

Locality and Name of Mine.	Area.			Average Number of Men employed.		For Owners.			For Tributers.		Tailings.	
				Wages-men.	Tributers.	Quartz crushed.	Mullock.	Gold obtained.	Quartz crushed.	Gold obtained.	Quantity treated.	Gold obtained.
Thames County—con. Waiokaraka and Collarbone— May Queen .. Crawford's Special Sundry claims ..	A.	R.	P.			Tons cwt. lb.	Tons.	Oz. dwt.	Tons cwt.	Oz. dwt.	Tons cwt.	Oz. dwt.
	29	2	27	12	..	823 10 0	..	494 6	..	..	..	..
	78	0	0	7	1	..	..	..	4 10	6 18	..	..
	..	..	..	3	..	39 0 0	..	45 0	..	..	..	..
	107	2	27	22	1	862 10 0	..	539 6	4 10	6 18	..	..
Karaka— Adelaide .. Lone Hand .. Claremont .. Christmas Eve .. Hokianga .. Karaka .. Iona (McWilliams) Enterprise .. Sundry claims ..	12	0	30	..	9	..	..	..	130 0	169 13	..	..
	27	2	35	2	12	168 0 0	..	132 0	567 0	370 0	..	..
	1	0	0	2	..	4 13 14	..	266 9	..	..	..	..
	5	0	0	1	..	0 0 55	..	20 12	..	..	..	..
	2	0	36	2	..	50 0 0	..	56 9	..	..	..	..
	10	0	0	..	7	..	..	..	653 0	198 12	..	..
	5	0	0	3	..	0 0 85	..	61 15	..	..	..	..
	3	0	0	1	..	30 10 0	..	17 7	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	6	..	97 0 90	..	350 4	..	..	..	..
	66	0	21	17	28	350 5 20	..	904 16	1,350 0	738 5	..	..
Una Hill and Te Papa— Dives .. Occidental .. Pride of Karaka .. Magnolia .. Homeward Bound .. North Star .. Just-in-Time .. Sundry claims ..	21	3	15	..	6	..	..	..	67 10	86 0	..	..
	21	0	9	6	..	90 1 12	..	381 16	..	..	..	..
	14	3	24	..	2	..	..	..	66 0	69 18	..	..
	17	2	30	6	4	300 0 0	..	134 10	63 0	49 12	..	..
	3	0	22	2	..	16 0 0	..	30 15	..	..	..	..
	30	0	0	6	4	48 0 0	..	133 0	77 0	198 8	..	..
	2	0	0	1	..	63 0 0	..	13 12	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	4	..	34 10 8	..	116 18	..	..	..	..
	110	2	20	25	16	551 11 20	..	810 11	273 10	403 18	..	..
Hape Creek— Consols .. Souvenir .. Sundry claims ..	29	3	31	..	20	..	..	..	805 10	480 17	..	..
	14	2	10	..	2	..	..	..	43 0	34 13	..	..
	..	..	..	3	..	20 0 0	..	60 0	..	..	..	..
	44	2	1	3	22	20 0 0	..	60 0	848 10	515 10	..	..
Puriri— Puriri ..	4	0	0	2	..	44 0 0	..	31 10	..	..	..	..
Tairua— Bonnie Scotland ..	5	0	0	3	..	45 0 0	..	65 0	..	..	..	..
Totals*	1013	1	10	423	253	25,106 11 25	21,106	19,325 10	13,025 0	7,531 12	19,309 0	4,478 12

* Also bullion, 3,985oz. 5 dwt., value £2,182 11s. 8d.

CRUSHING PLANTS AT THAMES.

The Thames is the principal goldfield in the North Island, where large returns from the mines have been obtained, and the place where the greater portion of the reduction-plants have been erected. The character of the gold, and the large percentage of metallic sulphides in the ore, have made the whole of it of a semi-refractory character, while in some cases very refractory ores are found rich in bullion according to assay; but the method of dealing with it on a large scale fails to extract a fair percentage of its value. A great number of improvements have been made in the methods of extracting the bullion from the ores, but still there is plenty of room for further improvement. It is an easy matter to state that a plant is not constructed on such a principle as to be capable of extracting a fair percentage of the bullion, but it becomes a more difficult matter to show the most economical method of treating the ore so as to obtain the precious metals it contains.

During the last year an American mining engineer, Mr. T. A. Reckards, visited the Thames, and the outcome of this visit is that he wrote a couple of articles in the *Mining and Engineering Journal* of New York, condemning all the appliances in use, without giving any inkling of the method which ought to have been adopted to remedy the defects. He gives some very wholesome truths in reference to the field when he states:—

“Few mining districts have had so brief but brilliant record, and few, perhaps, have lost such a large proportion of the gold extracted from the mines. Milling is conducted under the difficulties presented by ores of very variable and very complex composition; but, so far, the efforts made to overcome these difficulties have been of the most elementary kind. It is for this reason that the tailings-mills are to-day among the most profitable undertakings on the field, and that the mining industry of the place is at a lower ebb than its history has ever known.”