

# Tairua – Broken Hills – Golden Hills

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Discussion of the “Triumph Monarch” battery site at document end. This writer argues that it is actually the Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate 10 stamp battery of 1938.

## **Broken Hills Battery**

**1895**

**AJHR 1896**

(Published 1896, but reporting largely on 1895)

Tairua River.

No work has been done at the third branch, where gold was discovered two years ago, as it was impossible to obtain a title to the land. A new discovery was made, however, in the Broken Hill Claim at the opposite side of the river, where a large mass of quartz crops out on the hill; and, from a drive put in a few feet, 1 ton of quartz was taken out and crushed at the School of Mines, Thames, for a yield of 56oz. 19dwt. of gold. A rush set in, and extensive areas were taken up, but no further trials have taken place. As there is plenty of water available for driving-power there is every reason to believe that the discovery will prove valuable. Three men were employed in the district.

Tairua.

Recently a new discovery was made by H. Gordon and R. Farrell, who were prospecting in the locality. A description of this new find is taken from the Auckland Weekly News, of the 14th March, of which the following is an extract: — "The scene of the discovery is situated on very hilly and broken country, in what is known as No. 2 Block of the Tairua Survey District, and is about three miles due west of Laycock's upper landing on the Tairua River, six miles north of Neavesville, and about two miles north-west of Fleming's find of gold at Kirikiri, and lies directly at the back of the Tairua Valley on the left-hand bank of river, facing up stream.

"The hill on which the discovery was made rises very abruptly, and in appearance is somewhat wedge-shaped, being almost denuded of timber, and covered from top to bottom on all sides with boulders of quartz of various sizes. As yet very little work has been done beyond the putting in of two short cross-cuts a distance of about 20ft. each, some 500 ft. apart, and at about the same level, the height of these workings being about 450 ft. above the level of the river, and some 200 ft. below the ridge of the hill...

"There can be no doubt, however, no matter whether it is eventually proved that defined reefs do exist, or whether the hill itself is one huge formation of quartz, that, so far as present prospects go, the find is really a most important one, and one, if it turns out only half as well as is now anticipated by the present owners, that will be the making of the Tairua district. The property is very easy of access from the East Coast, as the flat country extends right up almost to the foot of the hills, so that with an expenditure of a comparatively small sum of money a road for the conveyance of mining requisites and machinery could easily be formed. A most suitable position has already been

selected as a machine-site, at a point on the bank of the Tairua River, directly at the northeast end of the hill where the discovery of the quartz has been made, and where, by taking the water from the Tairua River some three or four miles, and bringing it along a suitable-sized race for that distance, sufficient water-power would be available for driving at least two hundred head of stampers, if that number were ever required. Then, again, the property is well situated as regards the getting of timber, as there is a great abundance of that material in the immediate vicinity.

"The discovery has already led to the pegging out of several additional special claims on the south-western trend of the supposed quartz bodies. Mr. Manfred McMahan has secured 100 acres adjoining the Broken Hills in the direction named, from which he reports that he has obtained excellent dish prospects; whilst Mr. A. Campbell has acquired two special claims still further on...<sup>1</sup>

## 1896

### AJHR 1897

(Published 1897, but reporting largely on 1896)

Tairua River District.

Broken Hill Mine (Area, 340 acres). —A considerable amount of work has been carried out in this mine for the purpose of developing it in a systematic way for future working...

A tramway has been erected (self-acting ground) from the upper level to the battery-site, a distance of a quarter of a mile, and excavations have been commenced for the foundations of the battery, which has been ordered from London. The company intends starting with a twenty-head wet-crushing mill, but is carrying on all the work, such as water-races, &c, for a much larger mill. The principal road made by the company is from the mine to the Tairua River landing, and a tramway has been surveyed and levelled, which may eventually be built. All necessary buildings connected with a mine of this kind have been erected, such as assay-room, office, men's quarters, blacksmith's shop, &c. Thirty men were employed.

A considerable amount of prospecting was carried on by Mr. Jonathan Seaver in the Broken Hills Extended and the Tairua Special Claims, with a view of obtaining English capital to work the ground. Tairua Proprietary (Area, 116 acres 2 roods).' —The land is situated in the vicinity of the Broken Hills...<sup>2</sup>

## 1897

### AJHR 1898

(Published 1898, but reporting largely on 1897)

Tairua River District.

Broken Hill Mine (Area, 340 acres). —A considerable amount of money has been expended on this property, but subsequent to the purchase of the battery,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1896-I.2.1.4.3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1896 Session I, C-03

<sup>2</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1897-II.2.1.4.3/3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1897 Session II, C-03

all arrangements having been made for its erection, and the acquisition of a water-race and tramway to connect with same, it was discovered that no stone of a payable character had been found to warrant the outlay. Work has consequently been stopped, pending instructions from the London directorate. Thirty men employed.<sup>3</sup>

## 9 July

**BROKEN HILLS.** At the Broken Hills property the large cutting has been discontinued for the present, or at all events until the self-acting tramway, which is now under way, is finished to the battery. This will then enable the management to deal with the ore uncovered, and forward it to the battery site. A tunnel has also been driven from this cutting, in to a point underneath where the shoot of ore was cut at No. 3 level, and a connection effected by means of a rise, between the tunnel named and the No. 3 level. All the stone broken out at No. 3 will now be forwarded down this pass, and conveyed to the cutting, and from thence to the battery, so that in this way direct communication will be established between the upper workings and the battery.

With regard to the development of the upper sections of the property, sufficient work has been done, and the results obtained have been of so satisfactory a nature, that the management has felt justified in recommending to the Home directors the erection of a battery and treatment plant. It is believed that the construction of the proposed plant will be authorised by the Home board without delay. The battery, I understand, is to comprise 20 head of stamps and complete cyanide appurtenances.

The intermediate level, which is located about 100 feet lower down than the upper workings, and on the opposite side of the hill, has been driven a distance of about 300 feet, but nothing of any importance has yet been discovered. The low level has been advanced a total distance of about 400 feet, and Mr. Seaver informs me that quite recently some nice stone was obtained from here when passing through a lode formation. The tunnel, however, is being continued ahead, whilst a crosscut is also being driven, at a point about 200 feet in from the mouth of the level, for the purpose of exploring the country lying to the north and intersecting the east and west reef system.<sup>4</sup>

## 15 September

**BROKEN HILLS.**

Copies of a report by Mr Jonathan Seaver on the Tairua Broken Hills property, addressed to the London shareholders of the company, are to hand by the 'Frisco mail. The report sets out to be "an epitome of the work done, the developments up to date, the future prospects, and the further work about to be undertaken on the New Zealand Broken Hills Gold Mining Company's, property." Mr Seaver adds:—" As I understand you require this for the purpose of giving the shareholders, in as condensed a form as possible, a clear idea of the value of the property, I have avoided going into unnecessary details

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<sup>3</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1898-I.2.1.4.3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1898 Session I, C-03

<sup>4</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH18970709.2.51>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XXXIV, Issue 10490, 9 July 1897, Page 6

on matters regarding which any registered shareholder can obtain full and accurate information from the secretary of the company.

The auriferous deposits in the property, when first acquired by you, apparently consisted of an immense body of quartz and other lode matter, constituting the main portion of a hill about 700 feet high, and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in length. In reporting upon this property, I stated that I believed this mass of auriferous matter to embrace the junction of three immense lodes or lode formations, one of which appeared to be about 500 feet thick. In the first stages of our developments an immensely rich portion was cut by a prospecting tunnel put in the hill some 250 feet below the summit, assays from which gave phenomenal results, reaching as high as £1000 per ton. Large bulk samples were sent from this place to the School of Mines at the Thames, and to Messrs Johnson and, Matthey's in London for treatment, and yielded at the rate of from £80 to £90 per ton. After this development was commenced on a large scale by the driving of three tunnels into the hill, and, across what we considered to be the strike of the largest lode, a large main low level tunnel was also driven from a point about 650 feet below the summit of the hill, on what was believed to be the already-mentioned strike or bearing of the main lode. It might be mentioned that the Tairua River had by Nature's force cut across this large formation, in a series of more or less precipitous cliff, in such a manner as to expose the lode formation for 700 feet—viz., from the summit of the hill to the river level.

The general particulars of the developments up to date in the various tunnels are as follows :— ...[not included here]

In his latest reports, the mining manager in charge states being able to obtain thousands of tons of good crushing stone averaging over £3 per ton, and recommends the immediate erection of a 20-head stamp battery, which can be increased to 80 or 100-head without further call upon the working capital of the company. He also states that by taking the ore from certain parts, a higher average than £3 per ton can be obtained; that a self-acting tramway has been erected from No. 1 tunnel to the battery site about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant, by which they are conveying and stacking the ore ready for treatment; also that the construction of the water race is in progress.

A road has been constructed about 4 miles to the head of navigation on the river, and a survey of a tramway along the same route. Telephonic communication has been completed between the mine and the township of Paeroa, from whence communication can be sent by telegraph to London. Acting upon advice received and in accordance with your instructions, I have given orders for a 20 head stamp, battery and cyanide plant to be shipped from London within six weeks. The power used for working this mill will be obtained from the Tairua River on which you retain large water rights, sufficient to give power enough to work 100 head stamp mill. This fact, and the peculiar advantages that you possess in connection with the property, will enable you to have the ore treated at a very low cost. I do not consider, that with a 80 or 100 head stamp battery, the cost of extraction and treatment should exceed at the rate of 15s. per ton, most probably it would cost much less. Already the workings on the property have proved a large quantity of payable ore in sight, and as the deposit can as yet be considered as explored or opened up for but a comparatively small portion of its extent, the future

probabilities of the mine as regards quantity of crushing material are enormous. In fact it bids fair to become one of the largest gold mines in the world.'

Mr Seaver's report is dated uly22nd.<sup>5</sup>

## 1898

### AJHR 1899

(Published 1899, but reporting largely on 1898)

Tairua. Broken Hills (Broken Hill Gold-mining Company, Limited). —A large sum of money was expended in constructing water-races and foundations for a battery. All these works have now been discontinued, and the mine closed down. Nearly all the claims which were in existence last year have been surrendered or forfeited, and the district practically deserted.<sup>6</sup>

## 1899

### 17 June

Auctions WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, At 2.30 p.m. Sharp.

