

MININD 1911-1

THE PROGRESS OF
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY
OF
TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1911

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

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MINISTER FOR MINES



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1911



PROGRESS OF THE
MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA.

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1911.

Hobart, 5th May, 1911.

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, 1911, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1910:—

	During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1911.		During the Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1910.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
* Gold won oz.	8529·034	£ 36,220	9214·340	£ 39,140
Silver-lead Ore produced tons	9334·67	39,238	10,980·32	62,857
† Blister Copper produced ..	2180	140,042	1933	130,809
Copper Ore and Copper produced..... ..	569	6832	348	4400
Tin Ore produced..... ..	880·93	113,036	1005·83	118,013
Coal raised..... ..	11,072	5053‡	14,100	6463‡
Wolfram Ore produced... ..	13·82	1530	23·75	2655
Bismuth..... ..	4·525	1810	4·1	1640
Shale	400	200	364	214
...		343,970	...	366,191

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

† Value of gold contents deducted.

‡ Value at pit's mouth.

GOLD.

During the past quarter 3369 oz. of gold were obtained from quartz, 56·4 oz. from alluvial, 2251 oz. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, and 2873 oz. from blister copper from the Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company, Limited, valued at £36,229.

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 1910, and the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1910:—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 31st March, 1911.					TOTAL.	Totals corresponding Quarter, 1910.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1910.
	From Quartz.	Alluvia.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.			
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Beaconsfield	3079	...	2177	...	...	5256	6921·8	6050
Mathinna ...	290	...	17	...	...	307	283·5	427
Mt. Victoria	}	10·5	...	...	...	10·5	8·5	24
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron	}	...	57	...	...	57	220·5	144
Lefroy								
Lisle	}	32	...	...	...	32	20	86·5
Lilydale.....								
Golconda ...	}	13·9	...	2873	...	2886·9	3698·2	2538
West Coast.								
TOTALS	3369	56·4	2251	2873	...	8549·4	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1910.....	4883·5	31·7	2542·3	3695	...	...	11,152·5	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Dec., 1910.....	4328·5	162	2295	2484	...	...	...	9269·5

Value, £36,229; equal to 8529·034 oz. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced.	Men employed.
	oz.	
Tasmania Mine	5212	499
North Tasmania.....	44	6
Total.....	5256	505

Tasmania Mine.—Thirteen thousand five hundred and ninety-eight tons of quartz crushed, and 5212 oz. of gold obtained (by amalgamation and cyanide process), which makes a total of 892,808 tons quartz crushed, and 771,086 oz. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

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

	Gold produced.	Men employed.
	oz.	
Creek Cyanide	15·5	3
New Pinafore.....	41·5	6
Others .....	...	11
Total	<u>57·0</u>	<u>20</u>

LISLE, GOLCONDA, &C.—Thirty-two ounces of gold have been won from these fields. Twenty-eight men have been employed.

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

	Standard Gold.
	oz.
Dorset Dredge .....	...
S. Mt. Cameron T.M. Co. ....	...
Briseis Co.	10·5
Total	<u>10·5</u>

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

	Quartz crushed.	Sand treated.	Gold produced.	Men.
	tons.	tons.	oz.	
New Golden Gate	585	900	278	45
Golden Horseshoe.....	4	...	2	2
Others	49	...	27	8
Totals	<u>638</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>55</u>

WEST COAST.—Mr. Inspector Curtain reports :—

Gold.—Prospecting.—Mr. James Elliott reports that on his prospecting area in Specimen Creek, Lynchford, from the 80-foot level, an extra 75 feet has been driven, and 40 feet risen on payable stone. The same is well mineralised with copper pyrites, galena, and free gold. Two men employed.

At Gormanston a syndicate has been formed to prospect the head of the creek from which Jackson, McDowell, Root, and others have recently obtained some alluvial gold. They purpose driving about 100 feet to intersect a formation some 60 feet deeper. Two men employed.

Alluvial.—Mr. Charles L. C. Nicholson reports that he has purchased 13 oz. 18 dwt. 21 gr. of gold from Messrs. Jackson and Dennis McDowell, all of which was obtained from Linda.

TIN.

