

THE MERCURY MINE.

The two reefs in the Mercury Mine were found in 1883, shortly after the discovery of gold in the Mt. Victoria or Alberton gold field.

The Mercury Gold Mining Co. N.L. was registered on 19/11/83. By 1885 two adits had been driven and each lode intersected, and a 10-head battery erected. The earlier working does not appear to have been very successful because as reported by Thureau, development work was not kept ahead of the stoping. By December 1884 however, 1689 tons of quartz had been crushed for 1453.15 ounces of retorted gold (equalling 17 dwts. 5 grs. per ton).

A change of management took place but the results are not known except that during the last quarter of 1885-86 some 79 ounces were produced.

Little work appears to have been carried out for nearly 10 years although several small crushings were taken out during 1888-89.

The New Mercury G.M. Co. N.L., was registered on 6/7/96, and a 10-head battery erected. Not long after the Mine appears to have been taken over by the Ringarooma G.M. Co. N.L. During 1897-8 a low level adit was commenced, but only driven to 134 feet without cutting the reefs. The available records are:-

|                |                  |                |              |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Quarter ending | September, 1897. | 73 or 98 Tons. | 76 Ounces.   |
| "              | "                | December 1898. | 180 " 13.5 " |
| "              | "                | March 1899     | 110 " 58 "   |

(Twelvetrees in 1899 states that the crushings to 1st June of 107 tons gave 34.4 ounces).

|                |              |                  |            |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Quarter ending | March, 1901. | 27 Tons.         | 30 Ounces. |
| "              | "            | September, 1901. | 45 " 82 "  |
| "              | "            | December, 1901.  | 50 " 103 " |
| "              | "            | March, 1902.     | 25 " 125 " |
| "              | "            | September, 1904. | 46 " 44 "  |
| "              | "            | March, 1909.     | 61.25 "    |

The Ringarooma Company tried to dispose of the Mine in 1903, and it was being worked by a small Syndicate in 1904. The battery was burnt in 1905 and very little work has been done since. The crushings from 1901 onwards were mainly, if not wholly, from the winze on No. 2 reef below the No. 2 level.

Little can be seen of the reefs in the numbers 1 and 2 levels, and nothing can be added to Twelvetrees descriptions in his report of 1899 and 1904.

The winze below the No. 2 level has been unwatered twice this year. Early in the year ten tons are stated to have returned about 14 dwts. of free gold per ton. I inspected the winze workings when it was unwatered recently. The winze is vertical and about 50 feet deep, a north west drive from near the bottom has a length of 40 feet, and the reef has been stoped overhead (to the No. 2 level it is stated).

The reef is practically vertically and has a good wall on the north-eastern side. The reef channel is 3 feet wide, with 9 inches to 12 inches of quartz on the north-eastern side and irregular veins throughout the remaining two feet, but becoming less numerous away from the wall. About half way along a branch vein or bulge of the reef makes into the wall against a branch wall. A similar turn appears to affect the reef at the face.

To the south of the winze the reef has been stoped south-east for a height of 15 to 20 feet. Going south along the drive above the stopes, veins trend into the south-western wall. A 6"-12" vein continues along the drive and against the north-eastern wall of the reef, and more quartz makes to the east of the wall until at the face the make is five feet wide. A sample across 4'6" gave on assay a result of 13 grs. of gold and 19 grs. of silver per ton.

Facilities did not exist for sampling the north drive, but one sample across 12" about half way along the drive gave a result of 19 dwts. 2 grs. of gold and 3 dwts. 10 grs. of silver per ton.

P.B. Nye (Sgd)

GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

23/10/33.

Mines Department, Hobart.