

Karangahake Timelines

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Time Line

1875	<p>3 March. Ohinemuri opened to mining with stampede</p> <p>18 June. Somerville's Six stamper is purchased by Karangahake Co./Prospectors Claim¹</p> <p>5 August. Start made erecting Somerville's old battery²</p> <p>3 November. Clarkson's Battery, Shellback Creek purchased. To be combined with the Somerville six stamper. Capitalists get one third of mine in exchange for erecting battery³</p> <p>"A road of sorts was soon formed between Paeroa and Mackaytown but it had to cross the Ohinemuri River twice, just before reaching Mackaytown. To avoid these crossings, a deviation over the hill (subsequently known as Turner's Hill) was formed in 1875 by a section of the army under the command of Captain Turner."⁴</p>
1876	<p>First Infrastructure at Karangahake</p> <p>June 24. Karangahake Battery "started"⁵</p> <p>19? July. Karangahake Battery opens (water race on Waitawheta Stream, battery driven by a turbine)⁶</p> <p>Battery uses amalgamated mercury plates. Water race of wooden fluming, 518m, dam in Waitawheta, true right bank, therefore flume crossing Waitawheta at junction. Ore chute and sledging of ore from mine.</p> <p>Poor results and the battery is stopped.⁷</p>
1877	<p>16 February. Coutt's and party of six have the Karangahake mine and battery on tribute.⁸</p> <p>Mining Inspector is forfeiting claims for non-working.⁹</p> <p>There is a half-time school at this place; the attendance about 16.¹⁰</p>
1878	<p>"The Tributers in the Karangahake mine are now crushing, and expect a payable return. The labour of conveying quartz to the mill is considerable, and, of course, adds to the cost of crushing."¹¹</p> <p>A large amount of surface prospecting has been done at Rotokohu.¹²</p> <p>The Ohinemuri Prospecting Association has prospecting parties out in the field.¹³</p>
1879	Karangahake Claim declared forfeit by the Mining Inspector. ¹⁴
1880	The opening day of the Te Aroha goldfield: 25 November 1880. ¹⁵

1881	Renewed interest in Karangahake. 4 May. Tenders called for removal and re-erection of Karangahake Battery to Waihi. ¹⁶ The battery did not leave Karangahake.
1882	29 March. The prospectors, Messrs McCombie and Liddell, have stone they consider will go fully 4ozs to the ton, and the reef, I am informed, is 5 feet in thickness. ¹⁷ This is the Hauraki, or Prospector's, Claim. 29 April. The Hauraki (John McCombie and Daldy Mc Williams), Hauraki No.2 (Hugh Roberts Jones and Robert Noble), and Maria (Jackson, for Francis Angus White, Adam Porter, John McCombie, and Daldy Mc Williams) claims applied for. ¹⁸ 7 August. Karangahake Battery purchased by Hauraki Company, becomes Hauraki Battery "A tramway is in course of erection from the battery to the foot of the range, a distance of some 330 yards [302m]. This will be connected with the Hauraki mine by a wire tramway [cableway, the first at Karangahake]." ¹⁹ More claims are taken up. The Thames County Council begin constructing the County Road up on to the side of Karangahake mountain. It is subsidized by Government. ²⁰ Claims have now extended to both sides of the Waitawheta, ie on Taukani Ridge as well. ²¹
1883	Thames County Council start constructing a road around the mountain. ²² 21 April. A road is being surveyed round the bluff to connect with the battery [Is this Scotchman's Gully?]. ²³ August. Hauraki G.M.Co. tramway and cableway operational. This is the first section of tramway to be built on the true left bank of the Waitawheta River. It is the start of the present day Crown Track. Trial of the Hauraki Company's battery is made at the end of August. ²⁴ December. Tramway Hotel opens, Alf Shepard proprietor. Licence transferred from Tramway Hotel Waitekauri ²⁵ "At Rotokohu, on the Karangahake Range, a find has recently been made that may yet prove both important and valuable." ²⁶
1884	29 March. A track connection between Karangahake and Te Aroha has been commenced. ²⁷ Late April. "Sir Walter Scott.—The shoot, tramway, &c, connecting this mine with the Hauraki Co.'s battery is rapidly approaching completion, after which crushing operations, will at once be started." ²⁸ July 1884 the Ivanhoe Company intend erecting a cableway, but may already have a chute and ground tramway, on the Ohinemuri side of Taukani. ²⁹ Before August. Ivanhoe G. M. C. construct a tramway at a cost of about £600, on true left bank of Ohinemuri River. ³⁰
1885	4 June. Karangahake suspension bridge completed, for foot and horse only ³¹ June. Butler's track completed ³² June. La Monte furnace construction may be under way ³³

	<p>The Talisman Gold Mining Company, Limited is formed late July.³⁴ 17 August. Hauraki battery is acquired by the Ivanhoe Company³⁵ August. Milligan and party have completed the formation of the self-acting section connecting the County road with the furnace site, and laying the sleepers and fastening the iron rails will be next in order. This tramway will be used as a mode of transport for material, &c., from the point of delivery by dray to the furnace site.³⁶ September. Mr. Alexander Hogg opens his store³⁷ 12 September. First (natural) dam and water race on Ohinemuri for Woodstock/La Monte furnace, includes flume over Waitawheta. Self-acting incline behind Battery Flat to County Road. Tramway on true left bank Waitawheta, plus aerial tramway to Plum Pudding/Woodstock Blow.³⁸ September. "A new township, named Silverton, has been laid off by the Government on the north side of the Ohinemuri River, just below the suspension bridge, and a number of business and residence sites have been taken up."³⁹ The name Silverton was soon replaced by Karangahake. 1 October. Ohinemuri County proclaimed⁴⁰ 23 November. "Karangahake visited by Staff of Goldfields School of Mines. Professor Black, Fenton, Goodlet on the 23rd, Montgomery on the 26th."⁴¹ Karangahake Post Office opens during 1885⁴² The earliest images of Karangahake are published: Pictorial Christmas Supplement to the New Zealand Herald, December 1885.⁴³</p>
<p>1886</p>	<p>May. Work started on Railey's battery and dam.⁴⁴ September. La Monte Furnace started⁴⁵ October. Karangahake Hotel opens; JH Wash proprietor. "This Hotel is most conveniently situated on the east bank of the Ohinemuri River, at the termination of the direct road from Paeroa, adjoining the Suspension Bridge; and is within easy reach of all the leading Mines, and Quartz Reduction Works."⁴⁶ 15 November. Railey's Battery starts.⁴⁷ Monastery Gold Mine work to make connection across the Waitawheta to Railey's new battery.⁴⁸</p>
<p>1887</p>	<p>February. "Fire. Karangahake. Serious bush fires have been raging here all day Sunday, and at one time it was feared that a large amount of damage would result to mining property."⁴⁹ March. Ivanhoe renovating their battery plant with a number of Railey pans. Woodstock company establishing Railey pans in the furnace house very shortly.⁵⁰ Railey's battery charges considered much too high.⁵¹ Ore transport to Railey's very difficult. The incline tramway being built becomes politically fraught. June. Flood.⁵² 1 August. "Woodstock. — Heiteman and party, tributers, have finished the tramway connecting their working with the self acting aerial line, which</p>

	<p>places them in direct communication with the Ivanhoe battery.”⁵³ November. Railey’s/County tramway stage one completed.⁵⁴ November 3. Isaac Railey has left for the South Island.⁵⁵ November 10. Battery advertised for sale.⁵⁶ December 17. “Mr Alexander Hogg, has taken a lease of Railey's mill, and as soon as the repairs to the dam are finished he will commence treating quartz from the Monastery mine.”⁵⁷</p>
1888	<p>March. Mr C. Percy Cox, of Canterbury purchases the Sir Walter Scott, Ivanhoe, and Truro claims.⁵⁸ John McCombie becomes manager. June. “Messrs. Parkes and Chambers are about to erect one of their furnaces at Karangahake in the old LaMonte furnace house. Tenders are called for carting 200 tons material from s.s. Kotuku to Karangahake.”⁵⁹ August 2. Sale of Railey plant to Crown.⁶⁰ The Cassel Company are involved. October. Parkes' furnace started⁶¹ By the end of the year the Parkes furnace is closed down, a failure.</p>
1889	<p>13 February. Cox’s 4 stamp battery and pan plant started, erected and managed by John McCombie, Ivanhoe and Truro Co.'s claims.⁶² March 30. Crown Battery under construction (at old Railey site).⁶³ Lamberton Grinding Mills will be used.⁶⁴ September; Gorge Rd under construction⁶⁵; County tramway being used for Crown battery.⁶⁶ Cassel small experimental plant in old Woodstock furnace house.⁶⁷ October 12. Cassel Gold Extracting Co.: A trial run of this Company's machinery took place to-day.⁶⁸ During 1889 a new school was built at Karangahake...⁶⁹</p>
1890	<p>January. New school at Karangahake⁷⁰ February. Mr G. A. McGruer takes full charge of the Crown mine, vice Capt. Coward returned Home.⁷¹ 24 March. Ivanhoe Battery sold for removal to Puriri.⁷² Gone, after 14 years. April. Crown has a “new find on the river level, promises extremely well... The level is seven hundred feet below Captain Coward's.”⁷³ No. 4 Level? June. Drying furnace erected Crown battery.⁷⁴ Crown new find on the river level connected to battery by connecting to the “old Monastery line”.⁷⁵ August. Land slip at Crown battery.⁷⁶ Cassel plant complete.⁷⁷ September. Plans underway for new plant downstream from Battery Flat.⁷⁸ 13 November “Road Works.—The new road to Owharoa from Karangahake is now fit for horse traffic, and is an excellent job. It is on the river level, and has cost about £1200. Messrs Kelly and Co. have just taken a contract for £83 to cut off certain sharp corners. When this is done and the culverts have been perfected, this road will be fit for any sort of wheeled or</p>

	other traffic.” ⁷⁹
1891	<p>January. Talisman claim established.⁸⁰</p> <p>July. Crown and Cassell Cos.' interests become identical in Karangahake, the two companies having amalgamated so far as regards Karangahake.⁸¹</p> <p>Crown Company “crushing with the old plant commenced towards the end of July, 1891, and was carried on successfully until August of the same year.”⁸²</p> <p>August. McGruer gets go-ahead to erect new Crown plant.⁸³</p> <p>“The new works will consist at first of 20 head dry stampers (provision being made for 40 eventually) and the appurtenances of the Cassel Company's process. This will mean an immediate expenditure of about £10,000, exclusive of the road which will have to be made, which will cost another £1200.”⁸⁴</p> <p>The tramway up the Waitawheta gorge is being called the Waitawheta Road.⁸⁵</p> <p>End August. Crown/Cassel dam destroyed.⁸⁶</p> <p>November. Tenders called for construction of tramway through Waitawheta gorge, including 30 chains [604 m] of solid rock cutting.⁸⁷ Also for Ohinemuri water race of 1 mile [1609 m]⁸⁸, and for repair of the Crown dam (ex Railey's) on the Waitawheta River.⁸⁹</p> <p>Contractors for excavating the battery site make good progress.⁹⁰</p>
1892	<p>March. Fire near McCombie's battery.⁹¹</p> <p>May. Crown new main level, or River Level, or No.6 Level created; and new tramway cut into cliff down Waitawheta river.⁹² Crown water race flume constructed.⁹³</p> <p>August. Crown battery at Railey's site stops.⁹⁴</p> <p>“The tramway leading from the mine to the new mill site is completed.”⁹⁵</p>
1893	<p>30 May. New Crown battery starts.⁹⁶</p> <p>June/July. Ivanhoe and Truro mines and plant is purchased by Woodstock Co.⁹⁷</p> <p>October. “Talisman mine at Karangahake has at last been successfully placed upon the Glasgow market.”⁹⁸</p> <p>October. Woodstock No. 3 level and cableway established.⁹⁹</p> <p>Electric light is now being used in the Crown Company's ore reduction works.¹⁰⁰ This is generated at the battery.¹⁰¹</p> <p>November. Crown: tenders called for construction of air compressor site (ex old battery site, ex Railey's)¹⁰²</p>
1894	<p>February. Earl of Glasgow are erecting a five stamp battery.¹⁰³</p> <p>March. Crown erects compressor building at old Crown/Railey's site¹⁰⁴</p> <p>June. Woodstock, No. 3 level tramway and cable, completed early in year: “a double aerial line of tramway, which spans the Waitawheta river in order to reach a large hopper located near the horsegrade section of tram-line, and 250 feet below the point of present operations... easy of access by means of a "siding," where the trucks can be filled without interfering with ordinary traffic.”¹⁰⁵</p>

	<p>27 July. Flood and slip destroy Crown water race.¹⁰⁶</p> <p>August. Woodstock to erect 10 stamp mill.¹⁰⁷</p> <p>September. Earl of Glasgow claim have erected a five-stamper battery.¹⁰⁸</p> <p>31 October. Talisman; arrangements completed with the Crown Mines Company for treatment of a large tonnage of ore by the cyanide process.¹⁰⁹</p> <p>November. Woodstock firewood wire tram, and kiln constructed.¹¹⁰</p> <p>December. Talisman to erect a battery.¹¹¹</p>
1895	<p>The Tramway and Karangahake Hotels are to get second storeys.¹¹²</p> <p>February. Woodstock water balance and ore kiln installed.¹¹³</p> <p>11 February. Woodstock ten stamp battery starts, dry crushing.¹¹⁴</p> <p>Late February. Talisman battery erection underway.¹¹⁵</p> <p>June. Stanley G.M. Co drive tunnel off Crown tramway.¹¹⁶</p> <p>Talisman purchase Bonanza Co.¹¹⁷</p> <p>Tramway Hotel “name shortly to be altered to the Talisman”.¹¹⁸</p> <p>10 July. Sludge Channel Proclamation to take effect.¹¹⁹</p> <p>Talisman <u>Extended</u> Goldmining Company (Limited.) formed. To the west of the Talisman Company ground.¹²⁰</p> <p>September. Mining boom.¹²¹ The present boom is the largest that ever has taken place in the colony.¹²²</p> <p>November. Talisman battery completed, but not working.¹²³</p> <p>December. Preparations for 30 extra stampers for Woodstock. Water race is to be 40inch iron pipe.¹²⁴</p> <p>Karangahake School building was enlarged in 1895.¹²⁵</p> <p>Crown. An additional head of twenty stamps, and the necessary cyanide plant and buildings, were in course of erection.</p> <p>Woodstock. No. 5 level started.¹²⁶</p> <p>Talisman. “A wire tramway has been constructed to convey quartz from the hopper at the low-level to the mill, but, from some occult cause, this mill has not been completed. The water-race has been finished.”¹²⁷</p>
1896	<p>February. Talisman. A self-acting aerial tramway and hoppers has been erected, connecting the No. 4 level with the battery, a distance of fully 3000 feet. A substantial iron water-race has been erected to bring in the water. A contract has been let to cut and deliver 2000 tons of firewood to dry the ore.¹²⁸</p> <p>February. Woodstock. Three kilns are in course of construction. These will each hold about 150 tons of ore, and they will all be placed on the hill-side above the mill, so that the ore will pass right down through the plant by gravitation.¹²⁹</p> <p>Crown. Construction started of a large water-race in the Waitawheta [for the pelton wheel in the Crown Stope].¹³⁰</p> <p>March. Woodstock erecting suspension bridge over Ohinemuri for machinery for battery.¹³¹</p> <p>April. Talisman mine sold to the London New Zealand Investment Company.¹³²</p>