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

	Ore won. tons.	Value. £	Men employed.	
			Europeans.	Chinese.
Northern and Southern Division	10·90	1090	46	...
North-Eastern Division	418·43	55,736	553	65
Eastern Division	65·50	8384	306	34
North-Western Division	317·50	40,000	502	...
Western Division	68·60	7826	208	...
Totals.....	880·93	113,036	1615	99

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	Ore won. tons.	Men employed.
Mt. Bischoff	270	420
Mt. Bischoff Extended	41·55	75
Weir's Bischoff Surprise.....	1·95	4
Wombat	4	3
Totals.....	317·5	502

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine	169	90	...
Aberroe	2·33	5	...
South Mt. Cameron	6·50	38	...
Garibaldi.....	1·45	15	3
Other Claims	32·80	84	39
Totals.....	212·08	232	42

RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—

Bell's Hill.....	1·50	4	...
Red Bank.....	0·05	2	...
Federal	0·20	4	...
Montrose	0·05	1	...
Enterprise.....	0·10	2	...
Other Claims	1·00	9	1
Totals...	2·90	22	1

OF TASMANIA.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
DERBY DISTRICT:—			
Briseis Tin Mines.....	143	150	...
Clyde	1·35	3	...
Other Derby Claims	7·05	22	12
Totals	151·40	175	12

BRANXHOLM DISTRICT:—			
Arba Tin Mine.....	2·15	38	...
New Ruby Flat	14·00	16	...
Other Claims	5·45	16	8
Totals	21·60	70	8

MOORINA DISTRICT:—			
Wilberforce Pump Co.	8·00	8	...
Weld Tin Mine	12·00	12	...
Native Youth	2·00	8	...
New Banca.....	2·30	8	...
Other Moorina Claims	6·15	18	2
Totals	30·45	54	2
<i>Totals for North-Eastern Division</i>	418·43	553	65

EASTERN DIVISION.

<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Fancy Creek Co.	4·55	6	...
Bryce Bros.	1·25	7	...
Other Claims	16·00	54	34
Totals	21·80	67	34

<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>			
Anchor Mine	32·05	117	...
Emu Tribute	1·60	4	...
Totals	33·65	121	...

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>			
C. Miller	0·70	6	...
A. Williams	0·50	4	...
J. C. Macmichael	1·35	5	...
T. Budgeon.....	0·60	4	...
Others	0·95	11	...
Totals.....	4·10	30	..
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>			
Mt. Rex.....	0·90	11	...
Gipp's Creek.....	0·55	14	...
S. Esk	2·25	5	...
Foster.....	0·60	8	...
Roy's Hill.....	...	25	...
Storey's Creek	1·65	25	...
Totals.....	5·95	88	...
<i>Totals for Eastern Division</i>	<u>65·50</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>34</u>

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine ...	<u>10·9</u>	<u>46</u>

WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed. Europeans.
Boulder	17	27
Renison Bell	32·25	79
Montana Tin Syn.....	4·7	12
Stanley Reward	6·5	15
Others	8·15	75
Totals.....	<u>68·60</u>	<u>208</u>

Mr. Inspector Harrison reports on the tinfield of North Dundas as follows:—

Renison Bell Company.—Mr. Briggs, manager, has erected a large dam in the Argent Creek, and his battery of 10 heads is now in full swing, with abundance of crushing material available.

Montana Tin Syndicate.—The usual amount of sluicing is going on, with good returns. The forkings are being stacked for future treatment. I am informed that a strong company has taken an

option over the property, so we may hope to soon see it equipped with an up-to-date crushing plant and the present system of working dispensed with.

Boulder Tin Mine.—Mr. F. Flight, manager. The small battery of 5 heads is kept constantly going, with satisfactory results. A new plant is in course of erection, and should be ready to start in a few months' time. Power will be provided to drive 20 heads and dressing appliances. The mill will start when 10 heads are in position.

Penzance Mine.—Mr. Trivess Moore, manager. A good tram-line leading from the North-East Dundas tram to the foot of the Penzance hill, a distance of about 70 chains, has been constructed. An incline self-acting tram is laid up to the mine, and excavations are being taken out at the foot of the line where the mill is to be erected. Abundance of ore is in sight, and the manager speaks very highly of his prospects. He hopes to have the mine producing tin before the end of June.

A Melbourne company has taken an option over the Dreadnought Mine (Morton and Federal leases), comprising 234 acres. Its manager, Mr. Sturzaker, has proved the Dreadnought line of lode for a distance of 2600 feet in length, and fully 20 feet in width, with satisfactory results. This will probably turn out to be the leading mine of the district.

