

ANNEXURE A.

SUMMARY OF REPORTS BY INSPECTORS OF MINES.

NORTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (Mr. M. PAUL, Inspector of Mines).

Quartz-mining.

Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited).—The following are the particulars of the principal development-work carried out in this mine during the year:—

No. 12 level (1,447½ ft. below the collar of No. 4 shaft): No work has been done in this level during the year.

No. 11 level (1,301 ft. below the collar of No. 5 shaft): The drive on the north section of the Empire lode west of Pistol Crosscut was advanced 34½ ft., making a total of 84½ ft. The width varied from 2 ft. to 5 ft., and the values were low. The Royal lode was intersected in the South-east Crosscut, 165 ft. from the Edward lode, being vertical and its course 56° (true). The first 12 ft. was quartz of an average value of 16s. per ton; the next 4 ft. was country rock, followed by a mixture of quartz and country rock.

No. 10 level: At 250 ft. in Cow South-east Crosscut from the south wall of the Martha lode the north section of the Empire lode was intersected, course 30° (true), dip 1 in 3 north. Five feet of mixed quartz was succeeded by 5 ft. of country rock, and then the north section of the Empire lode, 54 ft. wide, consisting alternately of sulphide-ore, quartz, calcite, and finally sulphide-ore. Driving east and west was started. The east drive was driven 70 ft., values varying from 2s. 9d. to £2 4s. 1d. per ton. The west drive was driven 163 ft., the values varying from 3s. 3d. to £6 1s. 3d. per ton. At 50 ft. in the east and west drives crosscuts were driven through the lode; in the former it showed a width of 21 ft., whilst in the latter it was proved to be 25 ft. with 2 ft. of sulphide-ore on the north wall. The next 5 ft. was country rock, and the remaining 18 ft. was mixed quartz and country rock. This lode was again cut at 100 ft. west, showing a width of 28 ft.

No. 7 level (Martha lode): The north section east of No. 6 shaft crosscut was driven on a further 226 ft., making a total of 447 ft. There is payable ore from 4 ft. to 9 ft. wide on the north wall from 301 ft. to 447 ft.

Shafts: No shaft-sinking was done during the year. A large number of men are employed in the upper levels driving and stoping on the different lodes, and from which a considerable tonnage is being won. High-grade ore is also still being won from the arches left in under the levels. The system adopted—described in last year's report—enables the ore to be extracted with safety, and no serious accidents have occurred during the year.

Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company.—No. 8 level (1,320 ft.) (Empire lode): Drive west advanced 179 ft., making a total of 464 ft. The face is close to the western boundary. From 285 ft. to 462 ft. over an average width of 56 in. the average value was £1 14s. 2d. per ton. Crosscuts were driven at 350 ft. west of the south-east crosscut. The south crosscut was driven for 50 ft. and passed through 17 ft. of quartz mixed with country rock (value, 3s. 5d.), and the north crosscut for 122 ft. The first 3½ ft. was quartz (value, 19s. 3d.), the balance country rock and quartz stringers of low value. Drive east Empire lode advanced 280 ft., making a total of 867 ft. The following values were obtained: 585 ft. to 600 ft., width 56 in., values 14s. 6d. (south wall exposed); 600 ft. to 615 ft., width 43 in., values 1s. (north wall exposed); 615 ft. to 630 ft., country rock; 630 ft. to 645 ft., broken quartz, values 3s. 4d., width 61 in.; 645 ft. to 688 ft., disturbed country; 688 ft. to 746 ft., quartz, dipping south; values 11s. 8d., width 57 in. Lode cut off or faulted at 777 ft. Drive continued in firm country rock to 867 ft. In breaking out this reef preparatory to stoping, from 275 ft. to 470 ft., the average width was 99 in. and the assay value £1 8s. 1d. per ton.

Drive east on Royal lode advanced 110 ft., making a total of 396 ft. From 280 ft. to 345 ft. over width of 56 in., value 11s. 5d. per ton. At 375 ft. lode cut off by fault.

Drive west on Royal lode advanced 400 ft., making a total of 600 ft. From 200 ft. to 590 ft. the average width was 60 in. and assay value 16s. 8d. per ton.

The drive on lode intersected in north-west crosscut, 17 ft. from shaft-chamber, was advanced east for a distance of 178 ft. At 75 ft. east this lode is 42 ft. in width. The first 6 ft. on footwall assayed 7s. 10d., the next 36 ft. 1s. 6d.

The following is a summary of development-work done: Main and intermediate drives on lodes, 1,434½ ft.; crosscutting lodes from drives, winzes, and rises, 283½ ft.; rises on lodes and through country rock, 363½ ft.; winzes, 320 ft.; driving and crosscutting through country rock, 743½ ft.: total, 3,145 ft.

The upper levels of this mine are almost depleted, and it is absolutely essential that arrangements be made whereby sinking can be resumed, otherwise it will be impossible to keep the mill going.

Waihi Extended Gold-mining Company.—Owing to the difficulty in getting in calls work in this mine was suspended; protection applied for and granted for twelve months from the 1st July, 1918.

Waihi Reefs Consolidated (Limited).—The lode, 20 ft. in width, intersected at 300 ft. level. Favona shaft was driven upon for 30 ft., when funds became exhausted, and the mine is now held under protection.