

**The Duchess of York Gold Mining Company No Liability.
Copy of Mine Managers report for half year ending 30th April 1902**

Gentlemen,

As the period under review is the first half year of the Company's existence, I propose before detailing the work done briefly to describe the position and character of your property; The area consists of three 10 acre sections or thereabouts and three acres for a battery site.

The property is situated about four miles south east of the township of Beaconsfield and is in an almost direct line with the auriferous part of the gold field of that name.

On the south west side of the Cabbage Tree Hill Beaconsfield, gold has been found and traced up to the gorge and a fair amount of alluvial has been worked there and gold won, gold has also been obtained across the gorge. In this line formations and reefs have been cut and gold obtained, there has been a fair account of prospecting done right on to the Blue Tier. The country all along this line is composed of slate, sandstone and cabbage tree.

I took charge on the 21st of October last and systematic prospecting has been carried on the whole time with varied success. The Nugget Chamber has received great attention especially where the slug of gold was obtained. Prospecting the back of the chamber and all veins that were producing gold, I have not met with any slugs similar to those obtained before I took charge. In my opinion the way these nuggets came there, would be from the pyrites. This lode being a true fissure which is formed by the agency of water. There is no doubt that the gold and pyrites were in solution and the gold had been precipitated into a favourable position and that was the nugget chamber. We sunk a winze in this chamber and prospected 1 dwt and a half of gold to the dish from a pug vein underfoot. Sunk the winze to a depth of 24 feet underlying east, size of winze 5 feet by 3 feet 6 inches in a big body of lode. I have sluiced several half to three quarter tons of (bulk) stuff from this winze and obtained $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1lb weight of pyrite, which was forwarded to the office for assay and assayed 21 and 28 ozs to the ton, apart from tailings and rough stone which is still on the ground. According to the assay and my prospect this should go 5 to 6 dwts to the ton (bulk), I should judge the lode is from 20 to 30 feet wide.

The Nugget Chamber is situated 45 to 50 feet north west from the main tunnel south side of drive; the full length of main tunnel being 345 feet and it's course is south by west. I have repaired the main tunnel and put in 16 new sets of timber, cut out a portion of the nugget chamber and put in two large sets and made it secure, also spent a week in sluicing but only obtained a little free gold in the pug veins. The pyrite lode is situated northwest from the nugget chamber and in this level I put in six new sets. Cut up the bottom of the level 12 feet long by 3 thick before I could start the crosscut bringing it level with the drive.

We call this a pyrite lode for the following two reasons; the pyrite is all through it and the lode is composed of quartz veins and bands of serpentine with small veins of pug and a big body of crushing dirt, it is very regular and lays very close.

The course of the lode is northwest underlying east. The course of the crosscut is southwest and at the end of 57 feet we have cut the main footwall, which seems to be formed at a great depth, I have never seen a better main footwall.

When driving across this lode I paid a lot of attention to it, prospecting it by dish washing and every week sluiced half a ton. Dishwashing after sluicing I always obtained a fair percentage of free gold in with the pyrite; this has been very uniform all across the 51 feet. After streaming it three or four times have then had fair prospect of free gold.

The gold and pyrites are right in the heart of the big body, according to my dish prospect and sluicing it should go from 8 to 10 dwts to the ton (bulk). I should judge this lode to be of great commercial value, have put in a small drive 4 to 5 feet about 16 feet from end of drive and cut the hanging wall have taken out 2 old sets and put in longer ones. The hanging wall is well defined, broke out half a ton from this wall and sluiced it with equally as good results as the previous ones mentioned.

The prospecting shaft is situated about two to three hundred feet below the old Victoria shaft southeast. The size of the shaft is 3 feet by 2 feet 6 inches and is under laying east, passed through some nice gold bearing country. In this shaft met with a small vein 1 1/2 inch thick carrying nice free reef gold vein composed of quartz pug and grit. At a depth of 24 feet I opened out at the north West Side of the shaft and drove 8 to 9 feet and cut the vein, which was very rich. I sluiced 1/4 ton which proved the richest share seen here. This shaft is on the line of the pyrites lode and I should judge the vein will junction down where she is very rich, total depth of shaft 50 feet.

Dam and water race have been repaired, have also dug a race from sluice box to take the water to the main channel about 4 to 5 chains to avoid it spreading on other claims.

There is abundance of timber for mining and machinery purposes when it is required. My knowledge of the characteristics of the formation and country is that the Tasmania is the Champion lode of the Beaconsfield district and the Duchess of York is the Champion lode of the Blue Tier district.

In proposing the future development of the mine I would advise driving on the hanging wall to find out the definite width of the pyrite lode which will require new timber. I would also propose to clear out the old Victoria tunnel on the western side of the hill and secure it and make it workable. About 170 to 180 feet is where the timber has broken in and inside of this break 35 to 40 feet northwest there is a winze sunk from the bottom of the tunnel which connects with the tunnel on the eastern side of the hill. It was in this winze some very rich gold was obtained years ago.

I would like to repair the old tunnel so as to find this winze, as according to Mr Campbell's report (manager of the old Victoria) the ground south of this winze has never been worked. The present prospecting shaft will be very convenient for an airshaft as we can drive from the tunnel to it and if not deep enough we can sink a little deeper to make the connection.

I remain
Yours Truly
W.Goninon
Mine Manager.