

MININD1912-1

THE PROGRESS OF  
THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

OF

TASMANIA

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH, 1912

COMPILED BY

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BY ORDER OF

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MINISTER FOR MINES



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1912



PROGRESS OF THE  
**MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA**  
 FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 1912.

Hobart, 8th May, 1912.

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, 1912, as compared with the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1911:—

	During the Quarter ending 31st March, 1912.		During the Quarter ending 31st Dec. 1911.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Gold won .....	oz. 7551·568	32,077	5108·852	21,701
Silver-lead Ore produced	tons 21,572·96	68,153	21,144·125	85,754
† Blister Copper produced	„ 1500	111,665	...	...
Copper Ore and Copper produced.....	„ 322	1971	463	3241
Tin Ore produced.....	„ 657·93	98,917	1036·82	138,275
Coal raised.....	„ 11,426	5287‡	13,410	6143‡
Wolfram Ore produced...	„ 12·14	13·0	19·84	2183
Bismuth .....	„ 2·54	996	3·09	1236
Osmiridium .....	oz. 409	2967	233·38	1635
	...	323,403	...	260,168

\* 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 2781·5 oz. gold were obtained from quartz, 50·5 oz. from alluvial, 2868 oz. by means of the cyanide and chlorination processes, and 1858 oz. from blister copper from the Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company Limited, valued at £32,077.

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 1911, and the previous quarter ending 31st December, 1911 :—

	Gold obtained during the Quarter ending 31st March 1912.					TOTAL.	Totals corresponding Quarter, 1911.	Totals for Quarter ending 31st Decr., 1911.
	From Quartz.	Alluvial.	Cyanide & chlorination.	From Blister Copper.	From Silver-lead Bullion.			
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	
Beaconsfield	2766	..	2724	...	...	5490	5256	4842
Mathinna ...	15·5	...	144	...	...	159·5	307	81·65
Mt. Victoria	}	8·5	...	...	...	8·5	10·5	96·86
Warrentinna								
Mt. Cameron	}	26	...	...	...	26	32	32
Lefroy .....								
Lisle .....	}	16	...	1858	...	1874	2886·9	76·65
Lilydale.....								
Golconda ...	}	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Coast.								
TOTALS	2781·5	50·5	2868	1858	...	7558	...	...
Totals corresponding Quarter, 1911.....	3369	56·4	2251	2873	...	...	8549·4	...
Totals for Quarter ending 31st Decr., 1911.....	3019·05	178·46	1931·65	...	...	...	...	5129·16

Value, £32,077; equal to 7551·568 oz. fine gold.

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

	Gold produced.	Men employed.
	oz	
Tasmania Mine .....	5490	463

*Tasmania Mine.*—Twelve thousand six hundred and sixty-eight tons of quartz crushed, and 5490 oz. of gold obtained (by amalgamation and cyanide process), which makes a total of 942,172 tons quartz crushed, and 792,690 oz. gold obtained since the mine was first started.

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

	Gold produced. oz.	Men employed.
Creek Cyanide .....	}	12
New Pinafore .....		
Others .....		
Total .....	...	12

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

ALBERTON.—One ounce was obtained from this district by one man.

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

	Standard Gold. oz.
South Mt. Cameron Dredge .....	1·5
S. Mt. Cameron T.M. Co. ....	6
Briseis Co. ....	...
Total .....	7·5

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

	Quartz crushed. tons.	Sand treated. tons.	Gold produced. oz.	Men.
New Golden Gate .....	...	130	144	4
Others .....	8	...	15·5	9
Totals.....	8	130	159·5	13

WEST COAST.—Inspector Curtain, Queenstown, reports :—At Linda the McDowell Prospecting Association has suspended operations, pending the reconstruction of the company with a view of obtaining more capital for its exploitation. At Harvey's Creek, Mr. Davie, with a mate, has continued prospecting on the old Coupon section, but up to the present has discovered nothing of importance. Messrs. Nicholson and Ellison, gold buyers in Queenstown and Linda, report the purchase of 16 ounces, valued at £56, from 5 men, but in addition to these there are others fossicking about Owen, Howard's Plains, Lynchford, and the upper branches of the Queen River; that would bring the total up to a dozen men.