THE PROPERTY OF THE NEW ZEALAND BROKEN HILLS GOLD MINING COMPANY (LIMITED) TAIRUA. MR J. THORNES Is honoured by instructions from the Mortgagees to sell by auction, at his Mart, 91, Queen-street,

THE ABOVE VALUABLE MINING PROPERTY, consisting of—

4 Special Claims, comprising 340 acres 3 roods 10 perches, and known as Broken Hills, and Broken Hills, Nos. 2, 3, and 4.

Machine Site of 5 acres.

2 Water-races.

Together with all the Modern Mining Plant recently imported from England and embracing 20 head of Stamps and complete Cyanide Plant, manufactured expressly for the Company by Messrs Fraser, Chalmers and Co., complete Assay Plant; also the Sawn Timber and Corrugated Iron, and all material for the erection of the necessary Battery Buildings and Sheds.

Also all Rails; Trucks, Mining Steel, Tools, and Stores of every description.

About £25,000 has already been expended on the Machinery and Development Work.

The whole will be offered in one lot as a going concern.

Full particulars and conditions of sale can be seen at the Office of the Auctioneer, J. Thornes, 91, Queen-street, Auckland, or of Messrs Hesketh and Richmond, Solicitors, Wyndham-street.<sup>7</sup>

### AJHR 1900

(Published 1900, but reporting largely on 1899)

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<sup>5</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS18970915.2.38>

Thames Star, Volume XXIX, Issue 8765, 15 September 1897, Page 3

<sup>6</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1899-I.2.1.4.4>

REPORTS OF WARDENS AND OTHER OFFICERS ON GOLDFIELDS., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1899 Session I, C-03a

<sup>7</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS18990617.2.74.2>

Auckland Star, Volume XXX, Issue 142, 17 June 1899, Page 8

Tairua.

Tairua Broken Hills Gold-mining Company (Limited). —This ground was formerly held by the Broken Hills Gold-mining Company (Limited), formed in London, but, the capital having been exhausted, and London shareholders discouraged by the prospects, it was sold at auction, and purchased by the syndicate who formed the present company. The twenty-stamp battery purchased with the mine was completed and the reef opened up. It was found to be about 26 ft. in width, and from assay-tests judged to be payable. Some 600 tons was put through, but, as the return was only 196 oz. of bullion, it was decided to cease crushing and to erect vats to treat tailings by cyanide. This work is now going on, and will shortly be completed. If this company succeeds, many other claims in the vicinity will be taken up again and prospected.<sup>8</sup>

## 1900

### Broken Hills Battery finally starts

#### 17 February

TAIRUA BROKEN HILLS.

The new 20-stamp battery was given a trial run on Wednesday, 14th inst., starting with five head, and afterwards with the full complement. Everything ran smoothly, and the trial was considered highly satisfactory. There was no opening ceremony. The battery will be started in earnest on Monday, 19th inst., under the superintendency of Mr. W. Jennings.<sup>9</sup>

The Broken Hills battery appears to have closed in 1910.<sup>10</sup> The mine then became Tairua Mines, Ltd in 1911 (W. Goldsworthy mine-manager)<sup>11</sup>.

## AJHR 1901

(Published 1901, but reporting largely on 1900)

Tairua.

Broken Hill. —This mine has been steadily worked during the period under review, but the results of the operations have not proved as successful as at first anticipated. Whilst the twenty stamp battery was being erected a large amount of development-work was done in the mine on the large ore-body, and in making connections between Nos. 2, 3, and 4 levels for the purpose of conveying the quartz from the upper workings to the level on the top of the self-acting incline, and from thence to the battery. On the completion of the battery (which was fitted up for the ordinary wet process and treatment by amalgamation) in June last a large quantity of ore was put through the mill, but, the results obtained not being satisfactory, the battery was stopped for a time and a cyanide plant erected to treat the tailings, &c. When this was

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<sup>8</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1900-I.2.1.4.3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1900 Session I, C-03

<sup>9</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS19000217.2.20.2>

Thames Star, Volume XXXIX, Issue 9576, 17 February 1900, Page 2

<sup>10</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19100301.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14307, 1 March 1910, Page 3

<sup>11</sup> AJHR 1911

completed crushing was again resumed, and carried on up to the month of October, when the mine was closed down and stoping operations on the large ore-body were suspended, the quartz being found to be of too low grade to pay under present conditions, more especially as the plant was being driven by steam-power...

Twenty men were employed.<sup>12</sup>

## 1901

### AJHR 1902

(Published 1902, but reporting largely on 1901)

Tairua.

Broken Hills (Tairua Broken Hills Gold-mining Company, Limited). —During the year this property has been well opened up at the deeper levels...

A ground-tramway 18 chains long has been constructed. This connects the mine with the mill, and it is intended to use a small locomotive to take the quartz to the mill. The water-race has been completed, and now the battery will be run by water-power instead of by steam; thus the cost of treatment will be reduced.<sup>13</sup>

## 1902

### AJHR 1903

(Published 1903, but reporting largely on 1902)

Tairua Broken Hills Mine, which is now held by an Auckland company, has had a very successful year. The mill, of twenty-stamp capacity, is well fitted out with gold-saving appliances, including cyanide plant; and the stone in the mine looks promising.

The Tairua Broken Hills has been a regular producer of gold for the last year. The monthly returns have been good and fairly uniform, the ore value being slightly over £3 per ton. The total yield from this mine to date is £31,478.

Tairua Broken Hills Company have had a very successful year. The mine is now one of our principal gold-producers, 9,921 oz. of bullion, valued at £19,097, having been won during the year. The prospects are as good as ever, and it is confidently expected that payable returns will be obtained as regularly this year as last. The mine is now well opened up, and large bodies of payable ore in view. An average of fifty men has been employed.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1901-I.2.2.2.4/3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1901 Session I, C-03

<sup>13</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1902-I.2.1.4.3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1902 Session I, C-03

<sup>14</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1903-I.2.1.4.3>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1903 Session I, C-03

**1903**

**AJHR 1904**

(Published 1904, but reporting largely on 1903)

At Tairua Broken Hills mining has been very energetically carried out at the property under the direction of Mr. H. H. Adams. The mine has earned a reputation for being one of the consistent producers of bullion, is a dividend-paying concern, and evidently has a very fair future before it. During the year 6,355 tons of quartz yielded a return valued at £21,146 18s. 8d., the average value being £3 6s. 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per ton.

Tairua Broken Hills Mine. —This property has been vigorously worked during the year with satisfactory results, a good margin of profit being left after all expenses were paid. The work generally has consisted in driving, rising, and stoping...

The mine is very convenient and cheaply worked. As the ore is broken out and passed into the shoots, it is run into the trucks, then along the low level and ground tramway direct into the battery. In the battery a Huntington mill was fitted up, which greatly assists in increasing the output. An auxiliary water-power is to be increased by lowering the Pelton wheel and tail-race. The mode of treatment adopted by this company is wet crushing, amalgamation, and cyaniding. During the year 6,355 tons of quartz was treated for a return of 12,281 oz., and value £21,146 18s. 8d., which enabled the directors to pay in dividends the sum of £10,306 5s. This must have been very gratifying to the shareholders.<sup>15</sup>

**1904**

**AJHR 1905**

(Published 1905, but reporting largely on 1904)

Tairua Broken Hills. —...

During the year 3,700 tons of ore was treated at the company's mill for 6,728 oz. 4 dwt. of bullion, valued at £10,287 1s. 10d. An average of fifty men employed.

**Coronation Mine. —**

An adit level has been driven into the hill for about 200 ft. This, I am informed, passed through some 50 ft. of rock carrying gold, and to prove the value of it a five-stamp battery is in course of erection and will be completed in a few weeks' time. I carefully examined the rock which is to be treated, but could see no indication of its being a definite lode, and it is the hardest material I have seen that is supposed to carry payable gold. An average of two men have been employed in the mine.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1904-I.2.1.4.3/2>

**1905**

**AJHR 1906**

(Published 1906, but reporting largely on 1905)

In my last report mention was made of a body of stone at the Coronation Mine, adjoining the Tairua-Broken Hills Mine, from which some fair dish prospects had been obtained. For the purpose of testing this commercially a small battery was erected, but the value of bullion obtained was only equal to about 10s. 6d. per ton of stone. The company therefore decided to prospect for better ore in the vicinity.

