

Golden Point Mine was first opened in 1889, and was in active production till 1921, when the low price of scheelite rendered operations unprofitable. In 1929 a new company was formed to reopen the mine, but large ore reserves have not yet been developed. Two veins have been worked in Golden Point Mine, the upper known as the Home Reef, and the lower as the Dip Reef. Near the entrance to the mine these reefs are 45 ft. apart; at a point 1,000 ft. from the entrance to the Low Level Adit the distance between them is 90 ft. In the mines adjoining Golden Point along the strike of the lode the distance between these two reefs decreases, and eventually only one reef is present. It may therefore well be that the two reefs are really only bifurcated parts of a single lode.

The lodes dip north 70° east at an angle of 15° to 20° , though in parts the dip is steeper than this, and in parts less steep. The hanging-wall of the upper lode and the footwall of the lower are generally well defined, but the other two walls are rather ill-defined. The thickness of the lodes ranges from less than 2 ft. to 7 ft. or 8 ft., a fair average being 4 ft. The formation consists of quartz and heavily mineralized mullock bands. In places the quartz extends over the whole width of the fissure, elsewhere it is narrow with a mullock band on one or both sides. Both the quartz and the mullock bands carry gold, and scheelite veins are found in places running through the quartz and in places in the mullock bands near the quartz.

The mine has been developed by several adit levels, the most important being the Home, Intermediate, Engine Dip, and Low Levels. The Home Level was driven on an outcrop of the Home or Upper Reef, which was followed to a point where a fault displaced the lode. The lode was again found and followed for a considerable distance. It is up to 6 ft. wide where last developed, and carries payable gold and scheelite.

The Engine Dip Level, now closed, was driven to cut the Dip Reef, after which it was continued as a dip to a fault, then turned to the north-east and continued along the reef. A fault zone, encountered in the Water Tank Rise, downthrows the vein to the east. The vein is somewhat broken eastward from this rise, but is present in the Low Level Adit on the downthrow side of another fault.

The Low Level was driven to explore the east part of the mine. The Dip Reef is exposed in cross-cuts from this level at three points, at each carrying both gold and scheelite. It has not yet been developed eastward.

In Round Hill Mine, which lies half a mile south-east of Golden Point Mine, the same two reefs are exposed; but here the greatest distance between them is 20 ft., at the north end of the mine. At the south end, which is not fully opened out, the two reefs apparently join, and from there southwards only one line of outcrop has been exposed by prospecting.

A lode which outcrops a mile north-east of Macraes Flat has recently been driven on from a winze 35 ft. deep. This is Tate's Mine. The recovery from 70 tons was 22 dwt. per ton. The lode has an average width of about 12 in. It strikes north-west and dips 85° east near the winze, but southwards along the strike the dip flattens to 45° . Northward the lode is much disturbed, and more work is required, both in depth and along the strike, before any estimate of its possibilities can be given.

At Fullartons or Four Mile Diggings, east from Hyde, a small unfaulted patch of quartz conglomerate of the Highburn Series is being worked by driving. When the field was visited in November, 1933, the deposit had been partly tested from a shaft, and an old adit was being cleaned out. It was proposed to continue this drive towards the bottom of the shaft. There is only a small area of quartz conglomerate here; but similar conglomerate occurs north-eastward in the area known as the Deep-sinking, where much sinking and driving, with payable results, was done some thirty or forty years ago. No subsurface examination of this field could be made, and it is not possible to state whether it is worked out or not.

At Patearoa a small amount of driving is being done by unemployed miners, and near Mount Highlay, an adit is being put in to prospect the quartz conglomerate in that area.

During 1933 it was reported that a diviner had discovered a rich lead in the fine-grained Maori Bottom beds near Ranfurly, and much prominence was given to some high assay results that were obtained. Two drives were put in to pick up the so-called lead, but all that was exposed was a bed of fine sand, from which the supposedly rich assay was taken. Samples taken from the bed which were assayed by the Dominion Analyst gave no trace of gold, a result that is not surprising, for a more unlikely place to look for gold could scarcely be found.

Sluicing operations in the part of the subdivision examined during the past season are hampered from lack of water just as they are at Naseby. At Macraes Flat this is overcome by using electrical power for pumping the water to the nozzle, elevating by an electrically driven gravel-pump, trapping the water used in sluicing, and, after settling, using it again. By this method a considerable area that contained too much clay to be treated by dredging can now be profitably worked.

The Hamiltons field is now almost deserted, and the water once available for mining has been alienated, so that there is little chance of further development here.

At Patearoa Carr Bros. are sluicing Maori Bottom gravels and quartz conglomerate resting on a soft schist bottom. There is a considerable area of similar but much deeper ground still unworked. An area in the Sowburn has recently been pegged off as a dredging claim.

Scheelite.—To 1920, 2,300 tons of scheelite, valued at £300,000, had been produced from the Macraes Flat field, but since that year, owing to the low price of scheelite, production has been negligible. The price, which has risen owing to short supply and increased demand, is now high enough to make scheelite mining profitable. In the Golden Point Mine, and in the adjacent mines on the same lode the mineral occurs with gold.

Coal.—The coal outcropping in the southern part of the subdivision is a poor-quality lignite, and none of it is now mined. On Horse Flat, near Macraes Flat, two pits were once worked, and the coal was used to generate power for the quartz-mines, and another outcrop in Trimble Gully was worked for