	385	...
Totals.....	<u>1095·50</u>	<u>1506</u>	<u>84</u>

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	tons.	Men employed.
Mount Bischoff	228	292
Mt. Bischoff Extended	21·75	43
Waratah Alluvial.....	...	5
Wombat Mine	1·20	3
Curtain-Cleveland	·28	2
Others	1·47	40
Totals.....	<u>252·70</u>	<u>385</u>

Mount Bischoff Company.—The working costs for the half-year just ended are 5s. 7·566d., as against 5s. 3·773d. for the previous half-year, an increase of 3·806d., this being principally accounted for by the money expended in prospecting and developmental

work—an expenditure which has given a good return. The following are the details of the costs:—

	s.	d.
Mining, including new works, stores, etc.	2	2·521
Filling, hauling, and emptying trucks	0	4·123
Milling and concentration, including maintenance and ore bagging	1	1·202
Plant account	0	6·803
Prospecting and developmental work	0	8·575
Electric running	0	1·09
Surveying	0	0·827
Stores and sundries (n.e.i.)	0	1·954
Management and supervision	0	3·652
	<u>5</u>	<u>7·566</u>

Mt. Bischoff Extended.—Mr. W. Gullock, manager, reports:—
Mine workings opening up very satisfactorily. Started lower-level adit to cut lode at 1000 feet of driving. Present progress of driving, 150 feet per month. Expect to have new battery plant in full working order at the end of July. Re-let alluvial deposits to Thorne Brothers. Treated 500 yards for 10 cwt. tin oxide.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Bell's Hill	·90	6	...
New Hope	·50	3	...
Others	1·70	20	...
Totals	<u>3·1</u>	<u>29</u>	...

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine	122	90	...
Pioneer Extended	12·80	22	...
New Aberfoyle	1·30	5	...
Argus Tin Mine.....	7	18	...
South Mt. Cameron	23·65	45	...
Ringarooma Dredge	21	16	...
Dorset	17	23	...
Mussel Roe	·45	3	...
Gladstone Dredge	4	16	...
White Rock.....	2·60	5	...
Scotia	2·70	3	...
Purdue Tin Mine	14·05	30	...
Garibaldi	4·65	11	4
Other Claims	9·05	8	23
Totals	<u>242·25</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>27</u>

DERBY DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mines.....	257·45	109	...
New Brothers' Home, No. 1....	99·60	27	...
Briseis Extended	30	36	...
Other Derby Claims	6·85	69	22
Total.....	393·40	241	22

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine.....	16	45	...
New Ruby Flat	11	12	...
Other Claims	·6	5	2
Total	27·6	62	2

MOORINA DISTRICT:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Weld Tin Mine	8·40	12	...
Native Youth	3	7	...
Abbotsford	4·50	6	...
Mutual Hill.....	2·20	10	...
Main Creek	2·55	6	...
Other Moorina Claims	3·45	10	...
Total.....	24·10	51	...
Mount Stronach Tin Mine	3·0	9	...
<i>Total for North-Eastern Division</i>	<i>693·45</i>	<i>687</i>	<i>51</i>

EASTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>			
Fancy Creek Co.	·85	6	...
Weldborough	1·50	5	...
Cambria	2·75	7	...
Cream Creek.....	2·75	6	...
Chinese (Weldborough)...	3·00	...	30
Other Claims	8·85	16	...
Total	19·70	40	30

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

	Tin ore won.	Men employed.	
	Tons.	Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>			
Anchor Mine.....	35·50	110	...
Other Claims	5·85	33	2
Chinese Claims			
Total	41·35	143	2
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>			
McAuliffe & Party	1·40	3	...
A. Williams	1·60	7	1
J. C. Macmichael.....	1·35	5	...
Royal Ruby Co.	2·25	7	...
Deep Lead.....	·85	2	...
Others	·90	13	...
Total	8·35	37	1
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>			
Gipp's Creek.....	1·90	7	...
Story's Freehold	1·10	5	...
Mount Rex Co.....	·95	4	...
South Esk.....	1·30	4	...
C. W. Foster.....	5	10	...
Miners' Claims.....	4·05	15	...
Other Claims	2	6	...
Total	16·30	51	...
<i>Total for Eastern Division</i>	<u>85·70</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>33</u>

WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Emu Bay Railway (various claims)	<u>38·65</u>	<u>127</u>

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Shepherd and Murphy Mine.—Twenty-five tons tin ore concentrates were raised, and 36 men employed.