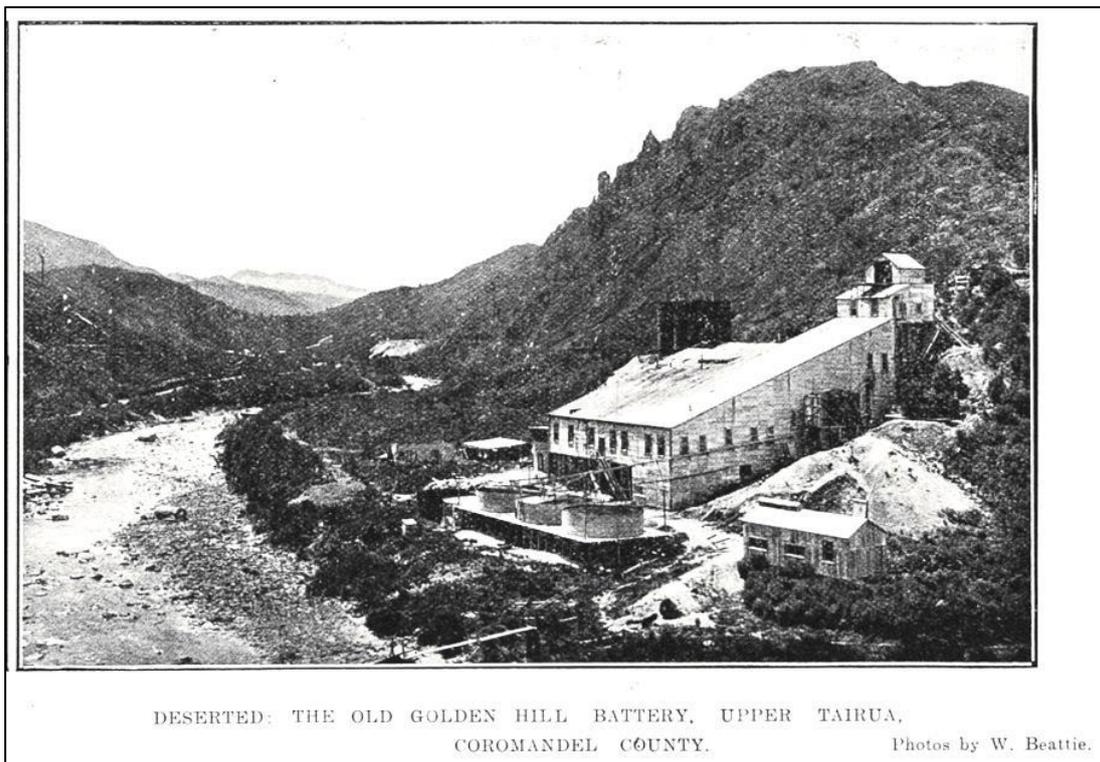
Coronation. —This mine being supposed to contain a large body of payable ore, a small plant of five stamps, driven by steam, was erected. After 103 tons of ore had been put through for a return of 25 oz. 3 dwt., value £57 17s. (which was not payable), crushing was discontinued and prospecting works undertaken in order to find more payable ore. Two men were employed.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1906-II.2.1.4.5>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND: REPORT ON ROADS, WATER-RACES, MINING MACHINERY, AND OTHER WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH MINING., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1906 Session II, C-03

## Golden Hills Battery



Deserted - Golden Hills battery AWNS-19140205-44-03  
5 February 1914.

**1905**

**25 January**

In the Tairua district the Broken Hills mine has continued to add to the bullion returns, but the ore won during the year has carried rather lesser values than previously. The company have still a lot of virgin ground to work in. At Neavesville, in the same neighbourhood, the Chelmsford mine has been taken over by a new company and worked with very fair results, whilst the Coronation claim is a new one that has given its owners sufficient inducement to erect a small battery to give their reef a thorough test.<sup>17</sup>

**1908**

**9 January**

**TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS.** A local company has been formed with a capital of £14,000, in 140,000 shares of 2s each, to work the Tairua Golden Hill mine (formerly the Old Golden Hill and Golden Sun claims), adjoining the Tairua Broken Hills property. The company, which was registered on December 23, has commenced operations in the mine. A contract has been let for the extension of the main low level (put in for 250 ft by the syndicate which has been exploiting the property for 18 months past) a further 250 ft. One lode has already been cut in this crosscut, and the contract now let should cut four other lodes ahead, which have been opened up by drives and winzes, It has been decided to push on the crosscut with three shifts, and also to

<sup>17</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19050125.2.77.15>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLII, Issue 12773, 25 January 1905, Page 2 (Supplement)

employ four men in developing the reefs ahead. The appointment of a mine manager is pending.<sup>18</sup>

**6 May**

### **TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS.**

...The directors are well satisfied at the excellent prospects and have purchased a ten stamper battery which will be erected at an early date, so that the Tairua Golden Hills should soon become a bullion producer.<sup>19</sup>

**1909**

### **AJHR 1910**

(Published 1910, but reporting largely on 1909)

Tairua Golden Hills Gold-mining Company (Limited), (J. Rickard, mine-manager).—The development of the reefs at Nos. 1 and 2 levels has been vigorously pushed on, and there are now several blocks of ore ready for stoping...

The company is now erecting an up-to-date mill with ten head of stamps on the south bank of the Tairua River. Three tube mills will be used in connection with the fine grinding of the ore. A suction-gas plant (350-horse power) is to be installed, and will be used for driving the mill machinery. The mill will be lighted by electricity, and compressed air will be used both at the mill and the mine. It is expected that crushing will begin early in March. Twenty-seven men were employed. The mine is in good order.

Tairua Monarch Gold-mining Company (Limmitted), (C. Hansen, mine-manager). The low level has been extended... Seven men were employed.<sup>20</sup>

## **Tairua Monarch Consolidated**

**19 March**

already have a battery.

TAIRUA MINING COMPANIES. AN AMALGAMATION. Shareholders in the Tairua Triumph, Tairua Monarch, and Tairua Conqueror Gold Mining Companies, at a meeting held at the office of Mr. J. Stevenson, resolved that the three companies should amalgamate, and that a new company should be formed and registered, with a capital of £26,250, divided into 210,000 shares of 2s 6d each. The shareholders of the Tairua Triumph Gold Mining Company are to receive 70,000 shares, and the other two companies 60,000 shares each, in the new company, all paid up to 1s per share. This new company, which will purchase all the assets of the three companies, will commence operations with about £1000 in hand, in addition to a battery and plant, and a considerable amount of development work. Mr. Stevenson has been appointed liquidator for the three companies. The new company will be named the Tairua Monarch Consolidated, Ltd.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19080109.2.9>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLV, Issue 13642, 9 January 1908, Page 3

<sup>19</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS19080506.2.14.1>

Thames Star, Volume XLIV, Issue 10409, 6 May 1908, Page 2

<sup>20</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1910-I.2.1.4.9/1>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND (REPORT ON)., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1910 Session I, C-03

<sup>21</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19090319.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVI, Issue 14013, 19 March 1909, Page 3

**31 May**

**Tairua Golden Hills**

...In addition to the opening up of No. 1 and 2 levels... The carrying out of the crosscut through the mine on to the west fall served a dual purpose by determining the existence of other ore bodies, and enabling the management to come into contact with all their timber requirements. Timber is thickly studded on the western fall, and can be readily obtained, and brought through the crosscut by a trolley right on the scene of operations underground. This cross cut will also serve to provide thorough ventilation to all the workings, and in that alone, it is a valuable adjunct...

The position of the new low level adit is in direct line with the mill site, and about 70 feet above the creek level...

In connection with battery construction, the new 10-stamp mill, with all up-to-date appliances, is being vigorously erected on the opposite side of the Tairua River, a distance of 1350 feet from the No. 2 level hoppers. With one set of trestles the aerial line will have a direct connection from mine to mill. The line will have a delivering capacity of 300 tons a day, whilst the reduction capabilities of the 10-stamp mill, with three large tubes to assist in the all sliming method, the management state they hope to be able to deal with 50 tons per day. The ore is free-milling material, and consequently there will be no concentrates. In view of this, the management are hopeful of being able to bring the total working costs down to something like 16s per ton. Mr. Rochfort, the well-known mill contractor, says that he hopes to have the mill in full duty in four months from date...<sup>22</sup>

**24 August**

**Tairua Monarch Consolidated**

The low level in the Tairua Monarch Consolidated mine has been extended a total distance of 615 ft. The country being penetrated is still of a firm nature. No. 1 level has been extended a total distance of 166 ft. A splendid class of brown sandstone country is still being penetrated. A leader about 2in in thickness was met with, which shows colours of gold by the dish. During the past two weeks two men have been engaged prospecting the Triumph section of the mine. A trench has been put across the hill south of the Triumph old workings. On the 17th a nice-looking reef about 2ft 6in in thickness was located. The hanging-wall portion of the reef shows splendid-looking mineral. I am having a sample of the stone assayed.<sup>23</sup>

**29 November**

**TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS**

**THE NEW BATTERY.**

The new battery at the Tairua Golden Hills mine is now just about completed, and men are engaged erecting the aerial tram to convey the ore from the mine; to the mill. A feature about this mine is the excellent situation of the property for economical handling of the ore. The top level is 150 feet from the surface

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<sup>22</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WHDT19090531.2.41>  
Waihi Daily Telegraph, Volume IX, Issue 2565, 31 May 1909, Page 3

<sup>23</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19090824.2.9>  
New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVI, Issue 14147, 24 August 1909, Page 3

of the hill, and was originally started to cut what is known as the Davis lode, but instead of doing so intersected the Golden Hills reef, from which the company has been named. The top level was put in 1700 feet, right through to the other side of the hill, thus giving easy access to an ample supply of mining timber. A rise has been put from this level to the surface, thus securing ample ventilation for future operations.

In No. 1 level, the reef is from 5 to 6 feet in width on the average, although at times it widens out to 10 feet. This reef outcrops on the property some 800 feet south of the present workings, and is 12 feet in width, while to the north, where it again outcrops, the lode shows a width of 15 feet. As from one outcrop to the other is 3000 feet, it will be seen that there is a large body of ore to be worked. An amount of driving has been done on the reef north and south in No. 1 level, and these are well filled with ore ready broken out for the mill. It is estimated that the ore now broken, and awaiting treatment in the hoppers and also in the drives, totals about 4000 tons. The ore is not of a refractory character, although veins of greyish blue sulphide can be seen occasionally.

The No.2 level is 150 feet lower down the hill, and in it the reef is about 8 feet in width. It is stated that assays made show the ore to be improving in value downwards. Here also a lot of work has been done north and south on the reef, and the drives are filled with ore awaiting treatment. A winze has been sunk from No. 1 level on the reef down to No. 2, a distance of 150 feet, so that when the mill starts the ore will be dropped down this, and trucked to the: aerial train [tram?] to be sent across the river to the battery.

No. 3 level is now in 600 feet, and will require to be extended about another 500 feet to reach the lode. This will give 450 feet of backs to the surface. This way the mine has been opened up, and everything arranged for the cheap handling of the ore, reflects credit on the management.

The crushing plant is certainly a fine one. At the top of the building is a stone breaker, manufactured by Price Bros., of the Thames. In this the ore runs from the hopper, where it is deposited by the aerial tram. In passing to the stone breaker the ore is screened, the fine dirt falling into a lower hopper. From the breaker the ore moves automatically to the 10 stampers lower down. Each stamper is 1100lb in weight, and in the boxes will be a cyanide solution. There are no tables in the battery, the powdered ore passing into three tube mills, and from them the material flows into four large settlers, erected on concrete piers outside the building. From the bottom of these settlers, the material will be pumped up to four vertical agitators 50ft in height, each capable of containing 150 tons.

