

25.1 silica ; or equivalent to 50 per cent. of metallic antimony. The Director, in his report, added that 'this class of ore was worth following up.' The Otago School of Mines reported that the sample of ore sent there contained 65 per cent. of metallic antimony."

CINNABAR.

Waitakuna Heights.—The syndicate formed to open up this lode are driving a low-level tunnel, which should prove the permanence or otherwise of the ore at depth.

COPPER.

Moke Creek, Queenstown.—Some prospecting and opening-up has been done on the outcrop of the lode referred to in Hutton and Ulrich's "Geology of Otago."

I have, &c.,

E. R. GREEN,

Inspector of Mines.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

WARDENS' REPORTS.

Mr. Warden HUTCHISON to the UNDER-SECRETARY for MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Auckland, 5th June, 1901.

I have the honour to report that there has been no gold-mining work upon the Puhipuhi Goldfield during the past year. The last special claims held upon the field were abandoned at the end of last year. There are still upon the books two machine-site and four residence-site licenses. The former, held in connection with the special claims last abandoned, will expire in about four months' time, with no probability of renewal ; the latter are probably held by gum-diggers. The only business has been the grant of two prospecting licenses for the search for cinnabar, and these have not yet been taken out. The Puhipuhi Goldfield, which for several years has, as an area for gold-mining, been moribund, may now be pronounced to be extinct.

I have, &c.,

T. HUTCHISON, Warden.

The Under-Secretary Mines Department, Wellington.

Mr. Warden BUSH to the UNDER-SECRETARY for MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Thames, 31st March, 1901.

I have the honour to furnish the usual annual report upon the mining industry within the Hauraki Mining District.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The gold yield for the year ending 31st December, 1900, amounts to no less than £635,033 19s. 3d. Compared with the output for 1899, this shows a decrease of £6,116 15s. 2d., and with 1898 an increase of £103,449 4s. 9d. The result of the year's operations is very satisfactory when it is considered that the number of companies contributing towards the total yield is less than was the case in 1899. Some notable absentees from the list of the past year's bullion-producers are the Woodstock Gold-mining Company, the Waihi-Silverton Gold-mining Company, and the Komata Reefs Gold-mining Company. The Waihi-Silverton now forms part of the Waihi-Union Company's property. These mines contributed between them, in 1899, a total of £40,245, whilst there were also in the former period several other companies in the Thames and Coromandel portions of the field which were assisting to swell the output, and which are now either shut down or engaged in development-work only.

The increase in the gold produced in 1900 as compared with that of 1896 is £405,991. The total for 1900 is made up as follows : Ohinemuri, £491,720 6s. 8d. ; Thames, £81,713 2s. 11d. ; Coromandel, £61,600 9s. 8d. Compared with the totals of 1899, these figures show an increase from the Thames of £7,798 0s. 11d., and from Coromandel of £5,295 18s. 10d. Ohinemuri's total shows an increase of £19,210 16s. 11d., which is more than accounted for by the absence from its list of contributors of the companies mentioned above.

Mining in the upper or Ohinemuri County portion of the district progresses steadily, and, though there are no new discoveries to chronicle, there is an air of permanency accompanying the operations being conducted by what may be termed the standard mines, showing that the industry is advancing gradually, as the returns for three weeks of the month of March, amounting to £41,468, show.

Several areas have recently been taken up, ground that was formerly held under license and abandoned or forfeited. This small rush may be attributed to the indications discovered in the mines which are being worked at Waihi.

WAIHI.

The *Waihi Company's Mine*, the premier mine of the colony, is steadily increasing its output, the last return exceeding £31,000. Over a thousand men are employed on various works in connection with the operations of this mine. The reduction-works now consist of a 200-head stamper battery and plant at Waikino, and the old battery of ninety-head of stampers at Waihi. The ore for the Waikino battery is conveyed a distance of five miles from the mines to the battery in trucks drawn by locomotives. The Union Waihi Company are crushing ore, but the returns are small and fluctuating. For instance, the return in April from 1,610 tons was £2,661, while in March 1,750 tons only produced £2,329. In the latter instance 140 tons more ore was treated, but the gold was less by £332.