	<p>April 30. "Talisman.—The Talisman battery started crushing on Monday morning last, and has been running day and night since without hitch." ¹³³</p> <p>May. Woodstock connect No. 5 level tramway with Crown tramway, and also intend to run a ground tramway and then an aerial tramway from No. 1 level to a hopper above the level of the kiln site. ¹³⁴</p> <p>A large water race, one and a-quarter miles long [2012 m], is being constructed from the upper end of the Waitawheta. ¹³⁵ This for the Crown air compressor.</p> <p>June. Earl of Glasgow and Crown mines combine. ¹³⁶</p> <p>June. Major flood, C. S. Brown drowns. ¹³⁷ He was caretaker of the Crown Mines water race.</p> <p>August. Crown battery has 40 stamps at work. ¹³⁸</p> <p>September. Woodstock. Kiln tram line to be continued to intersect known lodes. ¹³⁹ This will create the "Windows" tunnel.</p> <p>September. Talisman Company to erect Howe Truss bridge across the Waitawheta River, to connect battery with Special site. The battery to be enlarged by ten stamps. ¹⁴⁰</p> <p>October. Talisman. a substantial bridge has yet to be erected over the river from the Crown tramline before the necessary machinery can be got to the battery site. ¹⁴¹</p> <p>November. Electric lighting for all three batteries. ¹⁴²</p> <p>November. Windows tunnel created. ¹⁴³ (called kiln tram-line extension).</p>
1897	<p>January. Woodstock battery install Samson-Leffel turbine water-wheel (ie they do away with the pelton wheels). ¹⁴⁴</p> <p>March. Woodstock Gold Mining Company's battery started crushing with the new 40-head.</p> <p>Crown works to be converted from dry to wet crushing plant.</p> <p>Talisman using old kiln as an ore hopper (or paddock). ¹⁴⁵</p> <p>April. "A 4-inch diameter [4 foot?] pipe line has been put in from the Talisman dam, and also two Victor turbines, capable of developing 120 horse-power effective. There will be also an electric light installation. A revolving air dryer is being substituted for the kilns; this is now ready for running, and will mean considerable economy, and probably a better extraction."</p> <p>Crown water race (Waitawheta) fluming commenced, 280,000 feet timber required. ¹⁴⁶</p> <p>16 June. Talisman new 20 stamper underway, Howe Truss bridge connects to special site (vat house). Ore drier in use. ¹⁴⁷</p> <p>July. Crown battery has 20 stamps running wet. ¹⁴⁸</p> <p>August. A new bridge proposed between Dogherty's and the Crown battery. ¹⁴⁹</p> <p>September. Crown battery 40 stamps wholly running wet. ¹⁵⁰</p> <p>Woodstock to test wet crushing. ¹⁵¹</p> <p>December. Crown low grade ore made to pay by wet process. ¹⁵²</p> <p>"Lack of water to keep the big mills going at top speed during the</p>

	<p>exceptionally dry season just experienced, has caused a considerable amount of annoyance and inconvenience. The Ohinemuri River has never previously been so low at Karangahake, and the same remark applies to the Waitawheta Stream. Many batteries had to hang up half their stamps.” “A severe "slump" has existed all the year, being the natural reaction of the boom.”¹⁵³</p> <p>Cyanide Process Gold Extraction Act; for the use of cyanide of potassium, the patent rights of which were purchased from the Cassel Company for £10,000.¹⁵⁴</p> <p>Sunday Labour in Mines Prevention Act, 1897.¹⁵⁵</p> <p>Crown: “A 10 ft. Pelton water-wheel (3 nozzles) will be attached direct to the driving-shaft of the compressor. The water-race to supply power for the air-compressor is 1 mile and a quarter in length, with a present capacity of sixty sluice-heads, the pressure being 32 lb. per square inch.”¹⁵⁶</p> <p>A swing foot bridge was put across the river between River Road and the main road.¹⁵⁷</p>
1898	<p>The new footbridge near Napier’s residence completed.^{158 159} It is sometimes referred to as the Crown bridge.</p> <p>Batteries now closed on Sundays because of new law.¹⁶⁰</p> <p>February. Crown air compressor started.¹⁶¹</p> <p>Karangahake school to have additions.¹⁶²</p> <p>March. Woodstock Company wet crushing.¹⁶³</p> <p>April. More dry weather.¹⁶⁴</p> <p>May. Mr. J. McCombie, leaves Woodstock Co., Mr. Rich replaces. “Never in the history of Ohinemuri has the river been so low as at present, and the want of rain is being most severely felt all over the district...”¹⁶⁵</p> <p>July. Severe flood, considerable damage.¹⁶⁶</p> <p>August. Woodstock to install six Union vanners.</p> <p>Crown battery start extra 20 head stamps, now 60.¹⁶⁷</p> <p>Karangahake Traffic bridge opened.¹⁶⁸</p> <p>29 October. Fire at Karangahake, destroyed twelve buildings.¹⁶⁹</p> <p>Talisman battery install 80 horse-power engine and boiler.¹⁷⁰</p> <p>Woodstock retire water-balance.¹⁷¹</p> <p>Crown change the numbering of their levels. AJHR 1899.</p>
1899	<p>January. The Talisman Company take “over of the Talisman Extended Gold Mining Company's property, which consists of a special claim and battery site”.¹⁷²</p> <p>February. Crown mine level numbering changed. No. 6 level in future will be known as the Waitawheta tunnel.¹⁷³</p> <p>10 May Governor Ranfurly at Karangahake.¹⁷⁴</p> <p>June. Royal Mail and Victor Waihou special claims taken up by Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co.¹⁷⁵</p> <p>October. A public meeting held in October, 1899, for the purpose of establishing a school of mines at Karangahake.¹⁷⁶</p>

	<p>December. Crown Company are to construct a new tramway to the battery, on the level (our current walking track).¹⁷⁷</p>
1900	<p>February. Never in the history of Ohinemuri has the river been so low.¹⁷⁸</p> <p>February. New (level) tramway to Crown battery complete (current walkway). Hoisting apparatus being installed beside battery (an incline tram), to lift ore from new tramway to top of battery. Will be run by pelton wheels.¹⁷⁹</p> <p>In the early part of this year [February] a school was opened at Karangahake to meet the requirements of the locality. Mr. E. B. McDuff, has the position of Director of the Karangahake School of Mines.¹⁸⁰</p> <p>March. Woodstock constructing new dam on Ohinemuri River. This will be a wooden structure, a little upstream from the later eastern rail tunnel portal¹⁸¹</p> <p>April. New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company amalgamate with Talisman Consolidated Company.¹⁸²</p> <p>May. Talisman to erect new battery.¹⁸³</p> <p>July. Woodstock battery to add an air compressor and steam plant.¹⁸⁴</p> <p>“The New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company's property has now been amalgamated with the Talisman Extended, Royal Mail, and Victor-Waihou special claims, to be known as the Talisman Consolidated.”¹⁸⁵</p> <p>August. Woodstock Gold Mining Company have accepted a tender for excavating a shaft chamber at No. 5 level.¹⁸⁶</p> <p>Woodstock. “The grading of the pipe line for the race is almost completed. A start has also been made to construct the aqueduct across the Ohinemuri River [Warren Truss]. This is being erected with the object of carrying the fluming over the river.”¹⁸⁷</p> <p>August. Talisman No. 8 level to be driven, about 200 ft below the No. 7. It will be the main outlet for the mine, “as all the ore from the upper workings will be concentrated there, and sent on to the battery, one length of aerial tramline being sufficient to land the ore at the battery”.¹⁸⁸</p> <p>Woodstock new dam, 3ft 9in pipeline and Warren Truss bridge across the Ohinemuri River completed. The Pelton wheel to be installed is 11 ft. 2 in. in diameter over all, and is to drive the air-compressors and battery during the greater part of the year. A new tail-race 69 ft. long under the mill, and below the old tail-race, has been driven and timbered so as to gain the utmost pressure-head. The old bridge across the Waitawheta Stream removed, a new and more substantial bridge built, going direct to the battery ore-hopper, 180ft long. The shaft-chamber in No. 5 level, which is 45½ft. long by 37½ft. wide, and 40 ft. high, has been completed, and a connection from it to the surface also made. The shaft is being sunk 8 ft. by 18 ft. in the clear, and has two hoisting-compartments, 6 ft. by 4 ft.; also a pumping-compartment and ladder-way, 6 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in.¹⁸⁹</p> <p>Crown Company. Driving a tunnel on opposite side of Ohinemuri River (true right). Erecting an engine at the battery to supplement water power¹⁹⁰ [this is the boiler and engine at the back of the battery].</p>

1901	<p>January. Woodstock start the new shaft from No. 5 level.¹⁹¹</p> <p>February. Karangahake School of Mines opened 4 February.</p> <p>“W H Baker, assistant instructor at the Thames School of Mines, had been elected to be Director of the Karangahake School of Mines which was then opened on Monday 4 February, 1901 by the Hon James McGowan, Minister of Mines. The School of Mines at Karangahake was opened on Monday with a satisfactory attendance of people. There are 50 students on the register.”¹⁹²</p> <p>Woodstock to add an air compressor to their battery.¹⁹³</p> <p>“Woodstock Company has recently erected a corrugated iron building at its mine; it is to be used for a change-room.”¹⁹⁴</p> <p>March. Crown mine: A pump has been installed.¹⁹⁵</p> <p>Woodstock: The 8in compressed-air pipe line (between the mill and the mine) is completed. A large Pelton wheel 11ft 2in in diameter, and a small and large air compressor are being installed.¹⁹⁶</p> <p>Distinctive pipe-line bridge across Waitawheta.</p> <p>April. . Crown. “The whole of the company's underground machinery is now worked by a powerful air-compressor.” Talisman: “The hoppers at the mill site and at No. 8 level are nearing completion.”¹⁹⁷</p> <p>June. Woodstock: The pipe line bridge across the Ohinemuri River, of over 80ft span, and the bridge across the Waitawheta, are completed.¹⁹⁸</p> <p>July. A landslide “caused part of the New Zealand Crown Mines' water race to carry away and the company's tramline to be blocked for some distance”. The Talisman’s new wet stamper battery of 50 stamps gets underway.¹⁹⁹</p> <p>August. Woodstock Gold Mining Company resumed crushing operations on August 30.²⁰⁰</p> <p>September. Crown battery adding two Babcock boilers at the back of their battery.²⁰¹</p> <p>The railway tunnel is being pushed ahead from both ends.²⁰²</p> <p>Night soil service to be established.²⁰³</p>
1902	<p>January. Woodstock battery closes, pending reconstruction.²⁰⁴</p> <p>A nightsoil service in Karangahake to be established.²⁰⁵</p> <p>“Talisman Consolidated Company's operations have so far been of a disappointing nature.”²⁰⁶</p> <p>March. Woodstock Company resume development work in the mine, but not the battery.²⁰⁷</p> <p>April. 180hp steam engine and boilers at Crown battery.²⁰⁸</p> <p>May. Talisman erect an air compressor.²⁰⁹</p> <p>October. Talisman start an incline shaft from No.8 Level.²¹⁰</p> <p>December. New steam plant at Crown battery working well. All three batteries are at work.²¹¹</p> <p>Woodstock. A new steam plant of two 150-horse-power Elephant boilers and a 250---horse-power Corliss engine erected at battery.²¹²</p>
1903	<p>February. Woodstock. Boring operations (diamond drill) have been</p>

	<p>commenced from the No. 5 level crosscut.²¹³</p> <p>July. Karangahake to be supplied with gas from Paeroa.²¹⁴</p> <p>The Crown have auxiliary steam plant at the mine.²¹⁵ This is the concrete pillbox perched on the cliff beside the Waitawheta entrance to the mine.</p> <p>November. “The combined railway and road bridge over the Ohinemuri River at Karangahake has been finished [and?] the section of the railway to Karangahake is just on the point of completion and will be opened for goods traffic shortly.”²¹⁶</p> <p>Double-decker road/rail bridge.²¹⁷</p> <p>December. Death of Middleton and McColl.²¹⁸</p> <p>The School of Mines building has been doubled in size.²¹⁹</p>
1904	<p>February. Woodstock for sale.²²⁰</p> <p>11 April. David Deans, employed in the railway tunnel at Karangahake, dies of his injuries.²²¹</p> <p>May. Coal is railed to Karangahake, and waggons loaded from the double deck bridge.²²²</p> <p>Karangahake now supplied with gas from the works in Paeroa (Ohinemuri Light and Power).²²³</p> <p>June. Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000²²⁴</p> <p>18 October. Walter Ings and Fredk. Thomas Shaw are injured in the Karangahake rail tunnel. Ings dies from his injuries.²²⁵ Shaw dies 6 November.²²⁶</p> <p>The headings in the Karangahake tunnel met in the beginning of September last (1904), and the tunnel was completed by the end of January.²²⁷</p>
1905	<p>January. Crown mine considers closing.²²⁸</p> <p>“Reports are current that the Crown mine, at Karangahake, intends closing down on the 6th prox. The battery is now only working day shift.”²²⁹</p> <p>September. KARANGAHAKE RAILWAY CROSSING.²³⁰</p> <p>The road over the tunnel mouth, Waihi end, must have been completed shortly after this date.</p> <p>October. Both the Talisman and Crown are obtaining richer ore.²³¹</p> <p>November. The Karangahake bowling green at Mackaytown was opened last week.²³²</p> <p>Paeroa-Waihi. This railway was completed and opened for traffic on the 9th November last.²³³</p> <p>December. The Talisman holds now 565 acres.²³⁴</p> <p>Talisman: “first dividends paid since operations were commenced in the mine”. £30,000²³⁵</p> <p>New Zealand Crown Mines (limited).— “This year the trestles and fluming which carry the water-supply over the Waitewheta Stream have shown signs of decay, and necessitated the erection of new fluming, &c, estimated to cost £800.”²³⁶</p>
1906	<p>16 September. Tramway Hotel burns down (press photo AWN)</p> <p>16 September. Fire at Karangahake. Tramway Hotel destroyed. “The hotel,</p>