At the other side of the mill is a large wheel [an elevator wheel] which will carry back to the stampers all material that was not crushed fine enough to pass the screens lower down. This simply goes through the mill a second time. There are also two large iron water tanks at the back of the mill, and another couple of solution tanks in front.

The machinery for driving all this plant is first-class, and was supplied by Messrs. Gibbons and Harris, while the tanks were constructed by Messrs. Segar Bros. There is also a suction gas-plant, and the whole mill is lit by electricity. The battery cost £15,000, and was designed by Messrs. Rich and Roche.

A trial run was given some of the machinery on Saturday, and all the electric lights were turned on for the benefit of some visitors who had gone up from Auckland. It will be seen that the directors have done everything to secure success, and all that remains to assure it is for the crushing plant to demonstrate that the ore when treated in bulk is payable.

The directors state that the ore can be mined and treated for £1 per ton, and as the mill is capable of treating 1500 tons a month, it will be seen that an average value of £2 per ton would pay handsomely. Although regular assays have been made of the ore, for practical mining purposes the bulk treatment at the mill is recognized to be the real test of the value of a property.<sup>24</sup>

## **AJHR 1909**

Tairua Broken Hills Gold-mining Co. (Ltd.) Tairua Conqueror (Ltd.) Tairua Consols Gold-mining Co. (No. Liability) Tairua Dawn (Ltd.) Tairua Extended Gold-mining Co. (Ltd.) Tairua Golden Hills Gold-mining Co. (Ltd.) Tairua Monarch (Ltd.) Tairua Triumph Gold-mining Co. (Ltd.) Tairua Reefs Gold-mining Co. (Ltd.).<sup>25</sup>

## **1910**

### **1 March**

**TAIRUA BROKEN HILLS.** The annual general meeting of shareholders in the Tairua Broken Hills mine convened for yesterday lapsed for want of a quorum. The directors' annual report states that the development works on the property during last year have not come tip to expectations, no large bodies of ore having been met with. During the period 1464 tons of ore were sent to and crushed at the battery, resulting in a return of £2144 2s 5d.

The battery is at present, closed down, in consequence of there being an insufficient quantity of payable dirt available. In November last the directors considered it advisable to engage the services of a mine expert to visit, inspect, and make an independent report on the mine, and accordingly arrangements were made with Mr. John McCombie, who, at the beginning of the year, visited and made a thorough examination of the property...<sup>26</sup>

### **12 May**

#### **THE TAIRUA MONARCH.**

In the Tairua Monarch mine, to the north [South?] of the Golden Hills, a large formation, about 40ft wide, composed of a network of stringers, in which gold can be freely seen, has been exposed on the surface in the Triumph section. From any part of the formation a good prospect can be obtained in the dish. On the western side of the hill a drive has been put in, and five reefs have been intersected. These vary in width from 1ft upwards, and in places run up to a width of 4ft to 6ft. In the Nos. 1, and 3 reefs, on which a fair amount of driving has been done, both north and south, gold can be seen in the stone, and

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<sup>24</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19091129.2.9>

Auckland Star, Volume XL, Issue 284, 29 November 1909, Page 3

<sup>25</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1909-II.2.2.2.6>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND (REPORT ON)., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1909 Session II, C-03

<sup>26</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19100301.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14307, 1 March 1910, Page 3

samples taken from various points gave a nice tail of coarse gold in the dish. In the present south face the No. 1 reef has opened out to from 5ft to 6ft, and is a well-defined compact body of quartz. A winze has been put down 62ft on this lode, and the manager informed your representative that good gold carried down for the full distance. Between 300 and 400 tons of ore from the different workings has been paddocked at the mouth of the drive.

Having proved the reefs in the upper workings, it is intended to open up at greater depth from a drive on the north side of the hill, already in some distance, and from which the quartz could be paddocked right alongside the battery site. It is understood that the directors are negotiating for the purchase of a mill of 10 stamps, already standing in the district, and that this will shortly be removed to the company's ground, and, either wholly or partially (five stamps) erected there, with a view to starting crushing in the near future.<sup>27</sup>

Which battery was "already standing in the district"?

## 16 June

### **TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS.**

Operations were suspended at the Tairua Golden Hills mine and battery on Saturday, and all hands discharged. On being asked by a Herald representative for a statement of the position, Mr. J. Kneebone, chairman of directors of the company, explained that the stoppage was purely a temporary one, and was "not likely to extend over a month." The chief cause of the trouble, "he said, "is our not being able to get satisfaction out of the engines at the mill. These engines have not been running at all satisfactorily for some considerable time past, with the result that we have only been able to run the mill at a little more than half speed. If the engines were doing their duty the stamps should be running at 106 blows per minute, but we have only been getting between 70 and 80. We have, however, a five years' guarantee for these engines, and it is a matter for the makers to rectify the defects. The reason for closing down the mine as well as the mill is that, owing to the latter having been unable to treat the ore as fast as it has been coming forward, some 4000 tons of ore has now accumulated in the mine and paddocks, and we have no more storage room. Under such circumstances the directors considered it advisable to suspend breaking out further supplies of ore until the defects in the engines at the mill are remedied. The material we have put through has shaped for a good payable return, but we have not treated sufficient yet to enable us to have a clean up. The developments in the mine are as satisfactory as one could wish for, and the results have proved beyond doubt that we have a good payable mine."<sup>28</sup>

## 26 July

**TAIRUA MONARCH.** The annual meeting of shareholders in the Tairua Monarch Consolidated Gold Mining Company, which was to have been held yesterday, was postponed for a week, owing to no quorum being present. The directors, in their report state that during the last 12 months the mine has opened up well, the ore being of a good payable grade. They have purchased the battery, and arrangements are now underway to have it re-erected on the

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<sup>27</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19100512.2.11>  
New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14368, 12 May 1910, Page 3

<sup>28</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19100616.2.8>  
New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14397, 16 June 1910, Page 3

company's ground, together with a cyanide plant. The battery should be ready for crushing in a few months. The balance-sheet shows that the cash in bank amounts to £248 18s.<sup>29</sup>

### 7 October

The smithy level in the **Tairua Monarch Consolidated** mine is now in 556 ft. The country penetrated is of a good description, and the reef, which shows a width of 2ft. contains a good deal of mineral. At No. 2 level the winze on No. 3 reef is down 32ft. The leading stope on No. 3 reef has been advanced 20ft. The reef measures 5ft, and the ore broken shows colours of gold. At the battery work is going on satisfactorily. The frame of the building is up, and portion has been covered in, and one vat completed, as well as several chains of the water-race.<sup>30</sup>

Where was all this?

### 26 November

The smithy level in the **Tairua Monarch Consolidated** mine has been advanced a total distance of 614 ft. A milder class of country has been met with, but during the last, few days an improvement has been noticeable in the reef, a few colours of gold being obtainable by dish tests. At No. 2 level the leading stops has been advanced 63ft. The roof has a width of 2ft 6in, and the ore broken shows good dish prospects, and occasionally nice dabs of gold can be seen. At the battery the building is now covered in, six vats have been constructed, and the stamper-box put in position.<sup>31</sup>

One stamper mortar box.

### 22 December

The smithy level in the **Tairua Monarch Consolidated** mine (Tairua) has been advanced 646 ft. The reef shows a width of 18in, and a little gold can be obtained by dish tests. Operations at No. 2 level have been stopped for the present, the men being engaged making the tram road from the smithy level to the battery. This work will be completed during the week.<sup>32</sup>

See the GIS for possible location of battery.

### AJHR 1910

(Published 1910, but reporting largely on 1909)

**Tairua Golden Hills Gold-mining Company** (Limited), (J. Rickard, mine-manager).—The development of the reefs at Nos. 1 and 2 levels has been vigorously pushed on, and there are now several blocks of ore ready for stoping. The levels are connected by means of two rises, each 140 ft. high, through the reef. The ore-body is from 3 ft. to 7 ft. wide. The No. 3 lowest level crosscut has been driven 716 ft., and it will give a vertical height of 270 ft. on the reef to the floor of the level (No. 2 level). The reefs are strong, well-defined ore-bodies. The company is now erecting an up-to-date mill with ten

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<sup>29</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19100726.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14431, 26 July 1910, Page 3

<sup>30</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19101007.2.12>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14494, 7 October 1910, Page 3

<sup>31</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19101126.2.13>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14537, 26 November 1910, Page 5

<sup>32</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19101222.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVII, Issue 14559, 22 December 1910, Page 3

head of stamps on the south bank of the Tairua River. Three tube mills will be used in connection with the fine grinding of the ore. A suction-gas plant (350-horse power) is to be installed, and will be used for driving the mill machinery. The mill will be lighted by electricity, and compressed air will be used both at the mill and the mine. It is expected that crushing will begin early in March. Twenty-seven men were employed. The mine is in good order.<sup>33</sup>

The distinctive tube mill mounts, and the mortar box foundations are clearly seen at the battery site. There are remains of the four tall air agitation tanks. It appears there are two suction engine machine mounts.

A detailed LiDAR scan of the battery area would be very nice.

## 1911

### 24 January

At the **Tairua Monarch Consolidated** mine the tram line from the smithy level to the battery has been completed. The winze sunk to the smith level from No. 2 level has been timbered up, and a pass put in. The men are now engaged trucking the ore broken from the leading stope into the same. The battery is almost completed, and the water-race will be completed in about a fortnight's time.<sup>34</sup>

### **Tairua Monarch Consolidated to start**

#### 29 August

##### **TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS, LTD.**

The management of the Tairua Golden Hills, Ltd. has been placed in the hands of the New Zealand Mines Trust (1905) Ltd.

It has been found necessary to thoroughly overhaul the engines and machinery. A set of new clutches for the main shaft has been ordered, and it is expected that this work will be complete in about six weeks, when the battery will be started. A set of amalgamating plates and three sand treatment vats are also being installed.

These vats appear in the photograph.