Brumby's Section (now known as the Renison Bell Central).—A Sydney company has taken an option over the property, and several lodes have been exposed by Mr. H. Evenden, who has been engaged as manager. Mr. Wright, the company's representative, expresses himself as highly satisfied with the result of the work done and prospects obtained. He has left for Sydney to consult with his colleagues as to the future working of the mine. There are numerous leases in the district, including Sligo's, Goodall's, Duncombe and Maddox's, Zeehan-Montana, and others, all of which are proved tin-bearing, and on which work is being carried on.

SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ore in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st March, 1911, is given below:—

<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Zeehan-Montana	galena	587	£10,390	150
Zeehan-Western	„	109	1492	30
Zeehan-Queen	„	10	132	3
Balstrup's	„ .....	...	...	3
Oonah (Bruce's Tribute) pyrites	... ..	1564	1564	40
South Comstock, Block 10	galena .....	...	...	20

	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Men.
<i>Dundas Mines :</i>				
Adelaide	galena	17·27	£278	10
Hercules	zinc-blende	1502·9	3745	44
West Comet	galena .....	...	...	10
Mt. Zeehan, Tas.	...	160	2892	32
Ring Valley	...	...	...	15
Mt. Read	...	...	...	...
<i>Rosebery Mines :</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	zinc-blende .....	...	...	6
Primrose	...	...	...	4
N. Tasmanian Copper	...	...	...	5
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines :</i>				
Mackintosh	galena	3	48	2
Mt. Farrell	„	14·5	239	4
N. Mt. Farrell	„	624	5250	114
<i>North Pieman :</i>				
Chester Mine	pyrites	3348	1214	64
<i>Mt. Lyell :</i>				
Tasman & Crown Lyell	...	...	...	8
<i>Sundries :</i>				
Dunkley Bros.	.....	...	...	103
Others	.....	...	...	5
	Total	<u>7939·67</u>	<u>£27,244</u>	<u>684</u>

Ring Valley Mine.—Mr. W. J. Moyle, manager, reports:—The underground shaft has been deepened to 133 feet below engine chamber (or adit level). During the term 50 tons of ore has been raised, comprising antimony, sulphide, and copper pyrites, and other associated minerals, which unfortunately are rather too complex for local market. However, the last few feet of sinking on the lode shows a decided improvement in the character of the ore, which is now almost free of the refractory minerals.

MT. FARRELL DISTRICT.—*North Mt. Farrell.*—Mr. L. C. H. Woodroffe, general manager, reports:—Three thousand two hundred and seventy tons of crude ore were mined during the quarter, and on treatment gave a return of 624 tons of marketable ore, value £5250. About one-half of the output was obtained from the bottom (No. 5) level, the remainder being furnished by the four upper adit levels, where a number of tribute parties are engaged in the extraction of the ore in the remaining arches and pillars and in the exploitation of branch veins in the old stopes and workings. A considerable amount of prospecting work is also being undertaken by tributors, with encouraging results. At the bottom level stoping is in progress on the No. 3 lode, and a fair tonnage of good quality ore is being won. The main drive on this lode is being extended north, and the lode is carrying a width of 3 to 5 feet of milling ore of a good grade. The widening and timbering

of the main drives and other work preparatory to stoping is in progress on the western (Nos. 1 and 2) lodes, where large reserves of ore are now developed.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Magnet Mine.....	1395	£11,994	197
Victorian Magnet .....	...	...	5
	<u>1395</u>	<u>£11,994</u>	<u>202</u>

COPPER.

Mt. Lyell Mine.—Mr. Robert Sticht, general manager, reports:—
The ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated during the quarter ending 31st March, 1911, were as follow:—

Ores and metal-bearing fluxes treated at Reduction Works:—

	Dry weight.			
	tons.	cwt.	qr.	lb.
Mt. Lyell Mine ore	60,027	8	3	21
North Lyell Mine ore	32,996	14	0	2
Purchased ore.....	45	17	3	5
Metal-bearing flux from North Lyell Mine	176	11	0	19
	<u>93,246</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>19</u>

Quantity and value of metal produced:—

Blister Copper, 2180 tons, containing—	£	s.	d.
Copper, 2154 tons, valued at	124,285	16	0
Silver, fine, 142,748 oz., valued at	15,755	16	3
Gold, fine, 2873 oz., valued at	12,210	5	0
Total.....	<u>£152,251</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>

Number of men employed:—

At the Company's Mt. Lyell Mine	357
" " North Lyell Mine.....	408
" " Lyell Tharsis Mine.....	4
" " Crotty.....	20
	<u>789</u>
" " Reduction Works.....	... 812
Railway Department—Mt. Lyell Railway	134
" " North Lyell Railway...	18
	<u>152</u>
Total.....	<u>1753</u>

Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company's Groups.