	<p>which is the property of Mr Montgomery, was a substantial two-storeyed building and was well furnished throughout... The whole of the hotel was completely destroyed and the bulk of the furniture, while the hall which adjoined was also burnt.”²³⁷</p> <p>A flag station is to be opened at Mackaytown.²³⁸</p> <p>October. “The bridge across the Ohinemuri River at Mackaytown, to give access to the flag station, is now completed.”²³⁹</p> <p>Crown mine discovers rich new reef.²⁴⁰</p> <p>Talisman: “a new Ingersoll Sergeant compound air-compressor having been installed at the Woodstock Battery.”²⁴¹</p> <p>Crown: “The company's water-race on the Ohinemuri River has for some time been leaking and in much need of repairs. During the year a new bridge at the junction of the Ohinemuri and Waitawheta Rivers has been erected to carry the race over.”²⁴²</p> <p>“Comstock United Gold-mining Company.—In the early part of the year a company was formed to raise capital to carry on further development-work.” To supply fresh air to the very long tunnel a small dam was constructed on the Hauraki Stream, and a water-blast set up to force air into the drive.²⁴³</p> <p>“At Karangahake discoveries of cinnabar have been made, and several mineral leases applied for.”</p> <p>Karangahake School of Mines. “Averaging forty-two students, and having fifty-nine students on the roll during the second term. This is the highest average attendance yet reached for this school.” “During the year a storeroom 16 ft. by 12 ft. has been erected.”²⁴⁴</p>
1907	<p>January. A lack of miners; many Australian miners returning home.²⁴⁵</p> <p>A flood destroys much of the Crown Company's water race.²⁴⁶</p> <p>“The footbridge at Mackaytown, over the Ohinemuri River, has also been carried away by the water.”²⁴⁷</p> <p>Another new rich reef found in the Crown mine.²⁴⁸</p> <p>March. This Lloyd lode is “now considered the most important in the Crown mines.”²⁴⁹</p> <p>The damaged water races of the Crown “would cost about £6000 and occupy 14 months to repair.”²⁵⁰</p> <p>July. Mackaytown footbridge rebuilt after blowing down.²⁵¹</p> <p>September. “KARANGAHAKE MINING. At no period in the history of the Hauraki goldfields has the outlook for the Karangahake section looked so bright as at the present time.”²⁵²</p> <p>Karangahake Gold-mining Company has been established.²⁵³</p>
1908	<p>January. Karangahake Company at work.²⁵⁴</p> <p>May. Firebell to be erected.²⁵⁵</p> <p>Mr. Daw has been in England arranging for an electrical generating and pumping plant for the Crown Company.²⁵⁶</p> <p>Another large slip damages Crown water race and tramway.²⁵⁷</p> <p>May. Firebell appears to exist. Therefore constructed May or June.²⁵⁸</p>

	<p>July. Ohinemuri County Council has decided to erect a rotunda, to cost £125. This, I understand, will be erected in the main street, alongside the new firebell tower.²⁵⁹</p> <p>Talisman are installing new pump to lift the water from No. 13 level. Operated by compressed air.²⁶⁰</p> <p>August. Karangahake presses for Borough status.²⁶¹</p> <p>Talisman lower levels flooded owing to Crown mine stopping pumping.²⁶²</p> <p>September. Crown mine closed due to a dispute with the mining contractors over insurance.²⁶³</p> <p>November. Talisman. The installation of the new air-compressor plant at the Talisman mine is now completed, pumps holding the water below No. 12 level.²⁶⁴</p> <p>Crown. For the first time for over 25 years mining and milling operations in the New Zealand Crown mines at Karangahake have been suspended. At the earliest work is not likely to be resumed for several months, during which the new electrical pumping plant for unwatering the mine to a greater depth will be installed. A number of men will be thrown out of work in consequence.²⁶⁵</p> <p>Band rotunda, Karangahake, £138 (W. H. Taylor)²⁶⁶</p>
1909	<p>January. Workers Compensation Act of 1908. Miners refuse to submit to medical examination regarding miners' complaint (phthisis). The Talisman capitulates, not the Crown.^{267 268}</p> <p>February. The new compound Cornish air-compressor recently installed by the Talisman Consolidated is working most satisfactorily. The water in the shaft has been reduced about 80 feet, leaving 60 feet yet to be pumped before operations can be resumed at No. 13 level.²⁶⁹</p> <p>CROWN MINE. The concrete foundations for a powerful electrical plant are now being prepared at the Crown mine [battery].²⁷⁰</p> <p>March. Ohinemuri Licensing Poll: Vote = No-license. To take effect June 30.²⁷¹</p> <p>April. Haywards' Picture entertainment at Karangahake (movies).²⁷²</p> <p>August. Talisman. In the Woodstock section are cutting out a huge chamber for the new machinery, in connection with the sinking of the Woodstock shaft from its present depth of 250 ft to the Talisman low levels. At the battery the company are installing three tube mills, eight B. and M. agitating tanks, a vacuum filter plant, and a new mill engine.</p> <p>Crown. The power station has a large triple expansion engine for driving a three phase 550 kilo. generator. There is also a large Francis turbine for driving the same generator when there is a sufficient supply of water in the Ohinemuri River for doing so. There are two Babcock boilers of 250 horse-power each, feed pumps, and every type of safety device to provide against accidents.²⁷³</p> <p>October. Talisman. Water low enough to allow deepening of shaft from No.13 level. The large chamber in Woodstock section completed.²⁷⁴</p> <p>A rich patch of cinnabar ore struck in the Mackaytown cinnabar mine.²⁷⁵</p> <p>November. Karangahake bowling green official opening.²⁷⁶</p>

	<p>December. Crown mining again, crushing with one shift. Mining had ceased for about a year. Electrical plant and pumps working well (at a cost of £20,000²⁷⁷).²⁷⁸</p> <p>The Ascot Cinnabar Syndicate have erected a plant for the reduction of cinnabar.²⁷⁹</p>
1910	<p>30 March. Flood! Biggest on record.²⁸⁰ Water rushed through the railway tunnel.²⁸¹ Talisman water race pipe crumpled and twisted.²⁸² Old Woodstock battery damaged.²⁸³</p> <p>4 April. Gorge Road closed.²⁸⁴</p> <p>Mackaytown station bridge destroyed.²⁸⁵</p> <p>August. Talisman battery. Three new tube mills and eight pneumatic slimes agitators have been installed.²⁸⁶</p> <p>15 September. Old Woodstock battery destroyed by fire. The plant destroyed included three air compressors and two steam engines.²⁸⁷</p> <p>November. Ohinemuri County Council decided to erect a footbridge over the Ohinemuri river, at Karangahake, near the School of Mines.²⁸⁸</p> <p>December. Dougherty's swing bridge (suspension bridge) is built early 1911?</p> <p>Mr. J. McCombie was appointed general manager of the New Zealand Crown Mines.²⁸⁹</p>
1911	<p>February. Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers' Conference.²⁹⁰</p> <p>October. Karangahake Dispute. Cooperative System Adopted.²⁹¹</p> <p>Crown. The machinery in connection with the treatment plant is now all electrically driven.²⁹²</p> <p>Talisman. A new change-house, 30 ft. by 70 ft., has been erected at the mouth of the Woodstock No. 5 level, and will be equipped with hot and cold shower-baths and steam-heat for drying clothes.²⁹³</p>
1912	<p>January. Crown mine No. 7 level aerial tram to Crown horse tramway to be erected.²⁹⁴</p> <p>May. Waihi Strike. 13 May - 12 November 1912²⁹⁵</p> <p>October. New croquet lawn should be ready for use about Christmas time.²⁹⁶</p> <p>Coal miners' strike at Huntly.²⁹⁷</p> <p>November. The Karangahake Bridge has been commenced, but not yet been completed.²⁹⁸</p>
1913	<p>January. Large heavy trestle bridge, replaces first swing bridge at Karangahake²⁹⁹</p> <p>August. Edgar Rock Drill. An official trial of the Edgar patent rock drill took place on Saturday at Karangahake.³⁰⁰</p> <p>Crown battery: Five slime-vats have been equipped with mechanical agitators, and consequently a considerable improvement has been effected in the percentage of bullion-recovery.³⁰¹</p>
1914	<p>June. Crown. Operations suspended, battery ceases crushing.³⁰²</p> <p>4 August New Zealand at war³⁰³</p>

	September. Bowling. Karangahake Club put down a new green of four rinks, which will be ready for play late in the coming season. ³⁰⁴
1915	August. Crown. At present the only work in the mine is being done by tributers. ³⁰⁵
1916	21 February. Tramway Hotel Destroyed. Woman Burnt To Death. ³⁰⁶ March...there has been a series of fires in the past two or three months... ³⁰⁷
1917	July. Crown powerhouse sold to Gisborne Borough ³⁰⁸ .
1919	March. Crown Quarry granted by Warden. ³⁰⁹ June. The demolition of empty houses is still going on apace. The better parts of the houses are being removed for re-erection in other places, mostly in the King Country. The local quarry adjacent to the Crown battery has been fully opened up, and good bell metal is to hand, which is in great demand by various councils, etc. ³¹⁰ August. Crown mine is being dismantled. ³¹¹ October. Gas lighting discontinued, electric lights curtesy of Talisman battery. ³¹² Talisman. milling operations were suspended October, and will not be again commenced unless the development work undertaken by the company justifies resumption. ³¹³
1920	July. Concrete bridge is being erected over Doherty's creek. ³¹⁴ December. Talisman Consolidated, Limited, have decided that the mine shall be closed down as soon as the material in the underground workings can be withdrawn. ³¹⁵
1921	January. New Zealand Crown Mines Co., Ltd., invite tenders for the working of their road metal quarry at Karangahake on tribute. ³¹⁶ February. Karangahake Bowling Club will be disbanded. ³¹⁷ August. The band rotunda at Karangahake was sold to the Paeroa Beautifying Society for the sum of £50. ³¹⁸
1922	November. Karangahake School of Mines. Tenders are invited for the Cash purchase of the buildings and contents of the above School of Mines situated at Karangahake, either separately or as a whole. ³¹⁹
1923	January. New Talisman Company wish to develop the parallel system of the Crown and Talisman mines. ³²⁰ February. Mining operations in Karangahake had practically ceased up to six months ago, following upon the closing down of the Talisman Consolidated mine, with the exception of some prospecting work in the Crown Mines property. During the last six months, however, numerous applications have been made through the Warden's Court for fresh mining leases in that district, where there are now several prospecting parties at work. ³²¹
1924	A Talisman air compressor removed to Huntly coal mines. ³²² Two classrooms from Karangahake school removed to new school at Waikino. ³²³
1925	March. The Talisman Consolidated mine, up to March, 1921, had put out

	<p>gold to the value of £2,951,315, equal to £7 5s a ton. The total dividends paid amounted to £1,151,164, or about £4 17s 6d a share. The Crown mine has yielded £871,386, the total dividends bring £70,000. From these two mines the total output was, therefore, £3,822,701, the combined dividends amounting to £1,221,164.³²⁴</p> <p>July. The county Council plan to remove the Talisman (ex Woodstock) dam on the Ohinemuri.³²⁵</p>
1926	<p>January. Talisman Dam demolished by dynamite.³²⁶</p> <p>May. The Minister of Mines asked to provide a public battery for Karangahake.³²⁷</p> <p>September. John McCombie dies, aged 76.³²⁸</p>
1927	<p>January. Electricity for lighting and power purposes has now been installed at Karangahake by the Thames Valley Power Board.³²⁹</p> <p>June. Mr J. B. Morris, with a party of men, has erected a five head battery about three miles along the Trig Road [County Road. Earl of Glasgow area].³³⁰</p> <p>August. The Crown battery has not yet been demolished. Water races still intact.³³¹</p> <p>August. Mr. J. B. Morris elected representative on Council, Karangahake Riding.³³² JB Morris continued till 1938.³³³</p> <p>November. Quite a small pegging out boom is in progress in the Karangahake section of the goldfields. "Practically all Karangahake has been pegged out" ...³³⁴</p>
1928	<p>January. Large fires at Karangahake.³³⁵</p> <p>April. Talisman battery is still being dismantled.³³⁶</p>
1929	<p>June. County Council consider taking over the Crown tramway and aerial at Karangahake.³³⁷</p>
1930	<p>February. Work was started last week on the Talisman-Dubbo property.³³⁸</p>
1931	<p>Daylight saving.³³⁹</p>
1932	<p>March. Relief Camp workers are clearing ragwort at Karangahake.³⁴⁰</p> <p>Cherry's Battery.</p> <p>June. Mr J. N. Cherry said he had recently acquired the claim, he had sunk a certain amount of capital in works and machinery for the purpose of extracting and crushing his own ore. He had also acquired a small battery (5 stamps) and power plant, and had been granted a special battery site by the Warden, and six months' protection.³⁴¹</p> <p>September. The Golden Dawn Goldmining Company, in the erection of its battery at Owharua, was assisted by the Mines Department, conditional on the company having also to treat parcels of ore for small companies and private prospectors. The Talisman Dubbo Company is having its ore treated here.³⁴²</p>
1933	<p>May. The Karangahake Tributers and Prospectors' Association has been formed at Karangahake, some twenty odd members being enrolled.³⁴³</p> <p>October. Talisman Dubbo (Karangahake). The aerial ropeway from Talisman No. 1 level to the county road near No. 8 Talisman level (2100 ft.</p>