*Elliott Prospecting Association, Lynchford.*—Mr. James Elliott reports:—Work was started on the old Princess Company's lease in January. The work consists of cleaning out the main tunnel, and removing old timber for three hundred feet at this point. A small chamber was cut and a winze sunk 40 feet. The reef came in on the north side of the shaft, 25 feet down, but was small and poor. At the bottom of the winze an old drive put in by the Princess Company was met with. It was cleaned up and repaired for a distance of 75 feet. The reef shews all along till the 75 feet point is reached, where it breaks off. Fifteen feet east from this point a drive was put out north for 16 feet. In this drive there is a fine body of stone about 4 feet wide, in which a few colours of gold may be seen. Have driven N.W. 16 feet on this make of stone, where the reef is again broken.

## 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	12·08	1640	39	...
North-Eastern Division .....	285·95	39,368	525	62
Eastern Division .....	56·30	7366	261	32
North-Western Division .....	256·6	44,858	503	...
Western Division .....	47	5685	164	...
Totals ....	657·93	98,917	1492	94

## NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The output has been as under:—

	Ore won. tons.	Men employed.
		Europeans.
Mt. Bischoff .....	210	420
Mt. Bischoff Extended .....	45·6	75
Weir's Bischoff Surprise.....	...	5
Wombat .....	1	3
Totals.....	256·6	503

## NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

PIONEER AND GLADSTONE DISTRICTS:—

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Pioneer Tin Mine .....	66	60	...
Aberroe .....	1·6	7	...
South Mt. Cameron .....	14·5	38	...
Garibaldi.....	1·35	14	...
South Mt. Cameron Dredge...	2·75	18	...
Other Claims .....	27·20	66	37
Totals.....	113·4	203	37

**RINGAROOMA DISTRICT:—**

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Federal .....	0·75	4	...
Bell's Hill.....	1·25	3	...
Other Claims .....	1·8	15	...
Totals.....	3·8	22	...

**DERBY DISTRICT:—**

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Briseis Tin Mines.....	135	145	...
Clyde .....	·5	5	...
Waverley .....	1·4	10	...
Other Derby Claims .....	2·75	15	14
Totals .....	139·65	175	14

**BRANKHOLM DISTRICT:—**

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Arba Tin Mine .....	17·35	42	...
New Ruby Flat .....	...	24	...
Other Claims .....	2·8	16	11
Totals .....	20·15	82	11

**MOORINA DISTRICT:—**

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Wilberforce Pump Co.....	2·60	9	...
Weld Tin Mine .....	2	12	...
Native Youth .....	2·60	7	...
Other Moorina Claims .....	1·30	15	...
Totals .....	8·5	43	...
Straits Islands.....	·45	...	...
<i>Totals for North-Eastern Division .....</i>	<i>285·95</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>62</i>

**EASTERN DIVISION.**

	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
<i>Weldborough Mines.</i>			
Fancy Creek Co. ....	1·55	3	...
Other Claims .....	13·50	37	30
Totals.....	15·05	40	30

## THE MINERAL INDUSTRY

<i>Lottah and Blue Tier Mines.</i>	Tin ore won. tons.	Men employed.	
		Europeans.	Chinese.
Anchor Mine .....	25·80	111	...
Others .....	·5	4	2
Totals.....	26·3	115	2
<i>St. Helens Mines.</i>			
J. M'Auliff .....	2	3	...
A. Williams .....	·55	4	...
J. C. Macmichael .....	·75	3	...
J. Budgeon .....	1·05	5	...
J. Smith .....	·05	1	...
C. Miller .....	·65	4	...
Others .....	5·75	18	...
Totals.....	10·8	38	..
<i>Avoca Mines.</i>			
Rex Hill .....	·70	4	...
Gipp's Creek.....	·50	9	...
S. Esk .....	1·75	5	...
Foster.....	...	6	...
New Roy's Hill .....	·20	8	...
Story's Creek.....	1	36	...
Totals .....	4·15	68	...
<i>Totals for Eastern Division</i>	56·3	261	32

## NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Shepherd and Murphy Mine...	Tin ore won.	Men employed.
	tons.	Europeans.
	12·08	39

## WESTERN DIVISION.

Boulder .....	Tin ore won.	Men employed.
	tons.	Europeans.
	7	14
Renison Bell .....	27	64
Montana Tin Syn.....	4·6	12
Penzance .....	...	12
Others.....	8·4	62
Totals .....	47·	164

## SILVER.

WEST COAST.—The registered output of silver ore in the Western Division for the quarter ending 31st March, 1912, is given below:—

<i>Zeehan Mines:</i>	Ore.	Tons.	Value.	Mens.
Zeehan-Montana	galena .....	380·86	£7408	114
Zeehan-Western	„ .....	116·64	2166	33
Ditto	gossan .....	...	...	...
Zeehan-Queen	galena .....	27	218	7
Mt. Zeehan (Tas.)	„ .....	73	990	19
Ditto	flux .....	119	162	..
Oonah	pyrites .....	...	...	5
South Comstock				
Block 10	galena .....	92	1050	10
Tasmanian Smelting				
Co.'s Sections	„ .....	...	...	3
Silver Queen Extd.	„ .....	177·86	105	7
<i>Dundas Mines:</i>				
N. Jupiter	„ .....	...	...	4
Adelaide	galena .....	120	1624	36
Herules	zinc-blende .....	1083	2680	110
Ditto	sulphide.....	6758	21,057	...
Kapi	galena .....	...	...	2
Zeehan-Dundas	„ .....	...	...	34
Ring Valley	fahl ore .....	...	...	9
Comet	gossan .....	5854·4	4299	37
Ditto	chlorides.....	...	...	...
<i>Rosebery Mines:</i>				
Tasmanian Copper	„ .....	...	...	...
Primrose	sulphide .....	2410	8688	25
Metals Extraction Co.	„ .....	...	...	40
<i>Mt. Farrell Mines:</i>				
N. Mt. Farrell	galena .....	491·6	5068	95
<i>North Pieman:</i>				
Chester Mine	pyrites .....	2647	1109	38
<i>Mt. Lyell:</i>				
Tasman & Crown Lyell Ext....	.....	...	...	20
<i>Sundries:</i>				
Dunkley Bros. ....	.....	...	...	80
Tasmanian Smelting Co. ....	.....	...	...	290
Others .....	.....	...	...	2
Total .....		20,350·36	£56,624	1020

DUNDAS DISTRICT.—*Adelaide Mine.*—Mr. G. Ahern, manager, reports:—This mine is in full swing again; the breakage of the pump delayed it three weeks. West crosscut at No. 4 level is in very hard ground, and progress is slow. I expect to get a change here inside 20 feet. When the North drive at No. 4 is advanced another 50 feet I intend crosscutting east from that point to the Anderson workings.

*Comet Mine.*—Mr. G. Ahern, manager, reports:—This mine still shows large reserves of fair grade fluxing material. The lower level is being pushed ahead, and will soon be under the southern open cut.\*

*Zeehan and Dundas Mine.*—Mr. T. H. Vincent, manager, reports:—Pumping plant and capstan engine have been installed, mine unwatered, and sinking resumed. The shaft is now down to 62 feet below No. 1 level, or 145½ feet from the surface. Good progress is being made, and the water is under easy control.

