

and stacked ready for crushing at the time the battery and aerial tramway were being constructed would have anticipated the small return obtained from the first crushing. Several parcels were crushed with nearly the same result; and what was termed the low-grade portion yielded nearly as much per ton as that in which a good deal of gold could be seen. The last crushing of 275 tons is said to have only yielded 35oz. gold, being about 2dwt. 13gr. of gold to the ton. Some samples of the ore from this company's claim were sent to the Cassel Company and treated by them, which showed it to be payable ore for working; and there is a probability of the lodes in this locality being yet worked remuneratively. The company have a first-class plant on the ground; but it is very questionable if they have any one in their employ who understands properly the system of extracting the gold from the ore by amalgamation and battery treatment. The company have exhausted all their available capital and have suspended operations. The total quantity of ore crushed was 950 tons, which yielded 112oz. 10dwt. gold.

COLLINGWOOD DISTRICT.

There is only one quartz-mine of any note being worked in this district—namely, that belonging to the Johnston's United Company, and situate in Bedstead Gully. The lode in this mine is different from any other quartz lode in the colony. It lies almost horizontal in places, or at a very slight inclination, and here and there it dips down for a few feet nearly vertical and runs flat again. At the places where the lode dips away there are always good patches of gold, but the general character of the stone is very poor. According to the battery returns for the year ending the 31st March last, 5,547 tons of stone was crushed for a yield of 1,097oz. gold, being an average of nearly 3dwt. 23gr. of gold per ton. The most of the lode is worked out on the present level, and it will take a considerable sum to construct a new one, and it is questionable if the present company will undertake it.

REEFTON DISTRICT.

The returns from this district for last year show a considerable falling-off in the yield of gold. During the year ending the 31st March last, 37,693 tons of quartz was crushed, which yielded 20,171oz. gold, representing a value of £80,894 5s. 1d.; whereas for the previous year there was 35,562½ tons of quartz crushed, which yielded 23,390oz. gold, representing a value of £93,885 5s. 1d., showing a falling-off in the yield of gold last year of 3,219oz., representing a value of £12,991. There have been calls made during the year to the extent of £18,799 15s. 10d., and £16,900 has been paid in dividends. The following comparative statement is taken from tables prepared by Mr. Hindmarsh, of Reefton, on the number of tons of stone crushed and yield of gold therefrom for the years 1891 and 1892:—

Name of Company.	Year ending 31st December, 1892.			Year ending 31st December, 1891.		
	Gold.	Quartz.	Dividends.	Gold.	Quartz.	Dividends.
	Oz.	Tons.	£	Oz.	Tons.	£
Globe	4,651	9,452	7,200	3,654	8,190	3,600
Progress	4,035	10,085	1,200	3,452	6,130	2,400
Cumberland	3,484	3,067	4,200	2,901	3,300	4,200
No. 2 Keep-it-Dark	1,996	2,889	2,200	2,876	4,360	5,400
Big River	1,965	1,219	2,400	3,507	1,512	9,600
Golden Lead	872	4,633	...	448	1,640	...
Energy (private company)	656	808	...	420	912	...
Fiery Cross	626	762	...	2,401	1,818	5,643
Fiery Cross tailings	145	...	...	...	...	...
Keep-it-Dark	573	1,710	...	1,056	3,258	1,000
Gallant	454	1,192	600	93	221	...
Golden Fleece	382	210	...	...	...	...
Inglewood	373	444	...	440	600	...
Inkerman	312	651	...	1,317	1,908	500
Venus (tribute)	250	419	...	405	670	...
Welcome	210	182	...	84	28	...
Welcome, tailings... ..	85	...	...	...	...	...
Wealth of Nations	147	556	...	339	1,155	...
Wealth of Nations, tailings... ..	112	...	...	116	...	...
Royal (tribute)	140	169	...	90	114	...
Homeward Bound	55	17	...	159	45	...
A1	43	3	...	124	6½	...
Hercules	40	100	...	214	383	...
Golden Treasure ... ..	...	...	...	66	140	...
Golden Point ... ..	...	...	...	36	3	...
Hard To Find ... ..	...	...	...	17	60	...
Result ... ..	...	...	...	15	15	...
Totals	21,636	38,561	17,800	23,204	36,468½	32,343
Alluvial gold—						
Purchased by banks	4,185	...	...	4,113	...	...
Other sources, say	900	...	...	900	...	...
Totals	26,721	38,561	17,800	28,217	...	...
From 1872 to 1892	544,023	578,885	526,851	...	...	...

Total value of gold yield, including that obtained from alluvial workings, as given by Mr. Hindmarsh, since 1872, £2,127,384.