	<p>in length, with a fall of 800 ft.), and loading and discharging hoppers are now working.³⁴⁴ Ore is taken to the Golden Dawn battery, Owharoa.</p> <p>In 1933 the first one-day School Reunion was held on the Mackaytown Recreation Ground.³⁴⁵</p>
1934	<p>February. Unemployed men's camps:—"Public Works camps in the county are accounting for very good work."³⁴⁶</p> <p>19 April. John Nathaniel Cherry, the granting of a license to construct a dam in the Waitawheta stream 200 feet to the west of the Old Crown bridge to store water to drive a turbine, such application having been consented to by the Minister; granted.³⁴⁷</p> <p>December. Mr. J. Morris has completed the erection of his battery in the township. The old stamper system has been discarded and the plant consists of a stoncrusher and ball mill. Mr. Morris is working a claim on top of the Taukani Mountain.³⁴⁸</p>
1936	<p>January. Karangahake Gorge road to be closed for widening work. Detour to be over Rahu Road.³⁴⁹ Public Works department.</p> <p>2 February. Flood. Waikino footbridge was washed away. Rahu road impassable.³⁵⁰</p> <p>July. The Ohinemuri County Council decide to dismantle the Karangahake swing bridge [River Road to Irishtown?]³⁵¹</p> <p>December. Gorge road. Opened to traffic at Christmas.³⁵²</p>
1937	<p>February. Karangahake Gorge road closed again for further work³⁵³</p> <p>June. Talisman Dubbo Gold Mines Ltd. Start on erecting their own mill at old Talisman powerhouse site.³⁵⁴</p> <p>October. Talisman Dubbo Goldmining Company request the Council to reopen the old Scotchman's gully road.³⁵⁵</p> <p>November. The old Talisman battery site clean-up is still yielding bullion.³⁵⁶</p>
1938	<p>February. Waitawheta River considered as a water supply for Paeroa.³⁵⁷</p> <p>March. New Waitawheta Road bridge erected.³⁵⁸</p> <p>April. Karangahake gorge road to be sealed.³⁵⁹</p> <p>May. Talisman Dubbo new mill started. Designed for efficiency and low running costs. The gold will be saved by cyanidation. Electricity provides the motive power.³⁶⁰</p> <p>July. Storm. Gorge road closed by slips, extensive damage. Rahu road reused.³⁶¹</p>
1940	<p>February. The Talisman Dubbo Gold-mining Company closing down.³⁶²</p> <p>The up-to-date battery, erected in 1937, has been dismantled and sent to Fiji.³⁶³</p>
1941	<p>Mines Department is prospecting the Ascot Mine at Karangahake.³⁶⁴</p>
1942	<p>Golden Dawn Gold-mines, Ltd., Owharoa—Work suspended and plant being sold for removal.³⁶⁵</p>
1943	<p>Operations suspended at Ascot Mine, where the Mines Department was carrying out some investigations.³⁶⁶</p>
1945	<p>Talisman Battery site now held as the Grace claim by E. C. Roberts.</p>

	Approximately 100 tons of material were treated for a return of bullion valued at £707. ³⁶⁷
1946	Morris' battery site, Karangahake.— all plant was sold and transferred to a claim at Komata. ³⁶⁸
1947	October. The Paeroa Borough Council Water Supply Empowering Bill revokes the sludge channel status of Waitawheta stream. ³⁶⁹
1948	March. The four-foot diameter sheet iron pipes of the Woodstock/Talisman Ohinemuri water race were. ³⁷⁰
1957	December 7, 1957, Karangahake was en fete for the official opening of its new hall. ³⁷¹
1959	<p>Paeroa Municipal Water Supply.</p> <p>The pipe line measures 33,700 feet (about 6½ miles) from the Borough boundary via the Waitawheta Gorge to the intake above Dickey's Flat. The pipe line crosses 2 large swing bridges and passes through a 500 feet long tunnel before going under the bed of the stream to reach the treatment plant. The completed job costing just over £95,000. The first draw off from the supply was taken shortly prior to Christmas 1959 although the final work had not been completed at that stage. For the first time for nearly 40 years Paeroa Borough had an adequate supply of water. ³⁷²</p> <p>In 1933 the first one-day School Reunion was held on the Mackaytown Recreation Ground, but in 1959, through the initiative of Mr Eric Nash (the Headmaster) and his wife, Gwen, a grand, long weekend celebrated 70 years of the school's history. It was no small matter to accommodate the hundreds who came to the now sparsely populated area, but it was a wonderful success, aided by the fact that a new Hall had been built by the community. ³⁷³</p>
1960-3	<p>Karangahake Picnic Reserve was vested in the control of the Ohinemuri County Council as a reserve for recreational purposes on 27th October 1960.</p> <p>A concrete block building containing toilets and changing facilities erected late 1963.</p> <p>Notice Board on the Reserve was erected by the Paeroa Rotary Club. ³⁷⁴</p>

Some Significant Physical Features

Karangahake Battery site

Karangahake Battery site, Battery Flat near confluence of rivers Location: NZ Mercator. 1840818,5854651	
1875	5 August. The Prospectors' Claim, at Karangahake, have made a start in putting up a small mill. ³⁷⁵ Somerville's from Karaka, Thames November. Clarkson's Battery, from Shellback Creek, north Thames is purchased ³⁷⁶ These two batteries are combined to become the Karangahake Battery
1876	June 24. Karangahake Battery "started" ³⁷⁷ 19? July. Karangahake Battery opens (water race on Waitawheta Stream, battery driven by a turbine) ³⁷⁸ Battery uses amalgamated mercury plates. Water race of wooden fluming, 518m, dam in Waitawheta, true right bank, therefore flume crossing Waitawheta at junction. Ore chute and sledging of ore from mine. Poor results and the battery is stopped. ³⁷⁹
1882	7 August. Karangahake Battery purchased by Hauraki Company, becomes Hauraki Battery ³⁸⁰
1885	August. Hauraki Battery becomes Ivanhoe Battery ³⁸¹
1890	24 March. Ivanhoe Battery sold for removal to Puriri. ³⁸² Gone, after 14 years.

Ohinemuri lowest dam (Woodstock dam) and water race

Woodstock dam, first and lowest on Ohinemuri River Location: NZ Mercator. 1841430, 5854734. Opposite large pine tree on walkway	
1885	September. An excellent natural dam, about two chains wide, has been found in the Ohinemuri River. A water-race from this dam, 145 chains [2917m, error?] in length [forty chains [805m] of fluming ³⁸³], will convey ten or twelve sluice heads to the furnace. From the head of the dam to the junction of the Waitawheta and Ohinemuri Rivers is 28 chains [563m]. At this point (the junction) a bridge will be necessary to carry the flume across. The water-race will require some 7500 feet of timber. The fall of water from the dam will be about 40 feet, and a Pelton wheel is expected to generate about 40 h. p. ³⁸⁴ 28 November. Water race complete ³⁸⁵
1886	September. The water to drive is taken from the Ohinemuri river, which runs close in front of the furnace house, and is brought down a distance of 42 chains [845m], in fluming three feet wide, and one foot six inches deep. This flume or race, is of timber all the way, the sides being 18 x 1¼, and the bottom, three boards of 12 x 1¼. For a distance of 18 chains [362m] it has to be supported on trestle work, the trestles varying in height from 4 to 30 feet and averaging 22 feet apart. One of the spans, where it crosses the Waitawheta River, is 90 feet between the sole plates, and 47 feet above the

	river. The building of this bridge was quite an undertaking in itself. The legs, which are over 40 feet long, are 10 inches square, and rest on sole plates about seven feet above the summer level of the river. These legs lean in towards the centre, 15 feet off the perpendicular, which reduces the span at the top to 62 feet, and this is bridged over by two stringers, each of which is composed of two pieces of 14 x 4, strapped and bolted together, and supported underneath by a straining rod of 1½in. iron. The feet of the legs and the sole plates are securely bolted down to the rock, so as to resist the freshes in the river during the winter. ³⁸⁶
1889	Ivanhoe and Truro Co.'s battery and pan plant make use of Woodstock water race to power their plant
1894	A shortened and refurbished version of the Furnace water race. Same dam ³⁸⁷
1895	Woodstock's open wooden flume replaced by 1m diameter steel pipe. ³⁸⁸
1900	Woodstock water race extension and new dam 1900. ³⁸⁹

Waitawheta lowest dam (Talisman Dam site) and water race

Karangahake Battery dam, first in Karangahake, first and lowest on Waitawheta River. We think of it now as the Talisman Dam Location: NZ Mercator. 1840998, 5854270. Opposite Windy point on walkway	
1876	May. No description yet found. 549m of wooden fluming required on true right bank, trestle over river to battery on Battery Flat ³⁹⁰
1882	August. Becomes the dam of the Hauraki battery ³⁹¹
1885	January. Stones have been placed in front of the dam as armour ³⁹² . August. Becomes the dam of the Ivanhoe battery ³⁹³ Still a wooden flume
1896	Talisman Company dam and water race 1896. This is a reuse of the original Karangahake battery dam and headworks, the flume being replaced by a 4 ft [1.2m] diameter pipe. ³⁹⁴

Dams and Water Races summary

Dams and water races	
1876	Karangahake Company erect dam and wooden water race on Waitawheta River. The first in Karangahake.
1885	Woodstock Company dam and wooden water race for the Furnace late 1885. First and lowest on the Ohinemuri River.
1886	Railey's Battery dam and wooden water race late 1886. This is the second dam on the Waitawheta River.
1892	Crown Company Ohinemuri dam and water race 1892. The water race will be a wooden flume from a dam just below the future eastern portal of the railway tunnel.
1894	Woodstock Battery water race 1894. A shortened and refurbished version of the Furnace water race. Same dam.

1895	Woodstock's open wooden flume replaced by 1m diameter steel pipe.
1896	Talisman Company dam and water race 1896. This is a reuse of the original Karangahake battery dam and headworks, the flume being replaced by a 4 ft [1.2m] diameter pipe. Crown Company Waitawheta dam and water race 1896. This long wooden flume will power the large air compressor at the river level entrance.
1900	Woodstock water race extension and new dam 1900. On the Ohinemuri River, upstream of the future eastern portal of the railway tunnel.
1904	Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000, and take over the Woodstock dam.

Battery Flat

Site of earliest activity, starting with Karangahake Battery, 1876. A flat area of river bank, on true left bank of Ohinemuri River, immediately below junction of Waitawheta River. Location: NZ Mercator. 1840718,5854690.	
1875	Stampede to Karangahake Spur. 5 August. The Prospectors' Claim, at Karangahake, have made a start in putting up a small mill. ³⁹⁵ Somerville's from Karaka, Thames November. Clarkson's Battery, from Shellback Creek, north Thames is purchased ³⁹⁶ These two batteries are combined to become the Karangahake Battery
1876	June 24. Karangahake Battery "started" ³⁹⁷ 19? July. Karangahake Battery opens (water race on Waitawheta Stream, battery driven by a turbine) ³⁹⁸ Battery uses amalgamated mercury plates. Water race of wooden fluming, 518m, dam in Waitawheta, true right bank, therefore flume crossing Waitawheta at junction. Ore chute and sledging of ore from mine. Poor results and the battery is stopped. ³⁹⁹
1882	7 August. Karangahake Battery purchased by Hauraki Company, becomes Hauraki Battery ⁴⁰⁰
1883	December. Tramway Hotel established ⁴⁰¹ Alf Shepherd proprietor.
1885	4 June. Karangahake suspension bridge completed. ⁴⁰² August. Hauraki Battery becomes Ivanhoe Battery ⁴⁰³ Self-acting incline completed ⁴⁰⁴ September. Hogg's Store opened ⁴⁰⁵
1888	Parkes' furnace started. ⁴⁰⁶
1890	Ivanhoe Battery sold for removal to Puriri. ⁴⁰⁷
1894	Tramway Hotel has a handsome verandah along the river frontage. ⁴⁰⁸
1895	Tramway Hotel enlarged by building another storey on it. ⁴⁰⁹
1896	Mr Alf. Shepherd, of the Tramway Hotel, Karangahake, sold that hotel to Mr Bunyard. ⁴¹⁰

1897	Talisman build General Office and cyanide vat house. ⁴¹¹ Mr A. Bunyard, Tramway Hotel, erects a Lyceum Hall, close to the hotel. ⁴¹²
1898	New Traffic bridge opened. ⁴¹³
1906	Tramway hotel destroyed by fire. ⁴¹⁴
1908	Talisman vat house enlarged to become the powerhouse. ⁴¹⁵
1909	Ohinemuri voted Dry. Tramway hotel reduced to boarding house only. ⁴¹⁶
1913	New truss Traffic bridge. ⁴¹⁷
1915	Boarding house on hill is removed.
1916	Fatal Fire at Karangahake. Tramway hotel destroyed. ⁴¹⁸
1938	Dubbo battery under way. ⁴¹⁹
1959	Paeroa municipal water supply pipeline and suspension bridge installed.
1970?	“Gold Camp” created.
2019	New suspension bridge across the Ohinemuri River.

Waitawheta tramway route

Along true left bank Waitawheta River. We now think of it as the Crown Track.	
1882	August. A tramway is in course of erection from the battery to the foot of the range, a distance of some 330 yards [302m]. ⁴²⁰
1885	August. Woodstock.— Willett's and party, contractors for cutting and forming the horse grade section of tramway, are making good headway with the work. ⁴²¹ 28 November. horse grade, and aerial sections of the tramway are now complete. ⁴²²
	November. Crown.- Tenders called for construction of tramway through Waitawheta gorge, including 30 chains [604m] of solid rock cutting. ⁴²³
1892	Crown. - The tramway leading from the mine to the new mill site is completed. ⁴²⁴
1899	December. Crown Company are to construct a new tramway to the battery, on the level (our current walking track). ⁴²⁵
1900	February. New (level) tramway to Crown battery complete. ⁴²⁶

Railey's Battery site, later Crown Battery, then Crown Compressor

Railey's Battery site was later modified by the Crown Company, building a new battery and Cassel plant. This was later replaced by a compressor house. Included here is the dam on the Waitawheta River, swing bridge, and dwellings.	
1886	May. Work started on battery and dam. ⁴²⁷ Battery building 12.2x17m (207.4 sq m), 16 windows. Dam across the Waitawheta river is at its widest part about 120 ft [36.5m] at top, and at bottom about 100 ft; 8ft above ordinary water level. Water race 20 chains [402m] in length 3ft x 2ft composed entirely of kauri (sawn on the spot), 6ft Pelton wheel. ⁴²⁸
1886	November. Battery starts. ⁴²⁹ 12 tanks, 10 stamps
1887	November. Railey's/County tramway stage one completed. ⁴³⁰

1887	November 3. Isaac Railey has left for the South Island. ⁴³¹ November 10. Battery advertised for sale. ⁴³² December 17. Mr Alexander Hogg, has taken a lease of Railey's mill, and as soon as the repairs to the dam are finished he will commence treating quartz from the Monastery mine. ⁴³³
1888	August 2. Sale of Railey plant to Crown. ⁴³⁴
1889	March 30. Crown Battery under construction. ⁴³⁵
1889	October 12. Cassel Gold Extracting Co.: A trial run of this Company's machinery took place to-day. ⁴³⁶
1890	June. Drying furnace erected Crown battery. ⁴³⁷ Crown river level adit (No.4) connected to battery by connecting to the "old Monastery line". ⁴³⁸ August. Land slip at Crown battery. ⁴³⁹ Cassel plant complete. ⁴⁴⁰ September. Plans underway for new plant downstream from Battery Flat. ⁴⁴¹
1891	... crushing commenced towards the end of July, 1891, and was carried on successfully until August of the same year, when, during a heavy fresh in the river, part of the dam was carried away, and caused operations to be suspended with this plant for some months. After repairing the dam they resumed crushing, and, with the exception of a few break-downs owing to the dilapidated condition of the plant, they had a continuous run for six months up to August, 1892, when the machinery broke down beyond repair. ⁴⁴² End August. Crown/Cassel dam destroyed. ⁴⁴³
1892	August. Crown battery at Railey's site stops. ⁴⁴⁴
1893	November. Crown: tenders called for construction of air compressor site (ex old battery site, ex Railey's) ⁴⁴⁵ . The directors have ordered a complete rock-boring plant, including five rock drills. ⁴⁴⁶ December. Crown: preparations are now being made for repairing the water race and dam at the site of the old mill, with the object of providing sufficient water to work a 40 horse-power air compressor, to drive four rock drills for pushing the levels ahead with greater speed than is possible by manual labour. ⁴⁴⁷
1894	March. Crown erects compressor building at old Crown/Railey's site; the rock-boring plant is now in full operation in the mine ⁴⁴⁸

Cherry's Five Stamp Battery

On true right bank Waitawheta River. Between Talisman No.7 Level hopper, and Smithy site. A little down from the "Crown Stope".

