

In December last, Mr. Adams opened out on the No. 2 reef of the New Find, and got on to a run of auriferous stone which appeared to be payable for working. Streaks and blotches of gold could be seen in the stone all through the lode, which was about 8ft. wide, and at the time of my visit he had driven about 30ft. on the lode; but at the place he opened out he had only about 30ft. of backs between the floor and the surface. Mr. Adams feels confident of finding another shot of gold-bearing stone if he had the means to prospect the ground. He contemplated constructing an adit from what is known as the Galena holding, where one is now in for about 100ft. If this adit were extended for about 1,100ft. it would cut through the country, when the following lodes should be found if they live down to the depth—namely, the Waiorongomai, Three-foot, Galena, New Find, Diamond Gully, and a new reef found under the hopper of the late Eureka Company. The proposed adit would be 400ft. below the lowest level in the New Find Mine, and about 800ft. below the cap of the reef.

Te Aroha is a field that may linger on for years without anything great being discovered, especially when no prospecting work of any consequence is going on; but my firm belief is that if this field were properly prospected it would give remunerative employment to a large population. There is a great deal of complex ore on this field, which contains both gold and silver; but it also contains copper, galena, and zinc-blende, and this makes it difficult of treatment so as to yield a fair percentage of the gold and silver. Some ore of this description was sent to Maryborough, in Queensland, for treatment, which gave good results; but it was found that, after deducting all expenses in connection with the transit and smelting, it would not leave sufficient to work the lodes at a profit.

Since my former visit, the 20-head crushing-battery of American stamps has been erected inside the building, in lieu of the original 20-heads of stamps that was formerly purchased by Messrs. Firth and Clarke from the Piako Company at the Thames, which was removed. As soon as the alterations in the crushing-plant were made, dry-crushing was adopted, and the pulverised material treated by the Cassel process; but it was found, after working for about two months, that there was too large a percentage of copper in the ore for it to be economically treated with cyanide solutions. The Cassel process was then abandoned, and wet-crushing again resorted to, the gold being saved in the ordinary way. When the tailings are found to have gold in them to the value of £1 per ton, they are treated in the vats with a cyanide solution.

On inquiry of Mr. Adams, as to the expense of crushing dry as against wet-crushing, he thinks the wear-and-tear is four times as much in wet-crushing as it is in dry; but about one-third more stone can be put through by the wet process. He reckons that the actual wear and tear in connection with the stamps is about 1s. for every truck of stone—1½ tons—crushed, and 6d. for gratings. He used a rock-breaker with a 10in. face, which reduces about 40 tons in 8 hours to a maximum of 1½in. in diameter. The ore thence goes into hoppers, and is fed by Challenge ore-feeders into the stamp mortar. Mr. Adams thinks the use of the ore-feeders alone increases the crushing capacity of his battery nearly 20 per cent.

During the year ended the 31st March last, 1,329 tons of ore was crushed, and 592 tons of tailings treated. The latter was by the cyanide process, which yielded 2,032oz. 3dwt. gold.

There are two other parties who have claims on this field—namely, Newsham and party and Garvin and Newsham. The former party have a claim on the ground formerly held by the New Era Company. Prior to my visit to the district they had 166 tons of stone crushed, which yielded 65½oz. gold. The quartz is taken from the mine by the County tramway, and is crushed at the mill; the expense of crushing being 6s. per ton.

Garvin and Newsham, during the last year, went out prospecting on account of a prospecting association, and found payable stone in ground known as the Inverness holding. An entirely new reef was discovered, about 2ft. wide, and the first crushing of 12 truck-loads gave a yield of 57oz. gold, worth £3 4s. 9d. per oz. They picked the stone to send to the battery, but intended trying the rest of the stone to ascertain the value of the quartz in the lode if the whole of it is sent to the crushing-battery. There is a good quartz hopper on the ground, and a level, which was constructed some years ago by the Inverness Company, which they are using to work the ground.

The total quantity of ore crushed on this field during the last year amounted to 1,928 tons, which yielded 2,504oz. gold; and 29 men were employed in carrying on the operations in connection with the mines.

STATEMENT showing the RESULTS of Mining Operations in the TE AROHA DISTRICT for the Year ended 31st March, 1894.

Locality and Name of Mine.	Area.	Average Number of Men employed.		For Owners.			For Tributers.			Tailings.	
		Wages-men or Owners.	Tributers.	Quartz crushed.	Gold obtained.		Quartz crushed.	Gold obtained.	Quantity treated.	Gold obtained.	
					Amalgamation.	Cyanide.					
											Amalgamation.	Cyanide.
<i>Piako County.</i>											
Waiorongomai and Te Aroha—	A. R. P.			Tons.	Oz. dwt.	Oz. dwt.	Tons.	Oz. dwt.	Tons.	Oz. dwt.	
New Find	31 0 36	14	5	1,284	..	..	45	31 1	592	2,001 2
Newsham's	5 0 0	3	..	294	107 10	..	..	..	..	..
Loyalty	10 0 0	4	..	55	93 0	..	..	..	..	..
Sundries .. ..	..	3	..	250	282 7	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	46 0 36	24	5	1,883	482 17	..	45	31 1	592	2,001 2	

NOTE.—The areas shown do not include the whole of the land occupied, but only that from which the returns are derived.

It will be seen that, taking the whole of the mining operations in the North Island, the value of the gold and bullion obtained was £30,256 16s. 1d. more than for the previous year. The following comparative statement will show the districts in which this increase has taken place.