As soon as power is available, it is intended to push on the driving of the bottom level, [Low Level?] the face of which is by measurement within a few feet of the reef. At present two shifts are employed in this drive, drilling by hand. Reports from the mine describe the country as highly favourable.<sup>35</sup>

#### 23 September

The last clean up at the **Tairua Monarch** battery, the result of three week's crushing, gave a return of 28ozs 2dwts bullion, valued at £61 19s 6d. Five stampers are in operation and one berdan.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1910-I.2.1.4.9>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND (REPORT ON)., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1910 Session I, C-03

<sup>34</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19110124.2.7>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVIII, Issue 14586, 24 January 1911, Page 3

<sup>35</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19110829.2.8>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLVIII, Issue 147681, 29 August 1911, Page 3

<sup>36</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS19110923.2.8.5>

Thames Star, Volume XLVII, Issue 10470, 23 September 1911, Page 1

## 29 August

### **TAIRUA MONARCH CONSOLIDATED.**

During the past week the battery has run 100 hours on ore from the No. 2 lode. The whole of the parcel will not be completed until the end of the present week. Stopping is still in progress on the No. 3 lode, from which good dish prospects can be obtained.<sup>37</sup>

## **AJHR 1911**

(Published 1911, but reporting largely on 1910)

**Tairua Monarch Claim** (C. H. Hansen, mine-manager).—The low level has been driven a total distance of 712 ft. The level was in 520 ft. when a reef formation 12 ft. wide was cut and driven on a distance of 260 ft. The ore proving unpayable to work, operations were suspended. In the Triumph section. No. 2 level was extended a further length of 50 ft., and No. 3 reef intersected and driven on 160 ft. The formation is 3 ft. 6 in. wide, and preparations are being made for stopping. A winze has been sunk to the Smithy No. 1 level, whereby ore will be sent to the milling plant. No. 1 Smithy level was advanced 323 ft., when No. 3 reef was cut into and driven on 261 ft. A new milling and cyanide plant has been erected, and crushing will commence at an early date. Twelve men were employed.

**Golden Hills Mine** (J. H. Evans, mine-manager).—Nos. 1 and 2 levels cut into a well-defined orebody, which was driven on from both sides of the crosscut. No. 3 low level was then driven 1,020 ft. to intersect the reef. Nos. 1 and 2 levels are connected by a rise on the reef, and everything is ready for stopping out the lode. When the low level intersects the reef, a rise will be put up to connect with No. 2 level. The company has erected an up-to-date crushing plant close to the mine. The reduction plant was started early in the year, but through some defect in the Suction-gas plant, the mill and mine were stopped until the necessary alterations were made. The 650 tons of ore treated gave a return value of £252 14s. 6d. Twenty-five men were employed. The mine was inspected during the year, and found to be in good order.

**Tairua Mines** [The old Broken Hills mine ] (W. Goldsworthy mine-manager). It having been decided to test the various reefs at greater depths, a chamber was cut underground, and winding machinery installed, and a vertical, three-compartment shaft was sunk to a depth of 135 ft. below the floor of the main adit level. Crosscuts have been driven east and west. On the eastern side of the shaft the Night reef [Part of Broken Hills mine ] was cut and driven on 110 ft., and south about 60 ft. A rise was put up south of the crosscut and holed to a winze sunk from the adit level. This work is being continued, together with unwatering the old workings to the north of the main shaft. When this has been accomplished, the reefs to the east and west will be developed. Eighteen men were employed. The mine was examined during the year, and found to be in good order.

**Gem of the Boom Claim** (E. Quinn, mine-manager).—A low level was commenced on the hillside, and driven some 800 ft. at the time of my visit. Owing to the defective state of the ventilation. I instructed the manager to withdraw the men immediately, and make some provision for adequate

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<sup>37</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS19110829.2.21.1>  
Thames Star, Volume XLVII, Issue 10433, 29 August 1911, Page 2

ventilation. There yet remains 200 ft. or 300 ft. to be driven before the reef is reached. Six men were employed.

Tairua Leeds Mint, (E. Cartwright, mine-manager). —A level was driven 700 ft. to cut a reef that was outcropping on the surface, but the prospects were very discouraging, and the mine was closed down.

Tairua Reefs Mine. —An adit level was driven 800 ft. without any payable ore being met with. The prospects did not warrant the further expenditure, of money, and the company closed down the mine.<sup>38</sup>

## 1912

### 29 March

#### **TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS.**

...There has been a marked increase in the amount of amalgam caught per ton...<sup>39</sup>

### 4 April

#### **TAIRUA GOLDEN HILLS.**

... The manager reports that the grade of the ore has steadily improved, the copper plates alone yielding £1 per ton. Considerable improvements have taken place in the running of the battery. Slight alterations have been made in the power plant, which should ensure an increased quantity of ore being put through....<sup>40</sup>

### 11 April

**TAIRUA MONARCH CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.** Tenders will be received to Noon on 1st May. 1912, addressed to me at Hobson Buildings. Shortland-St.. Auckland, and marked "Tender," for the Purchase of the Mine and Battery at Tairua. The Battery has only been recently erected, and consists of 5 Stamps, about 1000lb each; Copper Tables; Berdans. Cyanide Plant, and all necessary gear for working the same, together with Water Races, water being the power used; also the Mine, comprising 100 acres, together with Rails. Timber. Tools. Trucks, etc., required for working the mine, and now on the property. Everything is in full working order. Tenders may be for the whole in one lot, or—

1. Mine and Mining Material on the property.
2. Battery and Battery Material as it now stands.

Mr. W. Webb, caretaker at Tairua, will show intending purchasers over the Battery and Mine. Full particulars and conditions at my Office. WM. GRAY, Liquidator.<sup>41</sup>

Did this battery ever sell? Is it the battery (Taniwha) advertised again in 1937?

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<sup>38</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1911-I.2.2.3.17>

THE GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND (REPORT ON)., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1911 Session I, C-03

<sup>39</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/THS19120329.2.5.3>

Thames Star, Volume XLVII, Issue 10181, 29 March 1912, Page 1

<sup>40</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19120404.2.49>

Auckland Star, Volume XLIII, Issue 82, 4 April 1912, Page 6

<sup>41</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19120411.2.115.2>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLIX, Issue 14964, 11 April 1912, Page 12

## 6 June

**Tairua Golden Hills.** The manager of the Tairua Golden Hills mine reports for the week ending June 1: -The battery ran 108 hours and crushed 200 tons. The reef in No. 3 level, north end, is 4ft 6in wide, and prospects well. Owing to scarcity of miners, no work is at present being done in No. 4 (bottom level).<sup>42</sup>

## AJHR 1912

(Published 1912, but reporting largely on 1911)

**Tairua Monarch** (Charles Hansen, manager).—At the time of my visit in June four men were driving on a reef in the upper level (60 ft.), and the milling-plant was running. The results proved very disappointing, and the company applied for protection. 400 tons of ore was treated, for a return of £304 11s. Four men were employed.

**Tairua Golden Hills** (J. Jobe, manager). No. 3 low level has been driven a short distance to a point when the reef should be intersected at any time. Owing to a serious defect in the machinery, the milling plant has been idle, and the engineers are reconstructing the greater part of the plant. The mine was in good order. Twenty-nine men were employed.

**Tairua Mines** (James Carroll, manager).— The Knight [Night] reef has been driven on at the shaft low level (350 ft.), and stoped out for some distance. The ore was treated at the battery, and having proved low grade, the company obtained six months' protection. 750 tons of ore was treated, for £718 15s. 6d. Twenty-five men were employed.<sup>43</sup>

Broken Hills battery still being used?

## AJHR 1913

(Published 1913, but reporting largely on 1912)

**Tairua Golden Hills.** —After repairs to the mill, treatment of ore was resumed early in the year. Subsequently operations were suspended, owing to the quartz being unprofitable. During my inspection I found that the work was being carried on with care, the roads and the working-places being in fair order. 2,806 tons of ore was treated, for a return of £3,494.

**Tairua Mines.** —A considerable amount of prospecting was done over the unexplored part of the property, but nothing of any value was discovered. I examined the mine during the year, and found it in good order.

Daisy Claim. —This is a small claim, the area being only 4 acres. Work is carried on from a short adit level water-free. The owner secured a satisfactory return, treating eleven loads of general ore and 66 lb. of specimen-stone, for a return of £256 2s. 9d,<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19120606.2.34>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLIX, Issue 15012, 6 June 1912, Page 5

<sup>43</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1912-II.2.2.2.7>

MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. JAMES COLVIN, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1912 Session II, C-02

<sup>44</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1913-I.2.3.2.12>

MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. W. FRASER, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1913 Session I, C-02

There is very little activity in mining at Tairua. The Golden Hills Claim, from which great things were expected, has proved a great disappointment, and has ceased operations.

## **AJHR 1914**

(Published 1914, but reporting largely on 1913)

**Tairua Golden Hills Mine.** —Operations have been confined to stoping over the No. 3 level, and 600 tons of general ore was treated during the year, for a return of £920 16s. 5d. Eight men have been employed.

**Tairua Mines**—Early in the year this claim was purchased by Mr. H. H. Adams, who is now making preparations to work the property, especially a section which is believed to be capable of giving satisfactory returns.

As mining in the Tairua district is dormant it is hoped that something payable will be located. Two men have been employed.

**Daisy Claim.** —The owner drove an adit for a distance of about 60 ft., when a small reef was cut into, and the drive was then continued for a distance of 20 ft. During the year 40 tons of ore was mined, for a return of £162 19s. 5d., a very satisfactory return. I examined the mine during the year, and found it safe. One man has been employed.

The Tairua Mines, better known as the Broken Hills Claim, is not at present at work. After several ineffectual attempts to restore the claim to its former position as a dividend-paying mine, the company went into liquidation and sold the property. This was purchased by Mr. H. H. Adams, of Auckland, whose intention is to resume work under a new scheme of operations which he anticipates will enable the claim to be profitably worked. There is a complete crushing battery and all necessary plant on the ground.