Location: NZ Mercator. 1841184, 5853989.

1931	Crown Mine special quartz claim at Karangahake held by John Nathaniel Cherry. ⁴⁴⁹
1932	June. Mr J. N. Cherry: Crown special quartz claim No. 9556. He had acquired a small battery and power plant. ⁴⁵⁰
1934	February. Messrs Cherry and Sons commenced operations some time ago with but little capital. For about £500 they equipped a battery (5 stamps) and have since worked to such purpose that they have now been able to spend a further £500 on machinery. This comprises a low head turbine of 45 horsepower, pipes to convey water from a dam to be made in the Waitawheta stream to the turbine site at the present battery, and an air compressor. ⁴⁵¹

Karangahake's Bridges

Bridges by approximate date	
1876	13 June. First fluming bridge over the Waitawheta River completed, for Karangahake battery. ⁴⁵²
1884	10 May. Sir Walter Scott shoot, and tramway complete. A trestle bridge carrying their tramway now crosses the Waitawheta River beside the water race flume. ⁴⁵³ The Ivanhoe Company, on the Ohinemuri side of Taukani, also tram ore across this bridge. ⁴⁵⁴
1885	First bridge across the Ohinemuri River to/from Battery Flat. June. Karangahake suspension bridge completed. ⁴⁵⁵ The bridge is for foot and horse traffic; no vehicles! Late in year the Woodstock furnace water race crosses the Waitawheta River. ^{456 457}
1886	Railey's Battery swing bridge Railey's battery is operating towards the end of 1886. This bridge was constructed by the Monastery Gold-mining Company to transport their ore across the Waitawheta to the battery. This was completed by the end of the year. ⁴⁵⁸
1890	Crown mine river level entrance bridge ⁴⁵⁹ .
1892	Crown Company water race flume bridge across Waitawheta River. ^{460 461} Crown battery workers' bridge. 22 October 1892. The gale of Wednesday and Thursday did a good deal of damage. Messrs Brown, of Karangahake, were the greatest sufferers, — the framework of the Crown G.M. Co.'s battery, for which they are the contractors, being blown down and their footbridge swept away. Damage £200. ⁴⁶²
1894	Old Hauraki bridge upgraded by Woodstock Co. ⁴⁶³
1895	Woodstock water race flume to furnace is removed. New bridge to water balance constructed. ⁴⁶⁴
1896	Woodstock erect swing bridge over Ohinemuri to facilitate bringing machinery to the battery site. ⁴⁶⁵
1897	River Road pedestrian suspension bridge. Built late 1897, painted early

	1898. ⁴⁶⁶ 16 June. Talisman new 20 stamper underway, Howe Truss bridge connects to special site (vat house). ⁴⁶⁷
1898	Second suspension bridge, known as the Traffic Bridge. It was more substantial than the original bridge, could accommodate wheeled traffic. It was built just downstream from the original which was left in place. 20 August. Officially opened ⁴⁶⁸
1900	Woodstock. To carry the pipe-across the Ohinemuri Gorge a Warren truss-bridge of 80 ft. span has been built. This bridge has a 7 ft. wide decking in the clear between the trusses, and the bottom chord is 24 ft. above ordinary water-level, and 6 ft. above the highest known flood-level. The water-pipe which this bridge carries is 3 ft. 9 in. in diameter, and is now being connected up on the gradeline. ⁴⁶⁹
1901	Air pipe line bridge crossing Waitawheta River. [At the Woodstock battery] Two compressors installed. one an Ingersoll-Sergeant compound, rope-driven, low-pressure cylinder 24 1/4 in. diameter, high-pressure cylinder 15 1/4 in. diameter, 18 in. stroke, ordinary capacity 1,170 cubic feet free air per minute; and the other a Schram single-compressor cylinder 14 in. diameter, 24 in. stroke. ⁴⁷⁰ Railway tunnel temporary bridge. The temporary bridge over the Ohinemuri has been completed. This will admit of the spoil from the tunnel excavation being conveyed across the river and there utilised in the formation of the station-grounds, &c” ⁴⁷¹
1903	West portal rail bridge completed. ⁴⁷²
1904	Eastern portal railway bridge. Completed end of 1904 or beginning 1905.
1906	Mackaytown to flag station pedestrian suspension bridge. Completed October 1906. ⁴⁷³ A large bridge to carry the new Crown Co. water race is erected, of the Platt type. ⁴⁷⁴
1911	Dougherty’s swing bridge (suspension bridge) is built early 1911? ⁴⁷⁵
1913	Heavy truss bridge constructed connecting the township to Battery Flat. Completed January or February. ⁴⁷⁶
1920	Doherty’s (or Dougherty) Creek bridge. The concrete bridge that is being erected over Doherty’s creek is almost completed, and will be available for traffic in a few days’ time. This is a much needed bridge, and will be greatly appreciated by all and sundry. ⁴⁷⁷
1959	Two suspension bridges for Paeroa municipal water supply pipe were installed. One pedestrian bridge also a little downstream from Dickey’s Flat.
1985	New pedestrian bridge atop the rail/road bridge at Western portal. New suspension bridge over Waitawheta River, between Dubbo battery and Woodstock battery remains.
2020?	New suspension bridge at Karangahake Reserve installed by the Department of Conservation.
2021	Replacement suspension bridge for Crown tramway walkway installed by the Department of Conservation.

	Replacement suspension bridge below Dickey's Flat.
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Woodstock battery site

1884	Late April. Sir Walter Scott.—The shoot, tramway, &c, connecting this mine with the Hauraki Co.'s battery is rapidly approaching completion. ⁴⁷⁸ Before August. Ivanhoe G. M. C. construct a tramway at a cost of about £600, on true left bank of Ohinemuri River. ⁴⁷⁹
1885	12 September. First (natural) dam on Ohinemuri for Woodstock/La Monte furnace, includes flume over Waitawheta. ⁴⁸⁰ The earliest images of Karangahake are published: Pictorial Christmas Supplement to the New Zealand Herald, December 1885. ⁴⁸¹
1889	13 February. Cox's 4 stamp battery and pan plant started, erected and managed by John McCombie, Ivanhoe and Truro Co.'s claims. ⁴⁸² Water power taken from Woodstock Furnace race on the Ohinemuri.
1892	March. Fire near McCombie's battery. ⁴⁸³ May. Crown water race flume constructed. ⁴⁸⁴
1893	June/July. Ivanhoe and Truro mines and plant is purchased by Woodstock Co. ⁴⁸⁵
1894	August. Woodstock to erect 10 stamp mill. ⁴⁸⁶ November. Woodstock firewood wire tram, and kiln constructed. ⁴⁸⁷
1895	February. Woodstock water balance and ore kiln installed. ⁴⁸⁸ 11 February. Woodstock ten stamp battery starts. ⁴⁸⁹ December. Preparations for 30 extra stampers for Woodstock. ⁴⁹⁰
1896	February. Woodstock. Three kilns are in course of construction. These will each hold about 150 tons of ore, and they will all be placed on the hill-side above the mill, so that the ore will pass right down through the plant by gravitation. ⁴⁹¹ March. Woodstock erecting suspension bridge over Ohinemuri for machinery for battery. New 40 stamp battery to be erected. ⁴⁹² May. Woodstock connect No. 5 level [river level, becomes underground pumphouse area] tramway with Crown tramway, and also intend to run an aerial tramway from No. 1 level to a hopper above the level of the kiln site. ⁴⁹³ Woodstock to test wet crushing. ⁴⁹⁴
1897	January. Woodstock battery install Samson-Leffel turbine water-wheel (ie they do away with the pelton wheels). ⁴⁹⁵ March. Woodstock Gold Mining Company's battery started crushing with the new 40-head. ⁴⁹⁶
1898	May. Mr. J. McCombie, leaves Woodstock Co., Mr. Rich replaces ⁴⁹⁷ August. Woodstock to install six Union vanners. ⁴⁹⁸ Woodstock retire water-balance. ⁴⁹⁹ Battery converted to wet crushing. ⁵⁰⁰
1899	17 March. The Woodstock Company are pushing ahead with the alterations to the battery, so that when the new five 6ft vanners arrive from America, everything will be ready for their installation. These additional vanners will materially assist in the treatment of a larger tonnage of ore. ⁵⁰¹ 9 May. All the new vanners have now been installed, so that in future the return of bullion should show an increase. ⁵⁰²
1900	March. Woodstock constructing new dam on Ohinemuri River. This will be

	<p>a wooden structure, a little upstream from the later eastern rail tunnel portal.⁵⁰³</p> <p>July. Woodstock battery are to add an air compressor and steam plant.⁵⁰⁴</p> <p>August. Woodstock new dam, 3ft 9in pipeline and Warren Truss bridge across the Ohinemuri River completed. The Pelton wheel to be installed is 11 ft. 2 in. in diameter over all, and is to drive the air-compressors and battery during the greater part of the year. A new tail-race 69 ft. long under the mill, and below the old tail-race, has been driven and timbered so as to gain the utmost pressure-head. The old bridge across the Waitawheta Stream removed, a new and more substantial bridge built, going direct to the battery ore-hopper, 180ft long.⁵⁰⁵</p>
1901	<p>A new and more substantial bridge going direct to the battery ore-hopper has now been almost completed. This bridge is 180 ft. long over all. It is designed for the transmission of horse and train of trucks as they come from the mine, and will carry such a distributed load aggregating 10 tons.⁵⁰⁶</p> <p>Two compressors installed. one an Ingersoll-Sergeant compound, rope-driven, low-pressure cylinder 24 1/4 in. diameter, high-pressure cylinder 15 1/4 in. diameter, 18 in. stroke, ordinary capacity 1,170 cubic feet free air per minute; and the other a Schram single-compressor cylinder 14 in. diameter, 24 in. stroke.⁵⁰⁷</p> <p>Kauri tree beside battery dies</p>
1902	<p>A new steam plant has been installed as an auxiliary to the water-power during the dry season of the year. This plant consists of two 150-horse-power Elephant boilers and a 250--horse-power Corliss engine. These have been set up at the mill, and are so arranged that either the mill or compressors, or both, may be driven by either steam or water, or, if need be, both steam and water power can be coupled together.⁵⁰⁸</p>
1904	<p>June. Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000⁵⁰⁹</p>
1906	<p>Talisman: a new Ingersoll Sergeant compound air-compressor has been installed at the Woodstock Battery.⁵¹⁰</p>
1910	<p>30 March. Flood! Biggest on record.⁵¹¹ Water rushed through the railway tunnel.⁵¹² Talisman water race pipe crumpled and twisted⁵¹³. Old Woodstock battery damaged.⁵¹⁴</p> <p>15 September. Old Woodstock battery destroyed by fire. The plant destroyed included three air compressors and two steam engines.⁵¹⁵</p>
1911	<p>2 February AT KARANGAHAKE. TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED. ...The work of reinstating the plant lost in the Woodstock mill fire was completed some weeks ago.⁵¹⁶ September AWN image shows the main building housing the compressors has been rebuilt, but not the ancillary buildings.</p>
1912	<p>AWN image shows the ancillary buildings have been completed.</p>
1915	<p>27 January. TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED. Owing to shortage of water in the Ohinemuri River have had but little power from the Woodstock air compressor. This has stopped shaft sinking for the last fortnight.⁵¹⁷</p>