SILVER.

The quantity of silver-lead ore raised has been greatly restricted by the closing down of the Tasmanian Smelting Company's works during nearly the whole of the quarter.

The works were closed on the 8th April for an indefinite period, and it was stated at the time that the company had ceased operations for various reasons, one of which was the necessity for overhauling the plant; but when it became known that the com-

pany was in financial difficulties, and was refusing to take any ores from the principal mines, resulting in the closing down of the Hercules Mine, and necessitating the stacking of ores by other companies, great consternation prevailed among the breadwinners and storekeepers of the district. This was largely aggravated by the unfortunate catastrophe at the Colebrook Smelters, and the strike at the Magnet Mine, at Waratah; and, as a result, some 800 men were thrown out of employment.

The Tasmanian Smelting Company appealed to the Government for financial assistance, and a Bill is now before Parliament providing for a loan of £20,000 to the company upon very reasonable terms, and if passed it is hoped the company will be in a position to overcome present difficulties; and if the mines and Smelting Company can come to some mutual understanding regarding contracts for future supplies of ore which will allow a fair margin of profit to both, the future progress of the district should be assured.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ore in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st March is given below:—

	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Men
Zeehan Mines :				
Mount Zeehan, Tas.	galena	118	1819	256
Zeehan-Montana	„	1296	16,766	264
Zeehan-Western	galena, &c	210 ½	3100	90
„	carbonate of iron...	60 ½		
Zeehan-Queen	galena, &c.	7	76	6
Silver Queen Extended	„	12·25	94	9
Oonah	„	15	166	} 23
„	pyrites	400	500	
„	gossan	88	602	
Silver King	galena	34	269	6
Florence	„	36	557	93
New Mt. Zeehan	„	9·5	59	5
Tas. Smelting Co., Balstrup	„	—	—	8
Sylvester	„	12	57	6
Dundas Mines :				
Comet	galena & gossan....	272	143	12
Hercules	zinc-lead sulphide...	540	1600	70
Red Lead	„ .....	...	...	1
Rosebery Mines :				
Primrose	zinc-lead sulphide ...	...	...	8
Tasmanian Copper	„	400	1441	54
Mt. Farrell Mines :				
North Mt. Farrell	galena.....	1085	8560	70
Mackintosh Mine	„	19	249	3
Sundries :				
Tasmanian Smelting Co. ....	.....	.....	.....	300
Sundry Companies.....	.....	.....	.....	139
Prospectors, &c.....	.....	.....	.....	80
Total		4613·75	36,058	1503

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).—Mr. T. Vincent, manager, reports:—Owing to the closing down of the Tasmanian Smelters, only one parcel of ore was sold during the quarter, but about the usual quantity was mined and stacked.

Spray Mine.—Development has been continued on No. 1 lode at Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 levels, and the usual stoping operations have been performed on both the Nos. 1 and 3 lodes.

Queen Extended No. 2 Shaft.—No fresh developments have occurred in this mine.

Balstrup's No. 5 Shaft has been sunk to 157 feet, and the station is being excavated at No. 1 level 150 feet from the surface. Mill: The mill has been overhauled, and inclined haulage tramway and new hopper erected. This is expected to make a saving in concentration costs.

Britannia.—Two men employed surface prospecting. Found zinc-blende lode 2 feet wide, assaying 42 per cent. zinc; but no further work can be done without machinery.

Silver King.—Mr. W. Fisher, manager, reports:—Pepperd tributing just to the west of Strahan railway-line and on the main line of King lode is down 35 feet and driving north. The ore occurs in bunches. This tribute has changed hands.

Silver Queen Extended.—Mr. Charles Stephens, manager, reports:—Owing to the closing down of the local smelters 50 per cent. of the men employed ceased operations. The developments carried out were—driving, 42 feet; sinking, 3 feet; rising, 12 feet; stoping, 86 feet; total, 143 feet.

Florence.—Mr. F. K. Astell, manager, reports:—Owing to the temporary stoppage of the smelters our output is low. We have stacked ready for market 600 tons. Mine generally is looking well. Two drives from the 200-foot level, one going east for 300 feet to cut Flaherty's lode; the other started north about 250 feet should intersect Brampton's lode. It has been decided to sink the main shaft another 200 feet, which will make a total depth of 400 feet.