The Tairua Golden Hill Claim, which a few years ago was regarded as one of the most promising mines in the Hauraki District, has proved a great disappointment. The company has gone into liquidation, and most of the machinery has been sold for removal off the ground. The claim has been purchased by Mr. Agnew, of Thames, who has been engaged for some months in cleaning up the drives and testing the reefs in the claim. The work done has convinced him that the property is worth another trial, and he is now making arrangements to raise sufficient capital to enable him to recommence operations on a moderate scale.<sup>45</sup>

## **1920**

### **AJHR 1920**

(Published 1920, but reporting largely on 1919)

Golden Belt Gold-mining Company, Tairua.- ... (Neavesville)

**Golden Hills**, Tairua (Mr. J. M. Agnew, owner).—Work has been confined to stoping on the main reef above No. 1 level. The 140 tons of ore treated produced gold valued at £1,241 0s. 9d.

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<sup>45</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1914-I.2.1.4.10>

## 1927

### AJHR 1927

(Published 1927, but reporting largely on 1926)

Tairua New Monarch<sup>46</sup>

## 1936

### AJHR 1936

(Published 1936, but reporting largely on 1935)

Puketui Claim, Tairua (J. H. Prescott, owner). —From a small leader, about 2 in. in width, the owner obtained 5 tons of quartz, which yielded 4 oz. 10 dwt. of gold, valued at £21 8s. This is the total amount won since the commencement of operations.<sup>47</sup>

## 1937

### 28 January

In outlying areas, particularly Tairua, Hikuai and Kuaotunu, large quantities of ore have been paddocked ready for treatment as soon as crushing facilities are made available. The battery site at Broken Hills in the Tairua, Hikuai area is practically ready for the installation of the crushing unit and in the early part of this year the roadway, aerial and other modes of transport for ore will be completed.<sup>48</sup>

### 21 August

FOR SALE BY TENDER MINING PLANT. Tenders will be received at the Office of the undersigned up to Noon on the 13th day of September, 1937, for the Purchase and Removal of certain old Mining plant called or known as the "Taniwha Battery" Situated on the Third Branch of the Tairua River. Block VI. Tairua Survey District together with the corrugated iron building in which the plant is housed. Particulars and conditions of sale...

A. TYNDALL. Under-Secretary Mines Dept., Wellington.<sup>49</sup>

Does this battery get picked up by The Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate? Moved to a more suitable site for them. It only had 5 stamps; they found 5 more.

### Government Battery Opens

### 29 November

HELPING THE MINER.

The establishment of a small battery for the use of miners on the Tairua field is an experiment which will be followed with interest in the auriferous areas throughout New Zealand. At one time Tairua was a profitable field for mining companies, but the bigger reefs were worked out, and the mines gradually

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<sup>46</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1927-I.2.2.2.3/1>

MINES STATEMENT BY THE HON. G. J. ANDERSON, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1927 Session I, C-02

<sup>47</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1936-I.2.2.2.3>

MINES STATEMENT. BY THE HON. P. C. WEBB, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1936 Session I, C-02

<sup>48</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19370128.2.146>

New Zealand Herald, Volume LXXIV, Issue 22638, 28 January 1937, Page 12

<sup>49</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19370821.2.19.8>

Auckland Star, Volume LXVIII, Issue 198, 21 August 1937, Page 5

reverted to tributers and small claim holders, while the batteries were dispersed. For some years the ores won have been transported over 40 miles for treatment, and the costs have very seriously affected the earning capacities of the miners. This new battery, close at hand, in addition to treating ores of known values will give practical tests to gold-bearing stone at a minimum cost to the miner, and thus it is possible that areas which have not been properly investigated will prove workable...

..The battery will pay for itself on the charges made for treatment, and the Department will have the support of the public if it further extends the system by the erection of batteries at suitable points and moving them about when tests have been completed.<sup>50</sup>

## AID TO MINING

### PUBLIC CRUSHING PLANT INSTALLATION AT PUKETUI

THE OFFICIAL OPENING [from our own correspondent] THAMES. Sunday

A public battery for use of the miners of the district was opened by Mr. J. Thorn, M.P., on Saturday, at Puketui, Tairua, which is close to the once famous Broken Hills mines. There was an attendance of over 80 people. Mr. Thorn said the crushing plant had been put up by the Government to give practical help to the miners of the locality, who had suffered much hardship in the past, their ore having to be taken over 40 miles to Owaharoa to be crushed and treated. Mr. Thorn read a special message from the Minister of Labour, the Hon. H. T. Armstrong, to the miners of the district. It stated that many of the men in this locality had reached the position of being unable to carry on through lack of storage space for their ore. It was felt that the position would be adequately met by the installation of a five-ton crushing unit, which was now ready to run. Mr. Thorn then declared the battery open and Mrs. Thorn, pulling a lever, set the machinery in motion. Mr. H. Crawford, director of the Thames School of Mines, under whose supervision the crushing plant has been erected, stated that gold occurred in a very fine state of division and tests of the ore carried out in the ball mill at Coromandel obtained satisfactory extraction. The new finds on either side of the Tairua River at Broken Hills had greatly encouraged the department, which had caused the erection of the two 2½-ton ball mills in the locality. These mills were far ahead of the old crushing system, being extremely easy to drive and quick in their action. The ore was free milling and very suitable to be treated in the mills.<sup>51</sup>

## AJHR 1937

(Published 1937, but reporting largely on 1936)

Tairua, Myosotis Gem and Golden Mount Claims, Tairua. —The **Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate**, which has taken over these claims, erected a ten-stamp battery during the year. Several old drives were cleaned out, and it is expected that production will commence early next year.

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<sup>50</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19371129.2.43>  
Auckland Star, Volume LXVIII, Issue 283, 29 November 1937, Page 6

<sup>51</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19371129.2.141>  
New Zealand Herald, Volume LXXIV, Issue 22898, 29 November 1937, Page 13

Puketui Claim, Tairua (J. H. Prescott, Owner).—Operations were confined to the stoping of a small leader, the ore from which is said to be of good value. It is being stacked for treatment.<sup>52</sup>

## 1938

### AJHR 1938

(Published 1938, but reporting largely on 1937)

Gem Claim, Tairua (Shea, Hastie, and party).—Some driving and crosscutting was done, and several months were occupied in constructing hoppers and erecting an aerial in connection with the conveyance of ore from the mine to the State mill [Government battery?]. The production for the year amounted to 26 tons of quartz, which yielded 17 oz. 10 dwt. of gold, valued at £82 7s. 10d. This is also the total output since the commencement of operations.

**Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate**, Tairua.—The erection of the ten-stamp mill referred to in last year's report was completed early in 1937. A tramway [the inclines?] was laid to the mine entrance, and renovating-work in Nos. 1 and 2 levels [Golden Hills?] was put in hand. Work was suspended during the latter part of the year. The average number of men employed was four. No ore was broken in the mine, but some 40 tons of sweepings, which were obtained in cleaning out No. 2 level, was treated at the battery for a recovery of 11 oz. 16 dwt. of bullion, valued at £49 15s. 10d., which is also the total production since the commencement of operations by the syndicate.

**Western Claim, Tairua** (G. Taylor and party, Owners).—Work consisted chiefly of repairing a road, and constructing an aerial [aerial cableway?], &c., in connection with the conveyance of ore from the mine to the State mill. Some 27 tons of ore, with a yield of 7 oz. 11 dwt. of bullion, worth £44 14s. 8d., was produced from the property during the year. The total output since the commencement of operations is 16 oz. 2 dwt. of bullion, valued at £64 3s.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1937-I.2.2.2.3>

MINES STATEMENT. BY THE HON. P. C. WEBB, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1937 Session I, C-02

<sup>53</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1938-I.2.2.2.3>

MINES STATEMENT. BY THE HON. P. C. WEBB, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1938 Session I, C-02



1944 aerial photograph, showing the site of the 10 stamp Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate battery<sup>54</sup>, and the incline(s) constructed to bring ore down from the old Golden Hills No. 1, 2 and 3 levels. Battery site arrowed at bottom, No. 2 level arrowed approximately at top.

Note the exposed soil at the battery and tramways.

Crown\_292\_980\_20 1944 (cropped)

## 1939

### AJHR 1939

(Published 1939, but reporting largely on 1938)

**Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate**, Tairua. —The No. 2 main level was retimbered, and the winze at the south end dewatered. Considerable general testing was undertaken, but the results were not encouraging. The reopening of No. 3 low level was commenced, but work was suspended when a slip

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<sup>54</sup> This writer's assertion

occurred. Thirty tons of ore were mined and treated for a return of 13 oz. 5 dwt. of bullion, valued at £55 16s. 7d. The total production since the beginning of operations is 25 oz. 1 dwt. of bullion, valued at £105 12s. 5d.

## **1940**

### **AJHR 1940**

(Published 1940, but reporting largely on 1939)

**Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate**, Tairua. —No work of importance was done on this syndicate's property, and the concern is practically defunct.<sup>55</sup>

## **1942**

### **24 December**

#### **TENDERS**

**SALE BY TENDER.** Tenders are Invited for the Purchase of the Mining Plant and Buildings on the Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate's property, Tairua, Broken Hills. Conditions of tender and schedule of plant can be inspected at the office of the Inspector of Mines. Waihi, or at the office of the undersigned. Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. Tenders close at 4 p.m. on the 22nd January, 1943, at the office of the undersigned.

V. R. S. MEREDITH, Crown Solicitor. Yorkshire House. Shortland Street. Auckland.<sup>56</sup>

Battery lingers to at least end of 1942.

Chelmsford Gold Mining Co? Much further up the valley (see Downey).

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<sup>55</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1940-I.2.2.2.3>

MINES STATEMENT BY THE HON. P. C. WEBB, MINISTER OF MINES., Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1940 Session I, C-02

<sup>56</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19421224.2.113.3>

Auckland Star, Volume LXXIII, Issue 304, 24 December 1942, Page 6

## Downey, 1935<sup>57</sup>

### TAIRUA AREA

Gold appears to have been first discovered in this locality on Tairua River in 1893, on what was afterwards known as the Tairua Golden Hills Claim, but for some time little active prospecting or mining was done there. In 1894, 6 tons of quartz from the locality are said to have been treated for a return of 30 oz. bullion.