Crown battery site

The original plant was at the old Railey's site, some distance up the Waitawheta gorge. Cyaniding was first established there. The new battery, sited well below Battery Flat on the Ohinemuri, would be cyaniding from the start. Dry crushing before changing to wet crushing.	
1891	August. McGruer gets go-ahead to erect new Crown plant. ⁵¹⁸ The new works will consist at first of 20 head dry stampers (provision being made for 40 eventually) and the appurtenances of the Cassel Company's process. This will mean an immediate expenditure of about £10,000, exclusive of the road which will have to be made, which will cost another £1200. ⁵¹⁹ [Tramway from river level adit to battery. The section beside the Waitawheta we now call the Crown tramway] Contractors for excavating the battery site make good progress. ⁵²⁰
1892	May. Crown Company: the water for the race is taken from the Ohinemuri River, and carried 85 chains [1708m] in the ordinary fluming to the plant. It will be a very complete and capable race, and has taken over 180,000 ft. of kauri timber in construction. The tramway is 80 chains [1609m] in length, running from the Crown Mine to the site of their reduction-works, and has been a difficult and trying undertaking, a great deal of the cutting being the face of the Waitawheta Gorge cliff... ⁵²¹ August. Crown battery at Railey's site stops. ⁵²² The tramway leading from the mine to the new mill site is completed. ⁵²³ [from Battery Flat this tramway slopes up to the top of the new battery]
1893	30 May. New Crown battery starts. ⁵²⁴ October. Electric light is now being used in the Crown Company's ore reduction works. ⁵²⁵
1894	27 July. Flood and slip destroy Crown water race. ⁵²⁶ November. Talisman carting ore to Crown battery for treatment. ^{527 528} Argy bargy results.
1895	February. Mr. Hutchinson has the management of the plant and machinery, and Mr. Napier, the well-known cyanide expert, has charge of the Cassel process and assay department. ⁵²⁹ August. Two percolating vats erected to re-treat the accumulating tailings. ⁵³⁰ December. Mr Daw to superintend the Crown. ⁵³¹
1896	February. Additions underway at battery. ⁵³² September. Crown battery has 40 stamps at work. ⁵³³ A new electric lighting plant erected at the battery. ⁵³⁴
1897	March. Crown works to be converted from dry to wet crushing plant. ⁵³⁵ July. Crown battery has 20 stamps running wet. ⁵³⁶ September. Crown battery 40 stamps wholly running wet. ⁵³⁷ December. Crown low grade ore made to pay by wet process. ⁵³⁸ ...the whole plant was converted from dry to wet crushing. Additions were at once made to the battery in the shape of 13 new steel percolation tanks and five large steel sump tanks, at a cost of £2000. Now, with a view to still further increasing the battery power, foundations are being laid for another 40 head of stampers, thus making 80 head in all. ⁵³⁹
1898	August. Crown battery start extra 20 head stamps, now 60. ⁵⁴⁰ [the battery will never be enlarged to 80]
1899	December. Crown Company are to construct a new tramway to the battery,

	on the level (our current walking track). ⁵⁴¹ The trucks of quartz are hoisted up an incline tramway on the outside of the crushing plant up to the rock-breaker with an engine erected near the bottom of the incline. ⁵⁴²
1900	February. New (level) tramway to Crown battery complete (current walkway). Hoisting apparatus being installed beside battery (an incline tram), to lift ore from new tramway to top of battery. Will be run by pelton wheels. ⁵⁴³ [the concrete foundations beside the walkway maybe belong to these pelton wheels] Crown Company. Erecting an engine at the battery to supplement water power ⁵⁴⁴ [this is the boiler and engine at the back of the battery].
1901	July. Large slip blocks tramway and carries away water race. ⁵⁴⁵ September. Installation of a powerful steam plant at the back of the battery under way. Two large Babcock boilers, 180 h.p. steam engine. ⁵⁴⁶
1902	December. The new steam plant at the battery is working well. ⁵⁴⁷
1905	March. The battery is at present only working one shift per day. ⁵⁴⁸
1907	July. New (replacement) water race being constructed. New electrical plant at the battery is proposed. ⁵⁴⁹ The battery has been run on steam. ⁵⁵⁰
1908	December. Commenced the power station, and excavated for the turbine site. ⁵⁵¹ For the first time for over 25 years mining and milling operations in the New Zealand Crown mines at Karangahake have been suspended. At the earliest work is not likely to be resumed for several months, during which the new electrical pumping plant for unwatering the mine to a greater depth will be installed... Part of the new plant, which in all cost from £12,000 to £13,000 in England, is on the ground, and the estimated cost of the water-race now in course of construction is £6000. ⁵⁵²
1909	February. The concrete foundations for a powerful electrical plant are now being prepared at the Crown mine. The site is on the banks of the Ohinemuri river. ⁵⁵³ August. The power station near the company's reduction works is finished. ⁵⁵⁴ The machinery was started on the 10th July, and worked without the slightest hitch. ⁵⁵⁵
1915	Crown mine closes ⁵⁵⁶
1917	Powerhouse sold to Gisborne Borough Council ⁵⁵⁷
1919	Crown Quarry granted by Warden ⁵⁵⁸
1927	New Zealand Crown Mines, Karangahake. —The area held by this company was forfeited by the Warden early in July ⁵⁵⁹

Talisman battery site

	Of the three big companies mining at Karangahake, the Talisman were the last to install a battery.
1895	Late February. Talisman battery erection underway (10 stamps). ⁵⁶⁰ November. Talisman battery completed, but not working. ⁵⁶¹
1896	Talisman. A self-acting aerial tramway and hoppers has been erected, connecting the No. 4 level with the battery, a distance of fully 3000 feet. A

	<p>substantial iron water-race has been erected to bring in the water. A contract has been let to cut and deliver 2000 tons of firewood to dry the ore.⁵⁶²</p> <p>September. Talisman Company to erect Howe Truss bridge across the Waitawheta River, to connect battery with Special site.⁵⁶³</p> <p>October. The Talisman put in one kiln, add 10 head stamps⁵⁶⁴</p> <p>November. Electric lighting for all three batteries.⁵⁶⁵ Windows tunnel created.⁵⁶⁶</p> <p>November. Talisman Company to erect at Karangahake mine an additional 10 stampers [as above] of the latest design, being double mortar discharging. In addition to this six cyanide vats are to be constructed. Mr Lloyd is also to erect a revolving ore driver [dryer]. This will bring the crushing power at this mine up to 20 head, and as the new stampers will be 1080lb weight each, a large quantity of ore should be put through.⁵⁶⁷</p> <p>From April to September, 1896, 285 tons of quartz was crushed⁵⁶⁸</p>
1897	<p>March. Talisman using old kiln as an ore hopper (or paddock).⁵⁶⁹</p> <p>April. A 4-inch diameter [4 foot?] pipe line has been put in from the Talisman dam, and also two Victor turbines, capable of developing 120 horse-power effective. There will be also an electric light installation. A revolving air dryer is being substituted for the kilns; this is now ready for running, and will mean considerable economy, and probably a better extraction.⁵⁷⁰</p> <p>16 June. Talisman new 20 stamper underway, Howe Truss bridge connects to special site (vat house). Ore drier in use, instead of the in-ground kiln.⁵⁷¹</p>
1898	<p>January. Trial of Krupp ball mill.⁵⁷²</p> <p>November. Talisman battery install 80 horse-power engine and boiler.⁵⁷³</p> <p>The milling machinery consists of two stone-breakers, twenty head of stamps, one Krupp ball-mill, six berdans, and fourteen vats (of 18 ft. and 22 ft. diameter), and also a revolving drying-furnace, with a capacity of 40 tons a day...</p> <p>and the ore is delivered at a small cost, being conveyed in buckets down a wire-tramway direct from the mine to the mill.⁵⁷⁴</p>
1899	<p>January. The Talisman Company propose to take over of the Talisman Extended Gold Mining Company's property, which consists of a special claim and battery site⁵⁷⁵</p> <p>April. Aerial cableway breaks⁵⁷⁶</p> <p>December. The proposed amalgamation with the Talisman Extended, Royal Mail, and Victor-Waihou is regarded with favour here, as it would not only add another area full of promise to the present acreage, but would also provide an additional battery site.⁵⁷⁷</p>
1900	<p>April. New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company amalgamate with Talisman Consolidated Company (Royal Mail, the Crown Extended, the Victor, and Waihou⁵⁷⁸).⁵⁷⁹</p> <p>May. Talisman to erect new battery (along side present mill⁵⁸⁰).⁵⁸¹</p> <p>August. Talisman No. 8 level to be driven, about 200 ft below the No. 7. It will be the main outlet for the mine, as all the ore from the upper workings will be concentrated there, and sent on to the battery, one length of aerial tramline being sufficient to land the ore at the battery.⁵⁸²</p>
1901	<p>February. Crushing operations in the old mill were stopped on February 16... a final clean-up of the plant was completed on March 18.⁵⁸³</p> <p>July 31. New battery underway, 50 stamps, crushing wet.⁵⁸⁴</p>

	December. "The bullion returns since the commencement of crushing operations at the new mill have been very disappointing so far". ⁵⁸⁵
1902	May. the Talisman has temporarily suspended milling, pending erection of electrically powered air compressor at the mine. ⁵⁸⁶ October. Mill will resume crushing operations on the 20th of the present month... past six months, during which time the mill has been closed down... underground haulage to No. 8 level will be resorted to and a large hoisting plant is now being erected in that working, and an incline shaft proceeded with. ⁵⁸⁷
1904	June. Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000. ⁵⁸⁸
1906	New air compressor ordered for old Woodstock battery. ^{589 590}
1907	Additional installations are being made to the power and treatment plant. ⁵⁹¹
1908	August. Lower levels of mine flooded. ⁵⁹² October. The new power plant will be in readiness to commence operations in a month from now. ⁵⁹³ November. The installation of the new air-compressor plant at the Talisman mine is now completed. ⁵⁹⁴ This may be at the powerhouse. AJHR. A Riedler compressor with a capacity of 3,100 cub. ft. of free air per minute has been erected during the year, also four Babcock and Wilcox boilers and a 100-kilowatt generator, to supply power to the mine. ⁵⁹⁵ This at the powerhouse.
1909	AJHR. At the battery a new 500-horse power Fraser and Chalmers' compound engine has been erected. A new surface condensing plant for main engine and auxiliaries has also been installed. Additional boilers will be installed at the power plant during the next year. The following additions have been made to the treatment plant: Complete new assay office with latest appliances; new smelting-room, with tilting, oxidising, and bullion furnaces; slag reduction plant and prospecting stamps: new slimes, Spitzkasten's; eight new pneumatic slime-agitators, each 30 ft. by 8 ft.; one new slime-dewateriser; three tube mills, each 4 ft. by 12 ft., on the Abbe roller principle; also five classifiers and two sand-elevators. ⁵⁹⁶
1910	April. Flood damages old Woodstock battery. ⁵⁹⁷ August. At the reduction works, three new tube mills and eight pneumatic slimes agitators have been installed, and further additions have been contemplated. ⁵⁹⁸ 15 September. Fire destroys Woodstock battery building. Included three air compressors and two steam engines. The new air compressor is situated in the other part of the plant (powerhouse), and by means of this the water in the mine was being kept down to-day. ⁵⁹⁹
1911	3 February. Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers' Conference. The mining delegates left Waihi this morning by special train, stopping at Karangahake to inspect the Crown and Talisman mines. ⁶⁰⁰ Jarman presents his paper on the Talisman Company operations. ⁶⁰¹ Three tube mills, two vacuum filter-vats, and two B. and M. agitating-tanks have been installed and employed. A new Ingersoll-Sergeant [or Rand] air-compressor, with a capacity of 3,700 cubic feet of free air per minute, will be installed early in 1911[at the Powerhouse]. ⁶⁰²
1919	Talisman. As the ore reserves had become exhausted, milling operations

	were suspended last [this October] October, and will not be again commenced unless the development work undertaken by the company justifies resumption. ⁶⁰³
1920	16 December. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of development work carried on up to the present the directors of the Talisman Consolidated, Limited, have decided, with a view to curtailing expenses under these circumstances, that the mine shall be closed down as soon as the material in the underground workings can be withdrawn. ⁶⁰⁴
1926	8 January. The Talisman Dam. Demolition by Dynamite. Water Released Safely. After functioning for nearly twenty years the Talisman dam, situated in the Karangahake Gorge across the Ohinemuri River, was freed by Mr E. Shaw, Ohinemuri county engineer, and his staff on Wednesday... Much valuable timber will be taken from the dam when it drains sufficiently. This has been purchased by the county council, and will be useful for bridge repair work. ⁶⁰⁵
1937	7 June. Talisman Dubbo Gold Mines Ltd. Start on erecting their own mill at old Talisman powerhouse site. ⁶⁰⁶

Crown River Level adit

Location: NZ Mercator. 1841326, 5854020.	
1890	April. Crown (Karangahake).—The new find on the river level promises extremely well, as gold is showing freely. Mr McGruer has the majority of the staff there. The level is seven hundred feet below Captain Coward's. ⁶⁰⁷ May. Crown: A start has been made connect the new find with the reduction works. This will be done by means of a ground tramway of about 20 chains, utilising the old Monastery line (which property the Crown Company have recently purchased). The ore will then be sent on to the stone-breaker floor by means of a hoist similar to that now being used for hoisting the ground ore to the Cassel Company's works. ⁶⁰⁸ 25 June. In the Crown mine (Karangahake) Mr McGruer has finished a connection between the new Waitawheta reef and the mill. ⁶⁰⁹
1892	August. The tramway leading from the mine to the new mill site (the Waitawheta Road) is completed. ⁶¹⁰
1894	March. Compressor at old Crown battery site working. ⁶¹¹ Therefore an air pipe will enter the adit.
1898	Early. The new air compressing plant in the "Crown Stope" started. ⁶¹²
1899	Early. The manager has altered the names of the levels, in order to save confusion. The No. 6 level in future will be known as the Waitawheta tunnel . ⁶¹³
1901	March. A splendid pump has been installed. The machinery for pumping and winding is such that almost every contingency is guarded against. ⁶¹⁴ This is all run by compressed air. The whole of the company's underground machinery is now worked by a powerful air-compressor , and it is doubtful if a more complete and up-to-date plant is to be found on the Australasian goldfields. ⁶¹⁵
1903	July. Consequent upon the continued lowlevel exploitations and the opening up of new blocks, it was found that the demand upon the motive power was too great to keep all the plant—such as pneumatic engines, Cameron

	pumps, and rock-drills— working continuously, and so the management decided to augment the power by an auxiliary steam plant. A large Babcock boiler was therefore installed at the mine. Provision has also been made in the boilerhouse for another boiler, which will probably be erected shortly. ⁶¹⁶ This is the concrete pillbox perched on the cliff beside the Waitawheta entrance to the mine.
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Woodstock No. 5 Level adit

1892	Crown Company construct tramway from their No. 6 level (river level) to their new battery. ⁶¹⁷ This extends the old Woodstock tramway.
1895	Woodstock No. 5 level commenced. ⁶¹⁸
1896	At the mouth of the crosscut [No. 5 level] an ore paddock has been cut out of the rock large enough to hold 50 or 60 tons of quartz, and emptying into the trucks on the tramline below. This tramline runs round the hill and joins the Crown tramway, after 290 feet of excavating and 100 ft of tunnelling. ⁶¹⁹ Woodstock connect No. 5 level tramway with Crown tramway
1900	3 August The management of the Woodstock Gold Mining Company have accepted a tender for excavating a shaft chamber at No. 5 level, and the work is to proceed at once. The location of the shaft will be about 150 ft in from the mouth of No. 5 level, and at a point about 100 ft to the west of the lode... ⁶²⁰ 26 October At the Woodstock Gold Mining Company's mine... The shaft chamber at the No. 5 level is now finished, and the poppet legs are being erected. As soon as this work and the necessary timbering is completed sinking the new shaft will be commenced. ⁶²¹ Shaft chamber excavated and completed 45½ft. long by 37½ft. wide, and 40 ft. high. ⁶²²
1901	Compressed air piped to No. 5 level from compressors in the Woodstock battery. ⁶²³
1904	Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000. The Woodstock No.5 level and shaft retain their names under Talisman ownership.
1909	Talisman start cutting out a large chamber in the immediate vicinity of the Woodstock shaft. This chamber will be 100 feet in length, by 30 feet in width, and 35 feet high. It will be occupied by a powerful winding and pumping plant. ⁶²⁴
1910	Chamber completed at the Woodstock No.5 level A chamber at the Woodstock, 110 ft. by 30 ft. by 25 ft. has been cut out and timbered. In this chamber will be installed the pumping-machinery that will ultimately drain the whole of the mine. ⁶²⁵
1911	The Woodstock shaft has been sunk 20 ft., and the first set of Cornish pump-workings is now practically in place. The boilers and engine for actuating the new pump are erected, and practically ready for work.

