

Dominion Gold and Ironsand Company.—This company erected a small experimental plant for treating auriferous ironsand by electro-magnetic extraction after concentration. The results attained have not proved satisfactory.

Gentle Annie Terrace.—Irving and Acaster's subsidised tunnel has been driven 200 ft. A run of wash showing good prospects has been intersected, and hopes are entertained that, as developments extend, a payable auriferous area will be opened up.

Greeks' Creek.—A number of miners continue to make a living-wage in this locality.

Back Creek.—Maloney and party, O'Neil and party, and Dehm and party are driving crosscuts under the supervision of the Rimu Miners' Association. Assistance at the rate of 1s. 6d. per foot is granted. The length of the tunnels vary from 1,000 ft. to 1,800 ft. Ten parties comprising thirty men find steady and profitable employment. Hydraulic sluicing is adopted where water is available and the ground is suitable; where these conditions do not exist the richest portions of the ground are driven out.

Chows' Terrace. The Rimu Miners' Association's subsidised tunnel has been driven 2,396 ft., principally through firm sandstone country. A short distance yet remains to be driven to bring it under the shaft, from which good prospects were obtained. When completed, this tunnel will drain a large auriferous area.

Kanieri.—Hutchison and party (two men) are hydraulic sluicing and elevating with payable results. The enterprise shown by this party, and the success attending their efforts, has been the means of causing several parties to apply for mining privileges in this locality.

Singer and party (three men).—This party was granted a subsidy of £175 to assist in driving 700 ft. of tunnel. The distance was exceeded without meeting with payable results.

Bluespur.—A subsidy of £105 was granted to George Noble towards driving 700 ft. of tunnel. At date of writing 497 ft. had been driven.

Minerals Syndicate.—Morrison and party have purchased the plant and mining privileges formerly held by the Minerals Limited Gold-mining Company, and are engaged in driving and blocking-out with favourable results.

R. Harcourt was granted a subsidy of £25 to assist in completing his drainage-tunnel. The work has been accomplished and drainage effected.

Humphrey's Gully.—This property has been steadily worked throughout the year, but the result of sluicing operations has not been entirely satisfactory, for owing to the great length of the tail-races they become blocked, and consequently the quantity of gravel removed per shift is limited. To improve this it is proposed to lift the tail-race some 20 ft. at the upper portions and shorten it. An average of eight men were employed.

KUMARA.

The Deep Level Drainage-tunnel.—This tunnel has been extensively repaired, and a permanent winding-shaft sunk. The water has yet to be laid on, when any parties desirous of testing the lower auriferous gravels can do so.

No. 3 Channel.—The extension of this channel is practically completed. Three parties have notified their intention to start and open out their respective claims.

No. 4 Channel.—This channel is in good order.

No. 5 Channel.—There are only two parties sluicing into this channel, and owing to its great length the upkeep falls very heavily on them.

Wheel of Fortune.—A local syndicate has purchased the whole of the mining privileges attached to this sluicing claim, and, when water is available, employ an average of ten men.

Beros and Beros.—When water is available hydraulic sluicing is carried on with profitable results; during the dry weather the extension of water-races and enlargement of dams for conserving water was attended to. Two men are employed.

Kelly's Terrace Drainage-tunnel.—This subsidised tunnel was extended to a point 64 ft. from the old workings, when driving was suspended until the accumulated water was drained off. A deviation from the main tunnel was driven 140 ft. and a connection made with a shaft sunk from the surface, thereby securing good ventilation for extending the workings. In driving the deviation a run of payable wash was intersected.

ROSS.

Mont d'Or.—This company's operations are being attended with a fair amount of success. The gold won during the year amounted to 1,149 oz. 17 dwt. 19 gr., valued at £4,527 9s. 1d.—an increase on the return for 1907 of 130 oz. 12 dwt. 6 gr., valued at £532 8s. Three dividends were declared, absorbing the sum of £1,800. Plant and mining equipment are well maintained in good order. Fourteen men are employed. Development-work during the coming year will comprise the starting of a low-level tail-race, to enable the auriferous gravels on the deeper levels to be successfully operated upon.

Ross Goldfields (Limited).—Operations at the mine have been directed to opening up and repairing the drainage adit level, also cleaning out and retimbering the old Ross United Company's shaft to water-level. This latter work, which has been a difficult undertaking, owing to the timbers of the old shaft having collapsed and caused a considerable subsidence, has been successfully accomplished. The erection of plant for generating and transmitting electrical power is making satisfactory progress. The transmission-lines from Kanieri Forks to Ross are nearly completed; while at the power-house the Pelton wheels and generators are being placed in position. The water-race from Lake Kanieri to the Forks has also been repaired throughout. An average of thirty men have been employed.

Park Terrace.—Ford and party were granted a subsidy of £108 18s. to drive a tunnel 726 ft., the Sundown Syndicate also contributing 1s. per foot towards the work. A distance of 601 ft. has been driven, and a little gold is being obtained in the gravels passed through.