MT. READ DISTRICT.—*Hercules Gold and Silver Mining Company.*—Mr. Claude H. Moxon, manager, reports:—Practically for the whole of this quarter the mine has been closed down and all vigorous operations suspended owing to the closing down of the local smelters.

Tasmanian Copper Company.—Mr. G. Barker, manager, reports:—Very little work has been done for the quarter ending 30th June. No. 6 level: the lode in the north end is developing very satisfactorily, 28 feet wide, and no sign of hanging-wall. Main adit is in a distance of 980 feet; this work is stopped for the present.

Tasmanian Smelting Company.—Mr. H. Harris, manager, reports:—Ore bought during the quarter, 1209 tons, containing—208 tons lead, 30,326 ozs. silver, 189 ozs. gold. Exported 344 tons bullion, containing—53,746 ozs. silver, and 144 ozs. gold.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

Magnet Mine.—Mr. E. A. De Latour, general manager, reports:—416.73 tons of silver-lead ore were obtained of a gross value of £2298. Fifty-six men employed. Output was restricted owing to strike of miners.

Victorian Magnet.—Five men were employed.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Round Hill Mine.—Thirty tons were raised by seven men; value, £180.

COPPER.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—The ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated during the quarter ending 30th June were as follow:—

Ores and metal bearing fluxes treated at Reduction Works:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	67,691	5	2	15
North Lyell Mine ore	33,271	14	3	27
Purchased ore.....	58	16	1	27
	101,021	17	0	13
Metal-bearing fluxes:—				
North Lyell Mine.....	236	7	0	0
Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	623	13	0	6
	860	0	0	6
	101,881	17	0	19

Quantity and value of metal produced :—

Blister Copper, 2190 tons, containing —	£	s.	d.
Copper, 2162 tons, valued at	126,477	0	0
Silver, fine, 161,410 ozs., valued at	16,611	15	7
Gold, fine, 4308 ozs., valued at	18,309	0	0
Total.....	£161,397	15	7

Number of men employed :—

At the Company's Mt. Lyell Mine	338
" " North Lyell Mine.....	518
" " Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	9
" " Reduction Works.....	— 865
" " ... ..	... 1020
Railway Department—Mt. Lyell Railway	140
" " North Lyell Railway	17
	— 157
	<u>2042</u>

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company Group.—Inspector
Curtain reports :—

Iron Blow Mine.—The removal of pyrites and overburden constitute the chief operations that are prosecuted in these workings, an output of 1000 tons per day being attained from the lower benches, to which is being added "No. V.," whose exhaustion, it is stated, will terminate the present method (open cutting) of extraction.

North Lyell Mines.—Extractions continue from all levels down to the 1000-feet, which depth is being increased, the sump of the main shaft being 60 feet below the plat of the last-mentioned level.

Lyell Blocks.—This property is still idle, but the local representative states there is a probability of resuming work in the near future.

Lyell Consols.—Mr. John Carroll reports:—The main drive at No. 1 level has been extended 75 feet, partly cutting and timbering the chamber at this level, and centring the shaft so as to resume sinking. Operations were suspended in May, but it is expected the mine will be in full swing at the end of the present month. Twelve men were employed.

Crown and Lyell Extended Mines.—Mr. Madden, the local representative reports:—Operations will be resumed in both of these mines during the ensuing quarter.

Comstock Copper Company.—Mr. George A. Moore reports:—Fifty-four feet has been risen, 14 feet driven, and 441 feet bored by means of the diamond drill, with 12 workmen.

Tasman and Crown Extended.—Mr. Ed. Carter reports:—The north-east intermediate drive on the sulphide body from Holehan's winze has been advanced 40 feet, making a total length of 100 feet, with a width ranging from 8 to 30 feet of ore, whose chief constituent is galena that assays from 38 to 58 per cent. of lead and 20 to 36 ozs. of silver to the ton; in addition to which, prospecting and repairs continued in the No. 3 adit and its connections with the higher workings, the mine in the meantime being connected by a pack-track with the Mount Lyell Company's Queen River narrow-gauge railway. Thirteen men employed.

Duke Lyell.—Mr. Hine reports:—Efforts are being made to obtain capital for this proposition, but its proximity to the Mount Lyell Company appears to retard its success.