Mr. Inspector Curtain reports:—

The Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company's group continue extractions from the open-cut and underground workings at the Mt. Lyell Mine, while the daily tonnage from North Lyell is steadily increasing, the ratio of its quota and that of the lower grade sulphide ore being now more than half to one. The four lower levels of the lastmentioned mine contain the chief sources of supply, and being replete with substantial reserves augurs a continuance of the smelters' demand for a lengthened period. The last stope (41) opened at the 1100-foot level is assuming marked dimensions, and producing ore of equal quality to any yet mined on the property.

Mt. Lyell Blocks Mine.—Mr. Ferguson reports that the main shaft has been carried to a distance of 110 feet, that being the only work in progress at the present time. The suction rotary fan is giving good results for clearing the fumes out after firing, the men being able to resume work in from one to one and a half hour after firing out 10 holes heavily charged, whilst no smoke reaches the top of the shaft. One horse-power will drive it 1000 revolutions per minute. Twenty-three men employed.

Mt. Lyell Consols Copper Mines, No Liability.—Mr. John Wm. Carroll reports:—Operations for the quarter have been confined to diamond-drilling by the Goldfields Diamond-drilling Company, a depth of 1100 feet being attained with eight men.

Mt. Lyell-Comstock Company.—Mr. C. E. Coote reports that the only work performed during the quarter was the breaking and exporting of 6 tons of ore, valued at £12, for experimenting purposes. Six men employed (for a week).

Darwin Prospecting Syndicate.—Mr. James Souter reports:—An extra 60 feet of driving and crosscutting has been accomplished, during which 20 inches of galena, iron pyrites, and quartz have been passed through, the face being at present in mineralised schist. Two men intermittently employed.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	£	Men employed.
Murray's Reward	563	6820	50
Mt. Jasper .....	...	...	7
F.G.D. ....	...	...	6
Others (estimated) .....	...	...	50
Totals	<u>563</u>	<u>6820</u>	<u>113</u>

EASTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	£	Men employed.
Scamander Copper Mine	15

COAL.

The output this quarter was 11,072 tons, against 14,100 tons the previous quarter. The output of the respective collieries was as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Value at mine.	Men employed.
Cornwall Colliery	5135	£2311	75
Mt. Nicholas "	5365	2414	78
Jubilee "	20	...	3
Spreyton "	249	170	7
York Plains "	147	88	2
Mount Cygnet " .....	...	...	...
Wallsend " .....	...	...	...
Ida Bay "	60	30	4
Tasma "	96	40	4
Totals	<u>11,072</u>	<u>£5053</u>	<u>173</u>

SHALE.

The output for the quarter was:—

	Tons.	Value.	Men employed.
Tasmanian Shale and Oil Mine...	400	£ 200	29
Latrobe Shale and Oil Mine .....	...	...	14
Totals.....	<u>400</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>43</u>

BISMUTH.

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

	Tons.	£	Men.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine	4.5	1800	...
Lady Barron Mine	0.025	10	...
Totals	<u>4.525</u>	<u>1810</u>	<u>...</u>

WOLFRAM.

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

	Tons.	£	Men.
Avoca Mines.....	7.5	841	...
Shepherd and Murphy Mine	5.9	649	...
Lady Barron Mine	0.42	40	4
Totals	<u>13.82</u>	<u>1530</u>	<u>4</u>

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending 31st March, 1911:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern	663	...	663
North-Eastern	553	65	618
Eastern	532	34	566
North-Western	717	...	717
Western	2690	...	2690
Total	5151	99	5254

Value of mineral output per man:—£65 9s. 4'37d.

Dividends paid by mining companies during the quarter ending 31st March, 1911:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines	Nil					
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered	10,800	0	0			
Pioneer T.M. Co., Ltd.....	8062	0	0			
New Brothers' Home, No. 1 T.M. Co., N.L.	1000	0	0			
New Ruby Flat T.M. Co., N.L.	609	0	0			
Aberroe T.M. Co., N.L.....	346	0	0			
S. and M. T.M. Co., N.L.	1250	0	0			
				22,067	0	0
From Silver Mines:—						
Zeehan Montana Mine, Ltd.....	2000	0	0			
				2000	0	0
From Coal Mines:—						
Cornwall Coal Company	1359	0	0			
				1359	0	0
Total .....	...			£25,426	0	0