MT. READ DISTRICT.—*Hercules Mine.*—Mr. C. H. Moxon, manager, reports:—During the quarter ore extraction has been continuous, and the contract tonnages desired well maintained; 6758 tons of lead sulphide ore were delivered to the Smelting Company's works at Zeehan, and 1083 tons of zinc blende were exported to Europe. The chief supplies were drawn from the E lode stopes, where substantial quantities yet remain. The other ore bodies, with the exception of Dawson's workings, have not been utilised as much as usual. Development work has been carried on, but not nearly to the extent desirable, and consisted chiefly of the further exploitation of the known ore bodies. No new discovery of any importance was met with.

*Tasmanian Smelting Company.*—Mr. H. Harris, manager, reports:—Ore bought during the quarter, 10,626 tons, containing 1140 tons lead, 149,942 oz. silver, 1532 oz. gold.

#### NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Round Hill Mine .....	74·6	£919	8

MT. LYELL DISTRICT.—*Tasman and Crown Lyell Extended.*—Inspector Curtain reports:—Underground work continues on the zinc galena deposit. A concentrating plant, consisting of a rock-crusher, rolls, jigs, 10-head mortar battery, classifying tanks, and concentrating tables, has been erected, with an average of 20 men.

#### NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	Value.	Men.
Magnet Mine.....	1148	£10,610	193
Victorian Magnet .....	...	...	6
	<u>1148</u>	<u>£10,610</u>	<u>199</u>



At Lake Margaret more than passing attention has been paid to the inception and installation of the proposed hydro-electric scheme, which if completed must tend to reduce costs and materially assist the future prosperity of this proprietary.

*Lyell Blocks Mine.*—The main shaft has attained a depth of 395 feet below the Consols or lowest water level since this work was started, with 24 men.

*Darwin.*—Mr. James Souter advises that 32 feet of driving and cross-cutting have been added to their last work on the Darwin syndicate sections in addition to surface prospecting with two men.

## NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

	Tons.	£	Men employed.
Murray's Reward .....	322	1971	30
Others (estimated) .....	...	...	80
Totals .....	<u>322</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>110</u>

## COAL.

The output this quarter was 11,426 tons, against 13,410 tons the previous quarter. The output of the respective collieries was as follows:—

Colliery.	Tons raised.	Value at mine.	Men employed.
		£	
Cornwall Colliery .....	5631	2534	65
Mt. Nicholas " .....	5187	2334	73
Enterprise " .....	25	15	2
Spreyton " .....	237	165	6
York Plains " .....	196	127	2
Illamatha " .....	...	...	...
Catamaran " .....	150	112	6
Mount Cygnet " .....	...	...	...
Ida Bay " .....	...	...	...
Totals .....	<u>11,426</u>	<u>£5287</u>	<u>154</u>

## BISMUTH.

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

	Tons.	£	Men.
Shepherd and Murphy Mine .....	<u>2.54</u>	<u>996</u>	<u>...</u>

## WOLFRAM.

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

	Tons.	£	Men.
Avoca Mines.....	5.35	631	...
Shepherd and Murphy Mine.....	6.04	664	...
Lady Barron Mine .....	0.75	75	3
Totals .....	<u>12.14</u>	<u>1370</u>	<u>3</u>

## OSMIRIDIUM.

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

	ozs.	£	Men.
Savage River District .....	<u>409</u>	<u>2967</u>	<u>100</u>

The following return shows the average number of men employed in or about the mines during the quarter ending 31st March, 1912:—

District.	European.	Chinese.	Total.
Northern and Southern .....	549	...	549
North-Eastern .....	526	62	588
Eastern .....	414	32	446
North-Western .....	912	...	912
Western .....	2604	...	2604
Total .....	<u>5005</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>5099</u>

Value of mineral output per man:—£63 8s. 5.949d.

Dividends paid by mining companies during quarter ending 31st March, 1912:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From Copper Mines:—						
Mt. Lyell Mining & Railway Co., Ltd. ....	...			...		
From Tin Mines:—						
Bischoff T.M. Co., Registered .....	18,000	0	0			
Pioneer T.M. Co., Ltd. ....	4031	0	0			
S. & M. Syndicate .....	3750	0	0			
Total .....				<u>£25,781</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

## APPENDIX I.

## CLOTHIER'S QUARRY.

The quarry, a couple of miles west of Claremont station, is being actively worked, and a regular output of lime established. The quality of the product ensures a good demand for it by the city builders.