In 1895 a new find was made about 3 miles due west from Laycock's upper landing on the Tairua River, from which 1 ton of quartz sent to Thames School of Mines yielded 57 oz. bullion, valued at £69. This discovery led to the pegging-out of a number of claims, amongst which were Broken Hills, Tairua Proprietary, New Tairua, Golden Bay, and other claims.

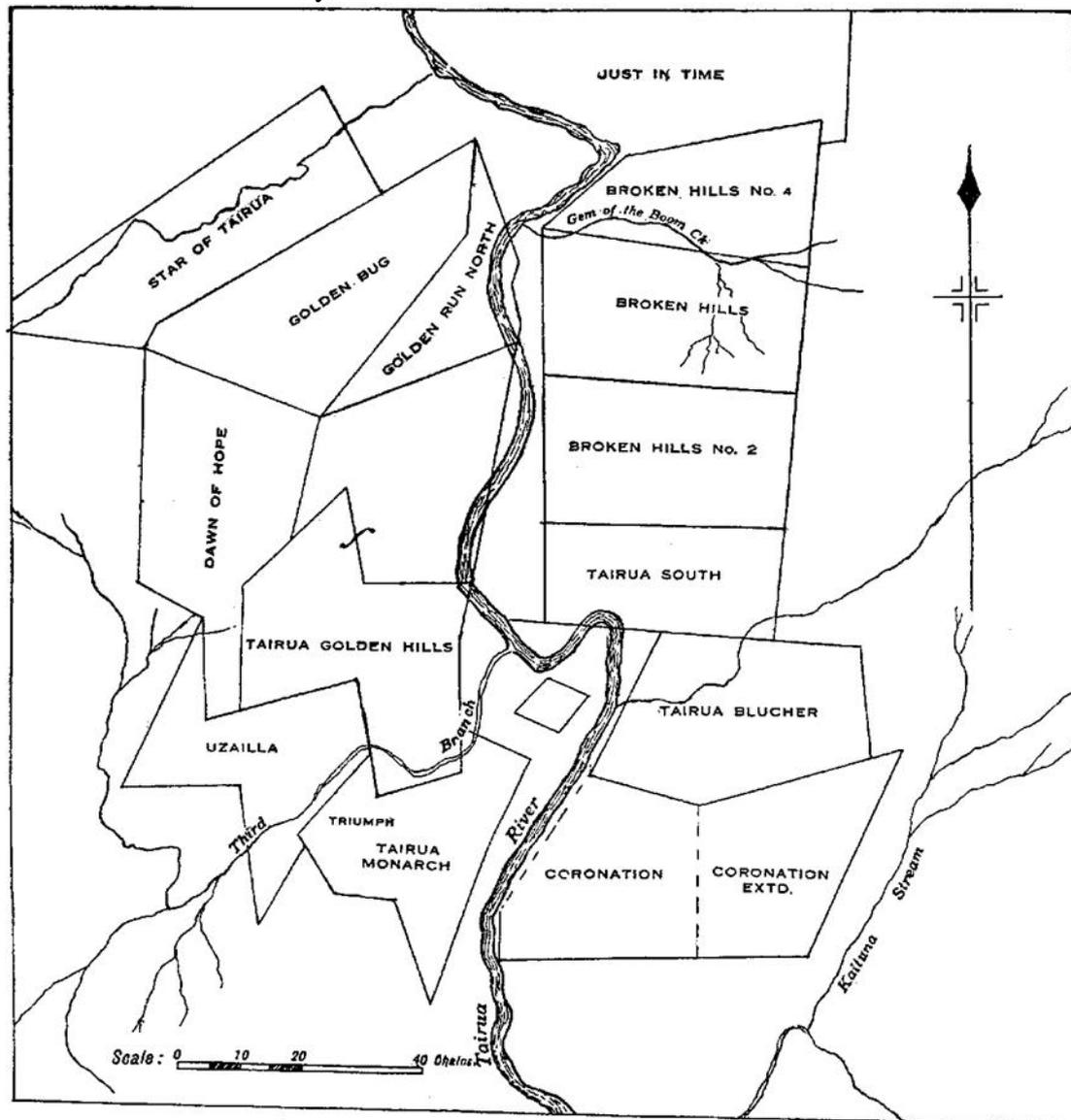


Fig. 19—Showing Positions of Old Claims, Tairua Area, Thames County.

<sup>57</sup> Gold – Mines Of The Hauraki District, New Zealand.  
By J. F. Downey,  
Member Institution of Mining and Metallurgy  
(London), Inspector of Mines. 1935.

*Broken Hills Claim.*---This was acquired, in 1896, by the Broken Hills Gold-mining Co., Ltd., of London, which spent a lot of money in opening up its mine, laying tramways, and purchasing a battery in England, but before the latter was erected the company satisfied itself there was no continuous run of payable ore available in the mine, and it gave up operations in 1898. The principal mining-work done by it was the putting in of three levels, No. 2 of which was only about 146 ft. below the outcrop, with No. 3 70 ft below it. In 1899 the claim and plant were sold at auction, and were purchased by Mr H. H. Adams on behalf of a syndicate, which formed Tairua Broken Hills Gold-mining Co., Ltd. This company extended the low-level adit, and drove on a large reef that had been cut in No. 2 level by the previous company, but on which very little work had been done. A drive was put in along its hanging-wall, from which crosscuts were put through the reef from time to time as the work progressed. The reef was found to be from 26 ft. to 30 ft. in width, and assays of the quartz are said to have indicated that it was of payable grade. The company completed the erection of the battery purchased by the old company, and started crushing quartz from this reef, but the returns from the first 600 tons put through only amounted to 196 oz. bullion, valued at £287. It was then found that only a small percentage of the valued was being extracted, and a plant was put in for the treatment of the sands by the cyanide process. Even with this addition to the plant the returns still continued to be unpayable, but the company kept up a vigorous policy of development and crushing, giving special attention to the opening-up of the low level. In 1900, 2,218 tons of quartz were crushed for a yield of 673 oz. bullion by amalgamation and 668 oz. by cyanidation, worth altogether £1,457. The discovery, in 1901, of somewhat better values, particularly in the Blucher reef, improved the position considerably, and thereafter for a few years the company was fairly prosperous, mining up to the end of 1909 sufficient bullion to enable it to pay in dividends £24,710. By this time all the ore that could be profitably mined had been extracted, and the total output from the claim had amounted to 31,379 tons of quartz, which yielded 51,012 oz. bullion, valued at £89,036.

The company carried out a large amount of development-work, especially on and below the low-level adit. Quite a number of reefs were located and driven on, but the Blucher, Western, No. 1, and Night reefs were the only ones found to carry anything approaching payable values, and in them the values were mainly got where they passed through an obliquely-crossing belt of country 150 ft. to 200 ft. in width. The reefs continued north and south beyond the limits of this belt, but on leaving it they at once dropped in value, although to all appearances the quartz remained of the same character. The Blucher reef was worked for the greatest length, about 350 ft. On the Night reef one shoot of quartz in the main ore channel was worked for a length of 250 ft., and another to the south, separated by about 75 ft. of unpayable quartz, for 150 ft. The shoot on the Western reef was 160 ft. in length, while that on the No. 1 reef was 270 ft. In the New Year reef only small patches of pay-ore were got.

The mine is noteworthy from the fact that it was the only one in the Hauraki district which paid dividends from quartz won from rocks of the "third period." The rock throughout the whole of the lower workings was an altered flow rhyolite, while the upper rocks consisted of rhyolitic tuffs and breccias. None of the reefs in the lower part of the mine lived to surface, but died out in the overlying breccias, and the pay-ore did not live up to within a considerable distance of the breccias. Below the low level the shoots of pay-ore continued downward with a steep pitch to the south. They were followed down by winzes to what was known as the 80 ft. level, and later by a vertical shaft which was sunk from the low level to the 110 ft. level, but on these

levels the shoots rapidly shortened. On the 80 ft. level that of the Blucher reef was only about 180 ft. in length, with the shoot of the Night reef a similar length.

On the Western reef, which was stoped for 160 ft. about the low level, only one underhand stope was mined below the level, and in this the quartz proved erratic in value. From the 110 ft. level of the vertical shaft comparatively little work was done. A winze on the Blucher reef penetrated to a somewhat greater depth, but no development-work was carried out below the level. The company had proposed to deepen the shaft to 220 ft., but, owing to the exhaustion of its funds this work was not carried out. In 1911 the company reconstructed under the name of Tairua Mines, Ltd., but this company did little or no work.

*Golden Hills Claim.*---The Tairua Golden Hills Claim was on the western side of the Tairua River, south-westward of the Broken Hills Claim. Gold was first discovered in it in 1893 on what was known as Davey's reef, from which 11 tons taken out by the prospectors is said to have yielded 47 oz. bullion; value, £141. Subsequent shallow prospecting failed, however, to reveal any extent of payable stone, and for a time the ground was abandoned. Following the discovery of the better-grade ore in the Broken Hills Claim in 1901, a renewal of prospecting effort took place, and in 1907 the Tairua Golden Hills Gold-mining Co. was formed to more systematically explore the area, with the result that at a good deal lower altitude than Davey's reef the existence of another strong auriferous reef was proved. This was first located in what was known as No. 2 level, and subsequently another level, No. 3, 130 ft. lower, intersected it. A fourth level was also started, 250 ft. below No. 3, to meet it, but this, owing to the collapse of the company, was not carried in far enough to do so. On Nos. 2 and 3 levels the reef was a fine-looking body of stone up to about 6 ft. wide, and was driven on for about 300 ft. The quartz was considered sufficiently promising to warrant the erection of a treatment plant, and a battery of twenty stamps was provided, equipped with tube-mills for the fine grinding of the ore, also a cyanide unit. A suction-gas plant was installed to furnish the necessary power. Amalgamation of the bullion was not attempted, and treatment consisting of an all-sliming process followed by cyanidation. The value in the ore did not, however, come up to expectations. Treatment began in 1910, and at the end of March, 1911, 650 tons of quartz had been put through, but it only yielded 60 oz. bullion, valued at £253. During the following two years a further 3,406 tons were treated which yielded 2,739 oz. bullion, valued at £4,415. These returns not being payable, the company suspended operations. The mine then lay idle till 1920, when it was taken on tribute by J. M. Agnew, who worked it till 1923, during which period he crushed 603 tons of quartz for a return of 826 oz. bullion; value, £1,687. All the ore treated by the company and the tributer came from the reef between Nos. 2 and 3 levels, but values were found to be confined to a shoot about 200 ft. in length, and even in this the values appear to have only occurred in a kaolinitic material filling a sinuous median fissure in the reef or where "flinties" or small cross-reefs met the main reef. The available ore of anything approaching payable grade was by this time exhausted, and nothing has since been done on the property. During its life-period the mine produced 4,670 tons of quartz, which yielded 3,671 oz. bullion, valued at £6,495. It may be mentioned that during the progress of development the No. 2 level was driven as a crosscut right through the hill for a distance of over 1,500 ft., but no other payable veins were met.