	A new change-house, 30 ft. by 70 ft., has been erected at the mouth of the Woodstock No. 5 level, and will be equipped with hot and cold shower-baths and steam-heat for drying clothes. ⁶²⁶
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Karangahake Research Summaries

Summary 1875

Ohinemuri opened to mining with stampede from Mackaytown on March 3rd. Karangahake Spur is the centre of attention.

The Karangahake Company purchase Somerville's six stamper battery from Karaka Thames⁶²⁷. It is brought to Battery Flat, at foot of Karangahake Spur. Clarkson's Battery of twelve heads, from Shellback Creek north Thames, is also purchased, to be added to the smaller plant.⁶²⁸

Construction of this battery, dam and water race was not completed until mid 1876.

“On the road (track) from Paeroa to Mackaytown a deviation over the hill (subsequently known as Turner's Hill) was formed in 1875 by a section of the army under the command of Captain Turner.”⁶²⁹

Summary 1876

The battery of 16 stamps is erected, and operational mid July. It appears that purchase and construction of the battery was financed by Messrs. Stewart, Darrow and Co. It was subsequently valued at £3,000.

A dam is constructed on the Waitawheta River, and a water race (wooden flume of 518m or 549m) erected on the true right bank, crossing the river on a trestle bridge at the confluence with the Ohinemuri River, and thence to the battery on Battery Flat. The battery, powered by a turbine, used amalgamated mercury plates to recover the gold from the crushed ore (the “ordinary battery process”).

June 24. Karangahake Battery “started”⁶³⁰, but no date for the official opening of the battery, but on or before July 19?

Descriptions of the dam and water race strongly suggest the dam is at the location of the later Talisman dam.

Ore from the mine takes a convoluted route to the battery. “the stone tipped down the pass to hopper on bottom level, from thence it is trucked to the shoot and hopper, now being erected. From this point the stone will have to be sleighed down hill a short distance, and re-tipped to shoot and hopper No. 2, where it is again trucked and shot into the battery”⁶³¹. No evidence of this route has been found.

Poor returns from the first crushings caused the battery to be shut down. “for although the stone undoubtedly contains gold in payable quantities, it cannot, in consequence of some mineral with which it is mixed and which prevents its amalgamation with mercury, be saved by the ordinary battery process”.⁶³²

Summary 1877

Early in the year the Mining Inspector is forfeiting claims for non-working.⁶³³

The Karangahake mine is placed on tribute (Coutts and party). The population declines considerably.

There is a half-time school at this place; the attendance about 16.⁶³⁴

Summary 1878

The Tributaries in the Karangahake mine are now crushing, and expect a payable return. The labour of conveying quartz to the mill is considerable, and, of course, adds to the cost of crushing.⁶³⁵

A large amount of surface prospecting has been done at Rotokohu.⁶³⁶

The Ohinemuri Prospecting Association has prospecting parties out in the field.⁶³⁷

Summary 1879

Karangahake Claim declared forfeit by the Mining Inspector.⁶³⁸

Summary 1880

The opening day of the Te Aroha goldfield: 25 November 1880.⁶³⁹

Summary 1881

Renewed interest in Karangahake. Selling the battery is entertained.⁶⁴⁰

The battery did not leave Karangahake.

Summary 1882

Renewed interest, with ground being taken up for mining.

The prospectors, Messrs McCombie and Liddell, have stone they consider will go fully 4ozs to the ton, and the reef, I am informed, is 5 feet in thickness.⁶⁴¹

The prospectors, Messrs McCombie and Liddell find promising ground. Establish the Hauraki Company and thus the Hauraki, or Prospector's, Claim.

29 April. The Hauraki (John McCombie and Daldy Mc Williams), Hauraki No.2 (Hugh Roberts Jones and Robert Noble), and Maria (Jackson, for Francis Angus White, Adam Porter, John McCombie, and Daldy Mc Williams) claims applied for.⁶⁴²

In August the Hauraki Company purchase the Karangahake Battery, ie it is now the Hauraki Battery. The battery is renovated, though still using amalgamated plates.

A tramway is in course of erection from the battery to the foot of the range, a distance of some 330 yards [302m]. This will be connected with the Hauraki mine by a wire tramway [the first at Karangahake].⁶⁴³

The tramway is along the Waitawheta, true left bank (the lowest section of what we now call the Crown track).

The water race, on true right bank of the Waitawheta, is being repaired/replaced.

It is finally acknowledged that the ore is rich, sometimes very rich, in silver, a metal largely ignored to date, and also very poorly captured by the battery.

Access and transport are very difficult in the rugged terrain. The Thames County Council begin constructing the County Road up on to the side of Karangahake mountain. It is subsidized by Government.⁶⁴⁴

Claims have now extended to both sides of the Waitawheta, ie on Taukani Ridge as well.⁶⁴⁵

Summary 1883

Work is slow on tramway and water race. The tramway will have wooden rails. The aerial section needed reworking. This is the first aerial cableway at Karangahake.

There will be many more.

A great flood caused damage to water race and tramway.⁶⁴⁶

In addition to the Hauraki mine, other mines on the Karangahake Spur are prospecting and opening up their ground, anxiously awaiting the result of the first crushing from the "Hauraki."⁶⁴⁷

21 April. A road is being surveyed round the bluff to connect with the battery [Is this Scotsman's Gully?].⁶⁴⁸

August. Hauraki G.M.Co. tramway and cableway operational. This is the first section of tramway to be built on the true left bank of the Waitawheta River. It is the start of the present day Crown Track.

After 15 months, a trial of the Hauraki Company's battery is made at the end of August.⁶⁴⁹

The Ivanhoe mine has a small parcel of ore processed at the battery, and intend to make a connection to the battery.

The Tramway Hotel is established at the end of the year, opening Christmas 1883, Alf Shepherd proprietor. Licence transferred from Tramway Hotel Waitekauri⁶⁵⁰

The County Road has achieved about two and a half miles, and it appears to include Scotsman's Gully. The road is being extended towards Te Aroha.

"At Rotokohu, on the Karangahake Range, a find has recently been made that may yet prove both important and valuable."⁶⁵¹

Summary 1884

Ivanhoe on the Ohinemuri side of Taukani, Sir Walter Scott on Waitawheta side of Taukani, with Argentine near the confluence of the two rivers. The Karangahake above the Waitawheta true left bank, on the Karangahake Spur, with the Hauraki south of them. On the eastern side of the Plum Pudding (or Woodstock Blow) is Woodstock.

In August 1882 work starts to construct a ground tramway on the true left bank of the Waitawheta River from the Hauraki Battery, and from the end of this a cableway up to the Hauraki workings. This ground tramway is the start of the Crown walking track of today. By end August 1883 this is operational.

The County Road, and maybe Scotsman's Gully, are constructed.

By early May 1884 Sir Walter Scott have a chute and tramway on the Waitawheta side of Taukani Ridge. July 1884 the Ivanhoe Company intend erecting a cableway, but may already have a chute and ground tramway, on the Ohinemuri side of Taukani.⁶⁵²

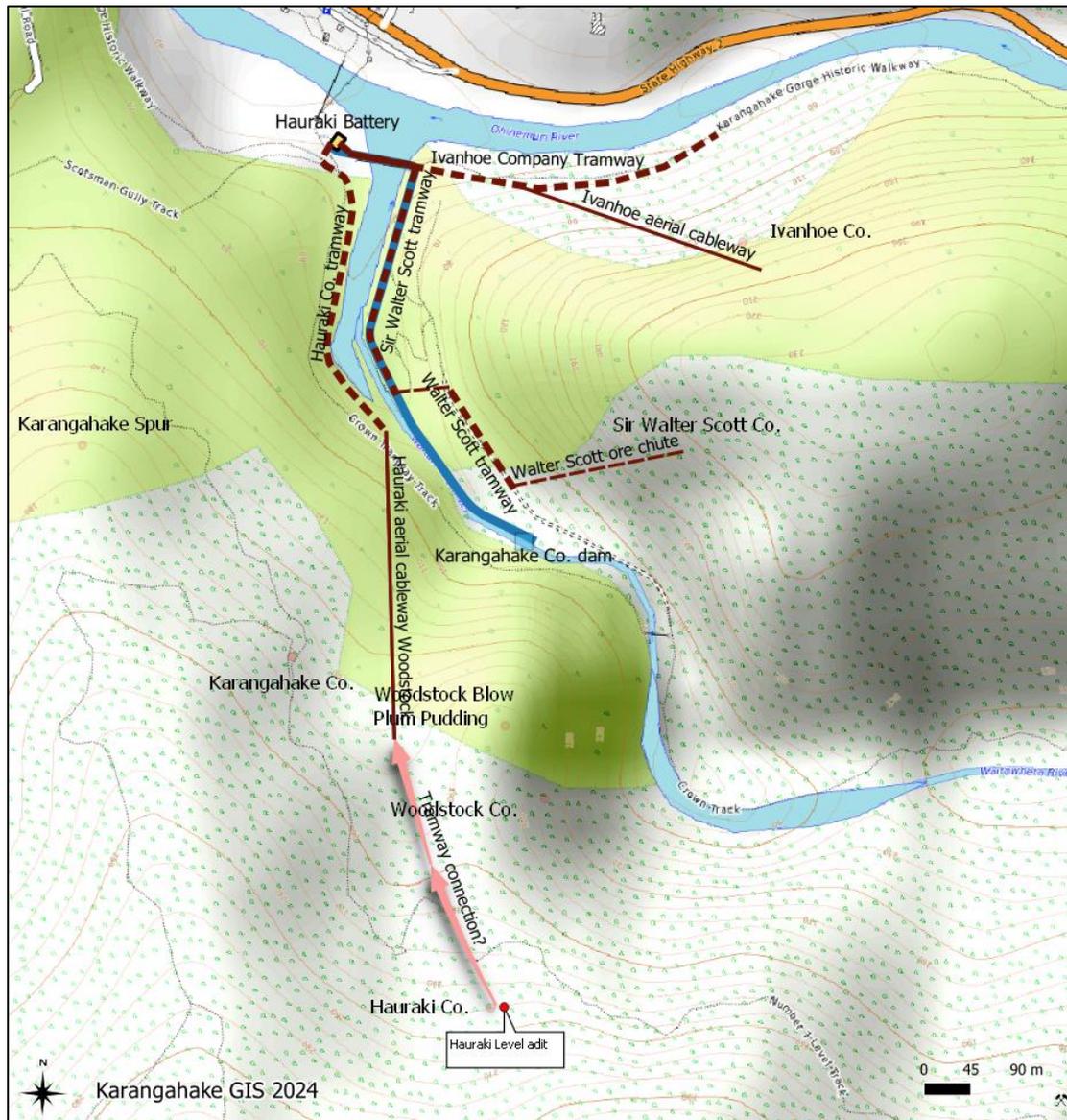
Before August. Ivanhoe G. M. C. construct a tramway at a cost of about £600, on true left bank of Ohinemuri River.⁶⁵³

September. Crown Gold-mining fix a windlas [windlass] and lay skids up to the road, to be able to take ore to the battery.⁶⁵⁴

The Woodstock Company are operating on, or to the east of, the Woodstock Blow (Plum Pudding). In 1885 they will construct connections with the Hauraki wire tram, and hence to Battery Flat where they will commence construction of the La Monte furnace (opening in late 1885).

A bridge over the Ohinemuri River is proposed, it is completed mid 1885.

Tests as high as 800oz. of silver to the ton have been obtained from some ore.⁶⁵⁵ A way to successfully treat this ore is urgently required.



This map attempts to show the infrastructure described so far (roughly end 1884).

Hauraki Battery (was Karangahake battery, same building) showing Hauraki Co. tramway (303m) and aerial cableway on true left bank of Waitawheta River, the Sir Walter Scott tramways and chutes on the true right bank, and the Ivanhoe tramway and cableway on the true left bank of the Ohinemuri River.

The Sir Walter Scott tramway is shown here, as it appears to be shown in the 1885 lithograph image, on top of the water race. Or maybe it is beside the flume?

The positioning of the Ivanhoe aerial cableway (244m), the Sir Walter Scott infrastructure and Hauraki aerial cable and tramway connection are all uncertain.

Summary 1885

Early in the year the Hauraki battery has been overhauled again, and in “first class working order”. Dam and water race also. ⁶⁵⁶

A sample of Woodstock ore assayed at 460ozs silver per ton. ⁶⁵⁷

In May, Woodstock are constructing a tramway to connect with the Hauraki aerial tramway (cableway).

Quartz from the Ivanhoe, Woodstock, Crown (Karangahake), and Moa mines (Te Aroha) will be tested by the furnace process at Sydney. It is said to be much richer in

silver than in gold, and the silver cannot be saved by any of the processes at Karangahake.

