

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY
OF TASMANIA FOR THE QUARTER ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1933.

The production of gold for the quarter was 1924.22 ounces compared with 1910.21 ounces for the previous one. A slight decrease in production resulted from the operations of the Mount Lyell Mining & Railway Co., and the dry season also somewhat hindered alluvial workings. However, the greater amount of mining, and the inclusion of gold won last quarter resulted in a slight increase in the production of 14 ounces.

The greatest production was by the Mount Lyell Co., the 1398 ounces representing over 70% of the total.

Although prospecting was active in all old fields, no discoveries of any great importance were made.

The production for the various divisions was as follows (in this table and in the report the gold is given in fine ounces)

Northern.....	266.69
North-eastern.....	137.66
Eastern.....	22.25
North-western.....	70.08
Western.....	1427.37
	1860.05
	1860.05

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN DIVISION.

Prospecting and mining were carried out at a number of localities including Lisle, Cradle Creek, Lefroy, Beaconsfield, etc., the production being 266.69 ounces.

At Lisle several parties worked alluvial deposits and produces 48.6 ounces. The Cradle Creek G.M. Syndicate treated 12,000 cubic yards for a yield of 5410 ounces from a narrow run of alluvial ground.

Prospecting operations were active around the Mount Arthur and St. Patrick's River districts.

The black sand deposits on the shore between the Piper and Little Piper Rivers were tested by several parties, but the results are not known.

At Lefroy the Wallis G.M. Company ceased operations at the Golden Zone and Comrade Mines, and commenced at the Leefolyd Mine. The New Hope Syndicate continued work on the Tablee^r and other lines of reef.

The Prince of Wales P.A. intend opening up the old Prince of Wales Mine, but work has not yet begun.

At Back Creek, a number of parties were engaged in alluvial mining while some testing was carried out on the Leura line of reef.

Operations were carried on at numerous places around Beaconsfield, especially in Brandy Creek, along Cabbage Tree Hill, Eaglehawk Gully, and Blyth's Creek, where alluvial deposits were worked by small parties. The G.L.K. G.M. Pty. Ltd., continued their testing of the tailings in the Middle Arm Estuary and produced 20 ounces by cyanide treatment. Processing and recovery results have been favourable and consideration is being given to the installation of an operating unit.

The Beaconsfield G.M. N.L. Continued their underground operations on Cabbage Tree Hill but apparently without any development of interest.

Efforts were being made to obtain capital to unwater the old Tasmania Gold Mine, the State Government being approached to assist by provision of cheap hydro-electric power.

South of Brandy Creek, a quantity of detrital gold was won, and narrow veins of auriferous quartz in the sandstone exposed.

Underground prospecting work was carried out at the north end of the Blue Tier, while attention was also devoted to the south end.

In order to investigate the possibilities of bringing a supply of water to Brandy Creek, a departmental survey was made of the old race (known as Bruin's race) from Anderson's Creek. The water is vested in the Beaconsfield Council, and it was considered possible that the Council might take over the race after it had put in good order, and the alluvial ground in Brandy Creek worked out. Failing this the reconditioning of the race will depend upon the extent and value of the gold bearing deposits which will require adequate testing.

Sixty-four ounces were reported from the southern district but other sources are not known.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

The chief centres of activity were Gladstone, Warrentinna, and Alberton, the production being 137.66 ounces.

At Gladstone, the Gladstone G.M. Co. continued their mining and treatment operations, the quartz being obtained from the north end of Flemings Reef. The work is approaching the southern end of the old Royal Tasman workings with which it is proposed that a connection will be made later. Some 145 tons of quartz were crushed for a return of 6.93 ounces (a crushing of 160 tons the previous quarter yielded 6.53 ounces).

Winzing on the reef below adit level did not prove payable values. An outcrop of auriferous quartz on the northern extension of the Royal Mint Reef is to be tested by a shaft.

Near Warrentinna, the old Renown mine was taken over by a Launceston Syndicate. The winze in the north drive was sunk on the underlay to a depth of approximately 60 feet to test the downward extension of the quartz mined one to three years ago. It is reported that the values were not as high as anticipated, but that further sinking was to be undertaken. A parcel of nine tons of quartz yielded 19.01 ounces on their alluvial deposit. The Golden Cora Co. did not resume operations pending the provision of further capital and installation of further plant.

Prospecting was carried out to a small extent around Mount Horror and Forester.

At Alberton small scale prospecting and mining operations have been conducted. A short adit was driven on the Mount Victoria Mines, and a parcel of eight tons of quartz also extracted for crushing but was not treated.

Operations were continued on a small scale near the Long Struggle, but shortage of water prevented the battery from being worked.

Alluvial mining at New River and Alberton yielded 13.6 ounces. Small quantities were also produced from the Scottsdale (probably Forester etc.) district and from Lady Barron.

Tin mining at South Mount Cameron by four parties yielded 7.90 ounces while 11.91 ounces were reported from the Derby district.

EASTERN DIVISION.

Prospecting operations and mining operations were carried out around Storey's Creek, Fingal, Mangana, Mathinna and South Mount Victoria, the production being 22.25 ounces. The New Fingal mine produced 4.55 ounces from the treatment of 7 tons of quartz. A crushing of 11 tons (mainly from Fern Tree Gully) yielded 6.19 ounces. The remainder (11.56 ounces) was produced by parties from alluvial around Fingal and Mangana.

At Mathinna prospecting operations were carried out at a depth on Church Hill and consideration is being given to the re-opening of the Jubilee Mine. At the Hinemoa Mine an adit crosscut is being driven to cut the reef at a depth of 200 feet.

At Mangana arrangements have been made for a resumption of mining (on a tribute basis) at the Argyle Gold Mine and operations should be commenced at an early date.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

Gold mining (chiefly alluvial) is proceeding at a number of localities in this division but the production was only 75.87 ounces.

Near Corinna the Austral-Malay Co. continued the testing of the ground near the north of the Savage River by boring with power plant, but the results are not known.

The Holdfast Co. carried out small scale alluvial operations on a terrace in the Whyte River and obtained 28 ounces of gold.

At the Burnt Spur a party won 7.65 ounces of gold some of it being in small nuggets. At the Arthur River another party obtained 13.29 ounces of alluvial gold.

Prospecting for alluvial and lode and some mining of alluvial has been carried out in Black Bluff, Five Mile Rise, Moina and Bell Mount districts, but the production has been small. The Stormont bismuth mine produced 2.21 ounces and the Bell Mont Hydraulic Co. 3.16 ounces.

It is reported that a Company is to be formed to develop a primary deposit on the Gawler River, 3 miles south of Ulverstone.

WESTERN DIVISION

This division supplies the main part of the production of the State. The Mt. Lyell M. & R. Co's output consisted of 1398 ounces recovered as a by-product in the copper refinery. This was obtained from 125,721 tons of crude ore, the average gold content recovered being 0.0111 ounces per ton.

Of the remainder 23.59 ounces were won by 18 fossickers from Lake Margaret, Linda Creek, Conglomerate Creek and Raggety Creek in the vicinity of Queenstown.

One prospector is testing the ground near the Queen River north of Lynch's Creek with, it is stated, favourable results.

Some trenching has been carried out near an old prospect north on Diamond Creek, 3½ miles northwest of Queenstown.

Several ounces were won in connection with alluvial osmiridium workings at Wilson River, etc.

(Signed) P.B. Nye.
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

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10.3.34.