

*Ladysmith Gold-dredging Company (Limited), East Roxburgh* (W. Donnelley, manager).—Hydraulic sluicing and elevating operations were continued on this property with satisfactory results during the year. Nine men employed.

*Commissioners' Flat Sluicing Claim* (Coulter and party; R. George, manager).—Sluicing operations have been continued on the same lines as formerly with satisfactory results. Four men are employed.

*Pleasant Valley Hydraulic Sluicing Claim, Coal Creek* (McPherson Bros., owners; F. Swanwick, manager).—This claim is worked by hydraulic sluicing and elevating. Eight heads of water are in use under a vertical pressure of 300 ft. The material is elevated 20 ft.

*Dredging*.—Five dredges continue to operate in this district on the Clutha River. Three of the working dredges are privately owned.

#### *Baldhill Flat.*

Carroll and Lynch are still operating on a small area of ground hitherto considered as too low-grade for working.

The Last Chance Company is now working terrace ground by ground-sluicing.

*Duntulm Hydraulic Sluicing Party, Fraser Basin* (William C. Nicholson and party, owners).—The plant formerly in use on Ewing and Dowdall's claim has been purchased by the above party, and is to be transferred during the summer to the Fraser Basin, at the head of the Fraser River, Obelisk, or Old Man Range. This flat comprises several thousand acres of practically unprospected ground, but the river bed and banks below yielded excellent returns of gold to European and Chinese miners.

*Dredging in the Gorge*.—The new Fourteen-mile Beach Gold-dredging Company's dredge was successful in winning 689 oz. of gold during the year, although the river was unfavourable for dredging for the greater part of the time.

#### *Naseby.*

The usual number of sluicing claims continue to work with water mainly derived from the Government water-race. There are several parties working with privately owned water-supplies.

Owing to the unusual dryness of the season and the light fall of snow in winter, the supplies of water for mining were more curtailed than is usually the case.

#### *Patearoa.*

*Patearoa Hydraulic-sluicing Claim* (D. C. Stewart, manager).—This hydraulic-sluicing plant continues to operate with successful results. Eight heads of water are used under a vertical pressure of 192 ft. The material is sluiced 30 ft.

*John Johnston's Hydraulic Sluicing and Elevating Claim, Caledonian Gully, Patearoa*.—Good returns of gold are obtained from this claim, which affords employment to three men.

#### *Upper Taieri River.*

*Taieri Falls Sluicing and Electric Power Transmission Company (Limited)* (John Tyson, mine-manager; E. Trythall, secretary, Dunedin).—This property was formerly owned by the Canadian Flat Hydraulic Sluicing and Electrical Power Company, and has now been acquired by the former-named company. The water-race, which was partially constructed several years ago, is now being completed, and preparations are being made to equip the claim with a suitable plant recently in use at the Red Swamp, Teviot district. There is an extensive field here for mining purposes, and the company has acquired valuable water-rights from the Taieri River in the vicinity of the Taieri Falls.

There are a number of sluicing plants at work throughout this district, which embraces the extensive watershed of the Upper Taieri River.

*Fortification Hydraulic Sluicing Company, Red Swamp, Lammerlaw Ranges*.—The operations of this company were unsuccessful, and have been suspended. The sluicing plant has been sold for removal to the Taieri Falls Sluicing and Electrical Power Transmission Company's property at Canadian Flat.

#### *Serpentine.*

*George Banbury and J. Weatherall's Hydraulic Sluicing and Elevating Claim* affords employment to three men, and good results are obtained.

#### *Deep Stream.*

*Deep Stream Amalgamated Sluicing Company (Limited)*.—This claim continued to be worked with poor results during the early portion of the year. The company then went into liquidation, and the plant and claim were sold to William Adams and others, who have resumed work.

#### *St. Bathans.*

*Scandinavian Water-race Company, Surface Hill* (Neil Nicolson, manager).—Total area of claims, 140 acres. Twenty-five heads of water are available under a vertical pressure of 380 ft. The water is brought in in races—in all, over ninety-six miles in length. Two elevators are used, and the material is lifted a total height, in two lifts, of 140 ft. During 1905 an area of three-quarters of an acre is stated to have yielded 1,029 oz. of gold. The gold is fine, and is saved with the usual angle-iron ripples and cocoanut matting.

*Scandinavian Water-race Company, Kildare Hill*.—Work was resumed on the Deep Lead Claim (formerly the property of Mr. John Ewing) toward the end of the year. On the water being pumped out of the paddock it was found that the lower lift had become filled with gravel, and the semi-vertical walls above, softened by water-standage, had assumed a batter consistent with safety, and very little