*Tairua Consolidated Claim.*---The Tairua Monarch Consolidated Co.'s area consisted of claims formerly known as the Triumph (or Taniwha), Coronation,

Monarch, and Conqueror, immediately to the south of the Golden Hills Co.'s holdings, and stretching across both sides of the Tairua River, the principal workings being between the latter and the "third" branch. On two of the claims, the Triumph and the Coronation, more or less prospecting had been done by the original holders, and each of them had been equipped with small treatment plants. Prior to the formation of the Consolidated Co. the Triumph had crushed 375 tons of quartz for a yield of 311 oz. bullion, valued at £765, and the Coronation 103 tons which yielded 23 oz. bullion, valued at £58. After the formation of the company a considerable amount of work was done on the various claims, but nothing of importance was located. On the Triumph a number of reefs were found, and several levels were opened on three parallel vein formations, but no payable ore was found. Bell and Fraser (Geol. Bull. No 15) have described these reefs or veins as being fairly well defined on No. 2 level, but difficult to trace on No. 1 level, where they apparently split up into irregular quartz stringers on approaching the silicified surface country. They stated, further, that the gold-silver content seemed to be contained mainly in small ramifying stringers of rusty or pyritous quartz traversing sheeted rhyolite.

In the Coronation Claim such values as there were evidently occurred in small irregular lenses and stringers in the shattered and silicified belts of rhyolite. On the Monarch Claim a level was driven for upwards of 700 ft., in which at 520 ft. from the portal a reef 12 ft. wide is said to have been cut, which was driven on for 260 ft., but found to be of too low grade to pay for working. Operations on the company's area ceased in 1911.

Regarding the various other claims in the field on which more or less work was done, among them the Tairua Dawn, Tairua Extended, Tairua Gem, and Tairua Reefs, there is little to be said. In the Tairua Dawn Claim a level was driven for several hundred feet, but only small stringers of quartz were cut. In the Tairua Leeds Claim, which covered large siliceous sinter deposits known locally as the "Big Blow," a level was driven 800 ft. to test this material at depth, but nothing of a payable nature was got. In the Tairua Gem a number of prospecting crosscuts were driven in the hope of cutting some of the reefs worked in the adjoining Broken Hills Claim, but little ore of any value was got. It is recorded that 35 tons from the claim were treated for a return of 29 oz. bullion; value, £56. In the Tairua Reefs Claim north of the Golden Hills Claim an attempt was made without success to trace the continuation of the reef worked in it, while in the Tairua Extended a similar unsuccessful effort was made to trace the southerly continuation of the same reef.

In the valley of the Tairua Stream and its numerous tributaries much prospecting was done, and a number of reefs were discovered, but none of these showed much promise. Bell and Fraser mention that the only locality they considered worthy of any further exploration was perhaps the "fifth" branch of the river, where a number of more or less defined reefs and stringers occurred in propylitized andesites apparently of the "first period," some of which they stated gave dish prospects and assay results seeming to warrant some further exploration of them.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Gold – Mines Of The Hauraki District, New Zealand.  
By J. F. Downey,  
Member Institution of Mining and Metallurgy  
(London), Inspector of Mines. 1935.

## Discussion

The locations and histories of the Broken Hills and Golden Hills batteries and mines are relatively well documented and understood.

Also the Government battery of 1937.

However the battery site beside the Third Branch is more troublesome. It has been described as the Triumph or Monarch battery site<sup>59</sup>.

The Tairua Triumph, Tairua Monarch, and Tairua Conqueror Gold Mining Companies amalgamated in 1909 to become Tairua Monarch Consolidated. They purchase and erect a battery which is operational in early 1911. They use 5 stamps, powered by a water race. They appear to mine ore from the Tairua Monarch claim (between the Tairua River and the Third Branch), transporting ore by tramway to the battery. There is no mention of crossing the Third Branch, or any river.

The map "Map of Lower Tairua Mining Area" from the Geological Bulletin 15 (1912) show a machine site not far from the Tairua Monarch claim, near the confluence of the Tairua River and Third Branch. Was the Tairua Monarch Consolidated battery located here?

The battery was advertised for sale April 1912.<sup>60</sup>

In 1936 the Tairua, Myosotis Gem and Golden Mount Claims are amalgamated under the Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate They erect a ten-stamp battery during the year, it is completed in 1937.

"A tramway was laid to the mine entrance, and renovating-work in Nos. 1 and 2 levels was put in hand."<sup>61</sup>

"The No. 2 main level was retimbered, and the winze at the south end dewatered. Considerable general testing was undertaken, but the results were not encouraging. The reopening of No. 3 low level was commenced, but work was suspended when a slip occurred. Thirty tons of ore were mined and treated for a return of 13 oz. 5 dwt. of bullion, valued at £55 16s. 7d. The total production since the beginning of operations is 25 oz. 1 dwt. of bullion, valued at £105 12s. 5d."<sup>62</sup>

These are the levels of the old Golden Hills mine. These 1938 works surely explain the incline(s) and exposed earth in the 1944 photograph. The Golden Hills battery used a self-acting cableway, there was no need for an incline.

The battery is advertised for sale in late 1942. The photograph is dated 17 April 1944.

This battery site, currently labelled as the Triumph or Monarch battery, has evidence of two mortar boxes. Nearby are a 4 cylinder engine block (diesel?), and the remains of a winch which it may have powered. This same engine, though more likely another, may have powered the battery.

Why two inclines? It is not clear.

Were they even self acting? Did the winch play some part in the operation of the incline?

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<sup>59</sup> For example by Ritchie and Moore, Coromandel Gold.

<sup>60</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19120411.2.115.2>

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLIX, Issue 14964, 11 April 1912, Page 12

<sup>61</sup> AJHR 1938

<sup>62</sup> AJHR 1939

Mention of a slip occurring which suspended work may explain having to create a new incline to the east of the first. The western incline shows a considerable sag towards the bottom, but it is this incline which lines up more directly with the battery. The walking track makes use of the eastern incline.



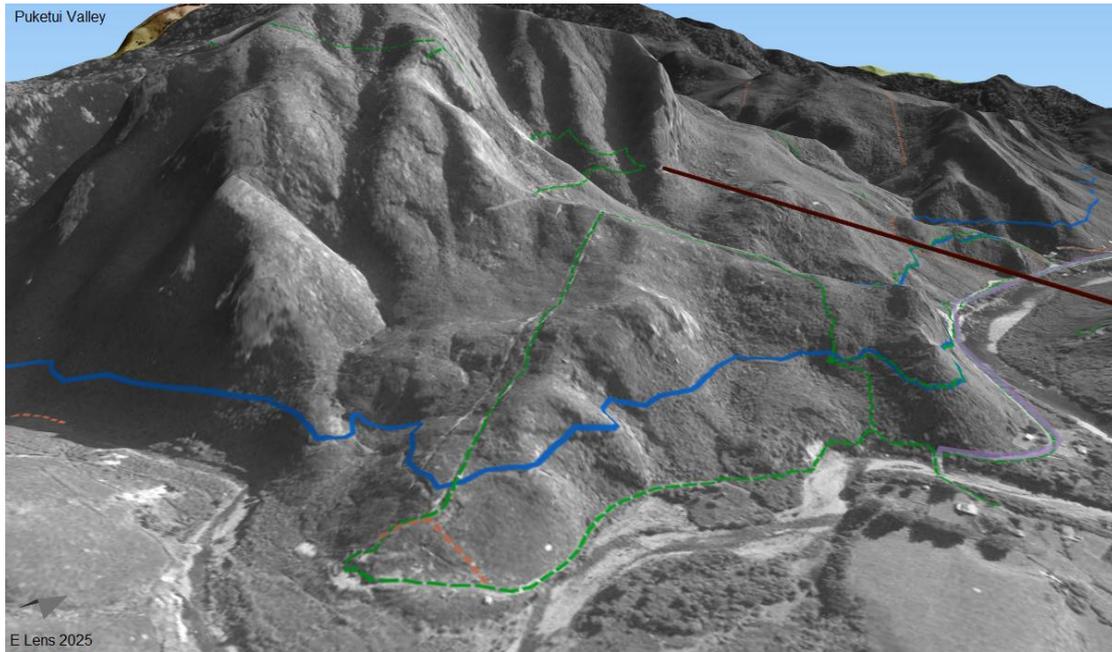
1944 aerial photograph, showing the site of the 10 stamp Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate battery<sup>63</sup>, and the incline(s) constructed to bring ore down from the old Golden Hills No. 1, 2 and 3 levels. Battery site arrowed at bottom, No. 2 level arrowed approximately at top.

Note the exposed soil at the battery and tramways.

Crown\_292\_980\_20 1944 (cropped)

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<sup>63</sup> This writer's assertion



1944 aerial photograph in 3D, showing the site of the 10 stamp Wealth of Nations Mining Syndicate battery, and the incline(s) constructed to bring ore down from the old Golden Hills No. 1, 2 and 3 levels.

The blue line is the Broken Hills battery water race, the dark red line is the Golden Hills cableway, and the green line the DoC walking tracks.