

Another reef, originally taken up by the O.P.Q. Company years ago in the same locality, and worked by them and other companies in succession and then abandoned, is at present in the hands of a party who are endeavouring to float it on the London market. The area is about 74 acres.

There is evidence of increased activity in matters relating to mining throughout this district, and all are hopeful of better times in the near future.

The mining population is somewhere about two hundred and fifty, including eighty Chinese.

WAIKAKA.

Little or nothing has been done here, except by Chinamen.

TAPANUI.

It will be seen that very little is being done in this district, the total number of persons employed being twenty-five, of whom four are Chinese.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT S. HAWKINS, Warden.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

RETURN of Miners' Rights, Water Licenses, Business Licenses, and Registrations issued during the Year ended 31st March, 1896.

Nature of Rights issued and of Applications received.	Lawrence.	Waikaia.	Tapanui.	Totals.
Miners' rights	457	211	20	688
Business licenses	6	...	6
Water-race licenses	107	£20 14s.	3	...
Registrations	309	{ Information not furnished. }	10	319
Applications for special claims	20	
Special claims granted	14	
Applications for licensed holdings	8	
Licensed holdings granted	6	
Applications for mineral licenses	3
Mineral licenses granted	3
Number of ordinary applications dealt with	183	147	7	357

RETURN of CASES heard in the Magistrate's and Warden's Courts stated below, and of the Revenue collected, during the Year ended 31st March, 1896.

Districts.	Civil.	Criminal.	Warden's.	Totals.	Revenue.
Lawrence	111	60	21	192	£ 147 s. 16 d. 0
Milton	40	57	...	97	91 16 0
Clinton	20	22	...	42	16 0 0
Waikaia	37	16	7	60	35 8 0
Kaitangata	57	7	...	64	32 12 6
Gore	107	110	...	217	242 12 0
Tapanui	38	36	...	74	229 2 0
Balclutha	87	95	...	182	164 13 6
Totals	497	408	28	928	960 0 0

RETURN of REVENUE collected during the Year ending 31st March, 1896.

	Lawrence.	Waikaia.	Tapanui.	Totals.
Warden's Department	£ 702 s. 11 d. 6	£ 234 s. 10 d. 9	£ 10 s. 13 d. 0	£ 947 s. 15 d. 8
Deferred-payments	382 6 2	382 6 2
Magistrates' Courts on goldfields	147 16 0	35 8 0	229 2 0	412 6 0
Magistrates' Courts outside of goldfields	547 14 0
Totals	1,232 13 8	269 18 9	239 15 0	2,290 1 10