thirty feet, had to be abandoned for want of funds to carry out the undertaking when so near completion. My duties are so numerous that I have not yet had an opportunity of thoroughly inspecting the

ground, but I trust that I shall shortly be enabled to do so.

The population on McCrae's Flat has been steadily increasing for some months, and has now accumulated to about 300. It is situated about sixteen miles from Hyde in a south-easterly direction, and is surrounded on all sides by rising ground. The depth of sinking ranges from four to sixteen feet, and the ground is worked by paddocking, and the washing by tub and cradle. Good returns have been obtained by most of the miners; and from the fact of there being a large extent of ground untouched, as also from that of the population still being on the increase, it is but natural to conclude that this will prove one of the steadiest fields in the district. In consequence of the workings being in a basin receiving the drainage of the adjacent hills, the miners have a considerable amount of water to contend against. This might be obviated by the cutting of a tail race clear of the flat; but I fear that this will never be undertaken, as miners have generally a great objection to undertake anything which is not absolutely necessary.

In conclusion, I may state that I consider the district to be in a prosperous state. The late rush to the West Coast has doubtless deprived the district of a considerable portion of its population; but I

do not consider that the loss sustained will be anything like proportionate to the exodus.

Numerous extensive races are in course of construction, which, in a district of this formation, is a certain sign of permanency, as the extent of ground which can be worked by the sluicing process is unlimited.

I have refrained from commenting on the different fields separately, as they have all, more or less, suffered by the late discoveries in Canterbury; and as the mode of mining is unvaried throughout my district, it is but necessary to allude to the most prominent features collectively.

I do myself the honor to forward herewith sections through deep sinking—"Fullarton's," as also

through "Kyeburn Diggings"—which illustrate two descriptions of mining in this district.

See Diagram F.

I have, &c., ALFRED KEENE, Mining Surveyor.

RETURN showing the POPULATION, and their Various Pursuits, in the District of Mount Ida and West Taieri, 31st March, 1865.

Localities.	Num En		of MI		Total	Rate	Price	Number of Persons Engaged in				Total Population	Total
	Cradling.	Sluicing.	Ground Sluicing.	Puddling.	Population Engaged in Gold Mining.	of Wages.	of Gold per Ounce.	Storekeeping.	Keeping Public Houses.	Cultivating.	Other Employments.	Engaged in Business Pursuits.	Population of the District.
Hamilton Hyde Serpentine Sowburn Mount Ida Hindon Fullarton's and Saxon's Gimmerburn Outlying Gullies	50 30 90 50 40 300 20		130 100 45 10 250 30 30 		140 150 75 100 300 70 330 20 20	£ s. 4 0 3 12 "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" ""	£ s. 3 15 3 10 3 15	40 40 15 20 70 15 40 1	20 20 5	10 10 10 	20 10 15 10 30	15 30 115 30	200 240 90 130 415 100 400 21 200
	780		595	10	1385			241	55	30	85	411	1796

RETURN showing the Various Descriptions and Total Approximate Value of the Machinery used in the Mount Ida and West Taieri Gold Fields, 31st March, 1865.

						, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,								
	CRADLES.			Puddling Machines.		SLUICE BOXES AND TOMS.		WATER RACES.		UARTZ MINII	Total			
LOCALITY.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	Length.	Value.	No.	Description	Value.	Approximate Value.		
TT 11.		£ s.		£		£	Miles				-	£ s.		
Hamilton	1::		2	70	33	99	33	3788				3,957 0		
Hyde	17	42 10	•••		25	75	38	4610				4,757 10		
Serpentine	10	30 0	• • •		11	44	4	300		2		374 0		
Sowburn	30	75 0	• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	3	9	102	20				104 0		
Mount Ida	17	42 10	• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	62	126	40	4080		8		4,248 10		
Hindon	13	32 10	•••		8	24	$2\frac{1}{2}$	70	3	2	ļ	126 10		
Fullarton's and Saxton's	TOO	250 0	• • •		8	24			-			274 0		
Gimmerburn	7	17 0	• • •				•••		-			17 0		
Outlying Gullies	67	167 10					•••	ļ ···	<u> -</u>			167 10		
	261	657 0	2	70	150	401	118	12898	24.7	8		14,026 0		