Darwin.—At the Thompson P.A. work has been suspended pending the half-yearly meeting that is to be held this month. The estimated distance to reach the lode has been driven without meeting any result, and an examination of the property by some qualified person is suggested before any further work is continued in the present direction. Two men were employed.

Mount Darwin Copper Syndicate.—Mr. W. H. Tylour reports:—Prospecting operations have been vigorously continued on these leases, where it has been found that the talc or sericitic schists, which, on the eastern slope of the range occur in well-defined zones, having a strike a few degrees west of north with a westerly underlie, are likely to be more productive than the chloritic quartzite schists in which chalcopyrite is so freely disseminated. A zone of talcose schist in contact with felsite porphyry is now being explored with most encouraging results. During the quarter bulk samples of three promising ore occurrences that have been located were sent to the Mount Lyell Company's reduction-works for treatment, and the assay results were as follows:—No. 1 (5 tons)—Cu, 4.66 per cent; Ag, 0.50 ozs. per ton; Au, trace. No. 2 (3 tons)—Cu, 6.57 per cent.; Ag, 1 oz. per ton; Au, 0.40 ozs. per ton. No. 3 (1½ tons)—Cu, 9.35 per cent.; Ag, 0.95 ozs. per ton; Au, 0.01 ozs. per ton.

There are strong evidences that the ore will persist in depth. The driving of a low-level adit will shortly be undertaken, which will enable the ground to be worked to 1000 feet in depth below the outcropping or without sinking. The ore is particularly clean and tractable, numerous analyses having failed to reveal any refractory constituents. Five men have been employed.

Mt. READ DISTRICT:—The Hercules Gold and Silver Mining Company obtained 129 tons of copper sulphides, valued at £25. The ore was only partially treated at the Colebrook smelters.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Burnie Copper Mines.—Output 360 tons, valued at £2070. Fifty men employed.

WOLFRAM.

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

	tons.	£	Men.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine.....	35	18	...

COAL.

The output this quarter was 14,182 tons, against 15,730 tons the previous quarter. The output of the respective collieries was as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Men employed.
* Cornwall Colliery	10,853	90
* Mt. Nicholas „	5329	62
Spreyton „	159	5
York Plains „	175	2
Woodbridge „	60	3
Mount Cygnet „	300	2
Total	16,876	164

* NOTE—The figures for these two Companies were transposed in last Quarter's Return. The correct figures were—
Cornwall, 8632 tons.
Mt. Nicholas, 4941 tons.

IRON.

The *Tasmanian Iron Company* at Penguin raised 800 tons of iron ore, with 12 men, valued at £400.

BISMUTH.

The *Shepherd and Murphy Company* obtained 10 cwt. of bismuth from its tin ore, valued at £60.

SCHEELITE.

This mineral has been discovered on the south coast of King Island, on a reward claim taken up in the names of A. T. Winterbottom and M. Parer. The lode is stated to be from 12 to 20 feet wide, the walls well defined, and there are 200 feet of backs. There is a plentiful supply of wood and water, and a good shipping port within half a mile. The lode is said to carry, in addition to scheelite, considerable quantities of molybdenum, bismuth, and tantalum.

A bulk assay of the ore, made at the British Flag Company's plant on the Fraser River has proved that 80 per cent. of the ore-contents can be saved in treatment.

The Government Geologist will probably visit the island in September, when an extensive examination of this and other deposits will be made and reported upon.

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending the 30th June, 1908:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	815	...	815
North-Eastern	693	51	744
Eastern	555	33	588
North-Western	446	...	446
Western	3723	...	3723
Total	6232	84	6316

Value of mineral output per man employed:—£57 18s.

Dividends paid by Mining Companies during the quarter ending 30th June, 1908:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines:—						
Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Co., Limited .....	...			105,000	0	0
From Gold Mines				Nil		
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered	9,000	0	0			
Pioneer Tin M. Co., Limited	7,078	0	0			
New Brothers' Home No. 1 T.M. Co., N.L.	3,000	0	0			
Briseis Tin Mines, Ltd.	15,000	0	0			
Montana Tin Prospecting Co.	240	0	0			
				<hr/>		
				34,318	0	0
From Silver Mines:—						
Zeehan-Montana Mine, Limited .....	...			4,000	0	0
				<hr/>		
Total				£143,318	0	0

JOHN VAIL,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.