A north and south face has been opened along the base of Mt. Faulkner, and is now being worked at a height of about 25 feet, in stone which is dipping west into the hillside at a gentle angle. The face is separated into two quarries by a fault which has displaced the beds on either side for a vertical distance of about 40 feet. The beds, which were first worked in the lower and northern quarry, are now being worked in the upper and southern one. The available face will increase in height as the workings are carried into the hill, when the successive benches will be opened up. The underlay of the strata into the hill is a slight disadvantage, but it is not anticipated that there will be a troublesome accumulation of water. A band about 3 feet thick, consisting of waste stone of a clayey nature, runs horizontally through the entire quarry, and narrower bands of similar material occur along the horizontal joints which separate the indifferent beds or "tiers," as they are called. This stuff is rejected in working.

Local experience indicates that the stone becomes more argillaceous, as it extends into the hill, but the work seems as yet on too limited a scale to enable any safe opinion on this point to be arrived at.

None of the lime has been sold yet for manurial purposes, and perhaps the soil in the neighbourhood is already calcareous without further additions, but there must be a good deal of land in this part of the country which would benefit by lime dressing. The stone which is being worked makes lime of excellent quality. It is full of fossil shells.

The marine remains noticed in the limestone were *protoretpora ampla*, *fenestellae* of various species, *stenopora*, a spinose *productus*, *spirifera Tasmaniensis*, *spirifera stokesii*, *spirifera duodecimeostata* *aviculopecten limaeformis*, *eurydesma cordatum*.

Mr. R. M. Johnston, Government Statistician, has assisted in the specific determinations. A little organically precipitated pyrite is noticeable here and there, and in the unworked part of the quarry the infiltrations of iron-bearing solutions from the surface, following the course of vertical joints, has resulted in the deposition of limonite. A little mild excitement has been caused by the discovery of some copper ore (bornite) in the lower quarry, and hopes were entertained that a metalliferous vein might be found.

After close examination of the site of the discovery, I could come to no other conclusion than that the ore found was an included boulder.

The matrix in which it occurred is the lower marine limestone of the perma-carboniferous system. This limestone is known to characteristically contain stones foreign to the immediate locality, assumed to have been transported by ice, and as a matter of fact, at Clothier's quarry it frequently carries stones of quartz, porphyry, and granite. Stones of copper ore therefore (a mineral known to occur at the Humboldt mine beyond Tyenna) may also very well exist in the rock without, however, giving any value to it as a source of copper.

W. H. TWELVETREES, Government Geologist.

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#### APPENDIX II.

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*Railton-Latrobe Shale Oil Company, No Liability.*—This proposition is now being placed on the market. The property is on the west bank of the Mersey River near Railton, and comprises 1045 acres held under mining lease. Previous optionees have expended a considerable sum of money in carrying out boring tests with a view of determining the limits of the shale seam on the property, and their manager (Mr. R. W. Powell, Junior) reports that he estimates the possible tonnage of Tasmanite shale as disclosed by the bores at 1,963,197 tons. The present vendor has had a dozen men at work on the leases near the point selected for the first mining operations. Surveys have been carried out, and about 80,000 brick for retorts and other buildings have been made from the clay derived from the shale capping, and things are in a forward state for starting mine work as soon as the new company is floated. Some shallow excavations have shown the shale at this spot to be of the usual quality, and the seam to have the same characteristics as prevail throughout the shale area. The market products are intended to embrace fuel, oil, petrol, and turps substitute, and it is anticipated that the shale residue after retorting will be disposable as manure, &c. Firewood and mine timber are plentiful on the property. Adit mining will be adopted and the retorts will be erected within about two miles of the Railton railway-station.

W. H. TWELVETREES, Government Geologist.

Launceston, 6th May, 1912.