In early June, “the proprietors of the Sutro claim, Karangahake, have erected a Baxter stone-crusher, Mackay amalgamating paw [pan], and a settler in connection with the Hauraki battery, and by these means they expect to save 20 per cent. more gold and silver than is extracted by the ordinary crushing process.”⁶⁵⁸

Also: “The proprietors of the Woodstock claim, Karangahake, have lost no time in setting in motion the arrangements for the erection of the LaMonte smelting furnace.” It will be built on the flat near the Hauraki Company’s battery, and a water race will be constructed on the true left bank of the Ohinemuri River to power the blast fan. “Mr Davis, who has undertaken the erection of the plant, receives one-half the ownership of the mine, and in the event of the venture proving successful, his expenditure of £4000 will be recouped from the profits, he, however, accepting the full risk of failure.”⁶⁵⁹

Also in June Butler’s Mackaytown-Owharoa road deviation is completed, though the contractor made a loss.⁶⁶⁰

And the Karangahake suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River is completed. The bridge is for foot and horse traffic; no vehicles!⁶⁶¹

Mr. La Monte, of California, asserts that he can save by means of furnaces, 90 per cent. of the bank assay. “He took samples from various mines, tested them, and was satisfied that they were rich enough to pay for treatment. His smelting process is dearer than our present gold-saving appliances—crushing mills—the difference being, say, 10s against 30s or £2, but it is urged that the increase of cost will be much more than compensated by the extra gold saved.”⁶⁶²

“Three hundred tons of machinery, &c., in connection with Mr R. K Davis' furnace, is to be carted from Paeroa to Karangahake.”⁶⁶³

The Talisman Gold Mining Company, Limited is formed late July.⁶⁶⁴

The Ivanhoe have completed their aerial tramway.⁶⁶⁵

In August the steep self-acting incline connecting the County road with the furnace site nears completion (400ft or 122 m). This to facilitate the movement of building materials and supplies to the working furnace.⁶⁶⁶

The Ivanhoe Company purchase the Hauraki Battery (ex Karangahake Battery), hence it becomes known as the Ivanhoe Battery.⁶⁶⁷

Alexander Hogg opens his store beside the hotel.⁶⁶⁸

12 September. First (natural) dam and water race on Ohinemuri for Woodstock/La Monte furnace, includes flume over Waitawheta. Self-acting incline behind Battery Flat to County Road. Tramway on true left bank Waitawheta, plus aerial tramway to Plum Pudding/Woodstock Blow.⁶⁶⁹

A new road is constructed from Mackaytown to Karangahake. This by cutting back the bluff (at the present railway tunnel portal), and connects with the new suspension bridge to battery flat. Battery Flat is still spoken of as the old township of Karangahake.

“A new township, named Silverton, has been laid off by the Government on the north side of the Ohinemuri River, just below the suspension bridge, and a number of business and residence sites have been taken up.”⁶⁷⁰ The name Silverton was soon replaced by Karangahake.

Ohinemuri County proclaimed 1 October 1885.⁶⁷¹

November: “The motive power will be water, of which there is an ample supply in the Ohinemuri River, the motor being a Pelton wheel, already in position. From the dam, built in the creek, the water will be led to opposite the furnace by fluming, 42 chains [845 m] in length, 18 [362 m] chains of which are on trestles, in one place there being a span of 90 feet [27 m]. Where the fluming ends 20-inch wrought iron pipes convey the water into the furnace.

“As the Woodstock claim is a considerable height above the creek and from the furnace, a wire tramway, 1000 ft [305 m] in length, conveys the ore to a horse tramway, 27 chains [543 m] long, laid to the battery. As there is a road from Paeroa on the hill near the furnace, a self-acting tramway extending from the top to near the battery, about 400 feet [122 m], serves admirably for delivering coke, timber, and other requisites at the furnace.”⁶⁷²

The La Monte furnace is a water-jacketed furnace.

23 November. “Karangahake visited by Staff of Goldfields School of Mines. Professor Black, Fenton, Goodlet on the 23rd, Montgomery on the 26th.”⁶⁷³

28 November. “Woodstock.—The water race, horse grade, and aerial sections of the tramway are now complete, and all hands are engaged in the work of constructing the hoppers, which will be made capable of holding a large tonnage of quartz.”⁶⁷⁴

The Sir Walter Scott ore chute is still in operation.

The Thames La Monte furnace is started in December. At Karangahake it had its first and only run in late August 1886; three and a-half days, 28 tons of quartz. (see entry for 6 and 24 September 1886 for full details)

Karangahake Post Office opens during 1885.

The earliest images of Karangahake are published: Pictorial Christmas Supplement to the New Zealand Herald, December 1885.⁶⁷⁵

Summary 1886

March. The current mines: Woodstock, Kenilworth, Crown, Welcome, Sutro, Diamond, Rose, Adeline, Dubbo, Imperial.⁶⁷⁶

1886 New Zealand Census: County Ohinemuri.

Karangahake Riding: 290 persons, 196 Males, 94 Females.⁶⁷⁷

April. Mr Railey arrives, accompanied by a staff of men who are to be employed in the work of erecting new quartz-reducing machinery.⁶⁷⁸

May. Work started on Railey’s battery and dam.⁶⁷⁹ This is the Karangahake Quartz Reduction and Mining Co. Limited. Usually shorthanded to Railey’s Battery.

June. “The Tarawera eruption was visible from the top of the ranges in Ohinemuri, and dust and ashes were falling freely subsequently, as far as Te Aroha and Karangahake.”⁶⁸⁰

June. Mr J. H. Walsh transfers his publican's license, from Owharua to Karangahake, will start building the Karangahake Hotel, on the newly constructed County Road, from Butler's Road to the Suspension bridge, on the Western [eastern] bank of the river.⁶⁸¹

The new road from Butler's deviation to the Karangahake bridge is now finished.⁶⁸²

September. La Monte Furnace started⁶⁸³

October. Karangahake Hotel opens; JH Wash proprietor. “This Hotel is most conveniently situated on the east bank of the Ohinemuri River, at the termination of

the direct road from Paeroa, adjoining the Suspension Bridge; and is within easy reach of all the leading Mines, and Quartz Reduction Works.”⁶⁸⁴

15 November. Railey’s Battery starts.⁶⁸⁵

Monastery Gold-mining License

The present owners saw an opportunity of profitably working the mine when they learned of the position that Mr Railey had fixed on for the erection of his reduction plant which is situated about 7 chains [141m] higher up on the opposite side of the gorge, and at once started vigorously to work to make the necessary connections between their workings and the battery by the construction of tramways, of which there are three sections, the first being a self-acting wire-tram-way. This leads into a hopper at the head of the ground-tramway, which is 200ft below the working-level. The second section is a ground-tramway, which winds round the face of a rocky cliff for a distance of 8 chains to a platform constructed opposite the battery. From this point another wire-tramway is connected with the battery-machinery to haul the trucks across the river. The whole of these connections are now completed and working satisfactorily.⁶⁸⁶

Summary 1887

February. “Tenders for clearing the line of tramway to the new mill were opened today by the chairman of the county council... The mill [Railey’s] is now at work on Woodstock dirt. This will be followed by Monastery, Rose, Diamond, Dubbo, Leamington, and other claims crushing, each of which may be relieved on as likely to give A1 returns.”⁶⁸⁷

Fire. “Karangahake. Serious bush fires have been raging here all day Sunday, and at one time it was feared that a large amount of damage would result to mining property. The smithy belonging to the Crown mine was quickly reduced to ashes, and considerable difficulty was experienced in saving the fluming on Railey’s water race, in fact, had it not been for the precautions taken by that gentleman in clearing off all inflammable matter around this plant some time since, the whole concern would have been consumed yesterday.”⁶⁸⁸

March. Ivanhoe. — The owners determined upon renovating their battery plant. “Excepting the stampers the present plant will be entirely removed, and a number of Railey pans substituted.”

Woodstock company intends establishing Railey pans in the furnace house very shortly.⁶⁸⁹

Railey’s battery charges considered much too high.⁶⁹⁰

Ore transport to Railey’s very difficult. The incline tramway being built becomes politically fraught.

June. “At Karangahake about one and a half chains of the Woodstock water race [Ohinemuri, servicing their furnace house] was carried away by the flood yesterday, and the whole of the outbuildings belonging to Tramway Hotel were demolished.”⁶⁹¹

1 August. “Woodstock. — Heiteman and party, tributers, have finished the tramway connecting their working with the self acting aerial line, which places them in direct communication with the Ivanhoe battery.”⁶⁹²

November. Railey’s/County tramway stage one completed.⁶⁹³

November 3. Isaac Railey has left for the South Island.⁶⁹⁴

November 10. Battery advertised for sale.⁶⁹⁵

December 17. "Mr Alexander Hogg, has taken a lease of Railey's mill, and as soon as the repairs to the dam are finished he will commence treating quartz from the Monastery mine."⁶⁹⁶

Summary 1888

In March the Sir Walter Scott, Ivanhoe, and Truro claims were purchased by Mr C. Percy Cox, of Canterbury.⁶⁹⁷ John McCombie becomes manager.

May/June see Alexander Parkes visiting. His furnace would "save 90% of the assay value of the bullion".⁶⁹⁸ Treatment costs would not exceed £4 per ton.

In June "Messrs. Parkes and Chambers are about to erect one of their furnaces at Karangahake in the old LaMonte furnace house. Tenders are called for carting 200 tons material from s.s. Kotuku to Karangahake."⁶⁹⁹

July. "Mr Chambers's men have completed the demolition of the La Monte water jacket furnace, which stood in the Woodstock Company's building, and a start has been made to erect one of Mr Parkes's reverberatory smelting furnaces in its place. Mr Parkes himself is now residing here for the purpose of superintending the construction of his own plant."⁷⁰⁰

In August, the sale of Railey plant to Crown is announced.⁷⁰¹ The Cassel Company are involved.

October. Parkes' furnace started⁷⁰²

By the end of the year the Parkes furnace is closed down, a failure.

Summary 1889

Captain Coward takes charge of the Crown mine in January.⁷⁰³

February; Ivanhoe and Truro Co.'s battery and pan plant gets underway, 4 head of stamps, one pan, and one settler. Pelton wheel 40 h p., the water supply being obtained from the Woodstock race. Major owner/shareholder is Mr Percy Cox of Christchurch, John McCombie manager.⁷⁰⁴

The Crown and Cassel Companies make a start at the old Railey site.⁷⁰⁵ Lamberton Grinding Mills will be used.⁷⁰⁶

May; the Crown Co. lease the County tramway.⁷⁰⁷

June. "New Plant: A small experimental plant is about to be erected in the Woodstock furnace house under the supervision of Mr Napier, the Cassel patent to be the process used, with a Lamberton mill for grinding purposes." "Ivanhoe Battery: The repairs to the water-race having been completed, this Battery is again at work on a parcel of tailings."⁷⁰⁸

In September the Lamberton Mills are used wet, but Cassel plant not finished.

"Gorge Road: The contractors for this work (Messrs Kelly and Polton), are making capital headway, being now within 1½ chains of the bluff."⁷⁰⁹

Also in September the Cassel Company are using the old Woodstock furnace house for experimentation.⁷¹⁰

So the first commercial use of the cyanide process is at the Woodstock Furnace House. Much easier access here than up at the old Railey's site. This is well before the Cassel/Crown battery.

During 1889 a new school was built at Karangahake...⁷¹¹

Summary 1890

January. New school at Karangahake⁷¹²

February. Mr G. A. McGruer takes full charge of the Crown mine, vice Capt. Coward returned Home.⁷¹³

March. Ivanhoe battery sold, to be removed to Puriri. Gone, after 14 years.

April. Crown has a “new find on the river level, promises extremely well... The level is seven hundred feet below Captain Coward's.”⁷¹⁴

Crown River level (No.4?) adit established.⁷¹⁵

June. Drying furnace erected Crown battery.⁷¹⁶

Crown river level adit (No.4) connected to battery by connecting to the “old Monastery line”.⁷¹⁷

August. Land slip at Crown battery.⁷¹⁸

Cassel plant complete.⁷¹⁹

September. Plans underway for new plant downstream from Battery Flat.⁷²⁰

13 November “Road Works.—The new road to Owharoa from Karangahake is now fit for horse traffic, and is an excellent job. It is on the river level, and has cost about £1200. Messrs Kelly and Co. have just taken a contract for £83 to cut off certain sharp corners. When this is done and the culverts have been perfected, this road will be fit for any sort of wheeled or other traffic.”⁷²¹

CENSUS, 1891.⁷²²

Karangahake Riding:- 249 Persons, 138 Males, 111 Females.

Summary 1891

January. Talisman claim established.⁷²³

Crown Company purchase land from Alfred Shepherd (Shepherd's Flat) for new battery.⁷²⁴

July. “Crown and Cassell Cos.' interests become identical in Karangahake, the two companies having amalgamated so far as regards Karangahake.”⁷²⁵

AJHR 1893. “In Mr. McConnell's (the manager of the Crown Company) report to the directors of the company in November last, he states that crushing with the old plant commenced towards the end of July, 1891, and was carried on successfully until August of the same year, when, during a heavy fresh in the river, part of the dam was carried away, and caused operations to be suspended with this plant for some months. After repairing the dam they resumed crushing, and, with the exception of a few break-downs owing to the dilapidated condition of the plant, they had a continuous run for six months up to August, 1892, when the machinery broke down beyond repair. Every effort was made to crush as much ore as possible with the old mill, but the quantity treated never exceeded 100 tons per month. The total amount of ore crushed and treated from the lode in the Waitawheta Gorge was 614 tons, which yielded bullion to the value of £8,270, being an average value of £13 9s 4d. per ton, and about 94 per cent. of the assay-value was saved.”⁷²⁶

August. McGruer gets go-ahead to erect new Crown plant.⁷²⁷

“The new works will consist at first of 20 head dry stampers (provision being made for 40 eventually) and the appurtenances of the Cassel Company's process. This will mean an immediate expenditure of about £10,000, exclusive of the road which will have to be made, which will cost another £1200.”⁷²⁸

The tramway up the Waitawheta gorge is being called the Waitawheta Road.⁷²⁹

End August. Crown/Cassel dam destroyed.⁷³⁰

November. Tenders called for construction of tramway through Waitawheta gorge, including 30 chains [604 m] of solid rock cutting.⁷³¹ Also for Ohinemuri water race of 1 mile [1609 m]⁷³², and for repair of the Crown dam (ex Railey's) on the Waitawheta River.⁷³³

Contractors for excavating the battery site make good progress.⁷³⁴

Summary 1892

March. Fire near McCombie's battery.⁷³⁵

May. Crown new main level, or River Level, or No.6 Level created; and new tramway cut into cliff down Waitawheta river.⁷³⁶ Crown water race flume constructed.⁷³⁷

August. Crown battery at Railey's site stops.⁷³⁸

"The tramway leading from the mine to the new mill site is completed."⁷³⁹

22 October. The gale of Wednesday and Thursday did a good deal of damage. Messrs Brown, of Karangahake, were the greatest sufferers, — the framework of the Crown G.M. Co.'s battery, for which they are the contractors, being blown down and their footbridge swept away. Damage £200.⁷⁴⁰

December. Some parcels of rich ore are to be sent to Freiberg, Germany, for processing.⁷⁴¹

Summary 1893

11 March. "The contractors for the erection of the Crown Company's plant seem an unfortunate lot, as a large portion of the building was again blown down during the late gale at Karangahake."⁷⁴²

30 May. New Crown battery starts.⁷⁴³

June/July. Ivanhoe and Truro mines and plant is purchased by Woodstock Co.⁷⁴⁴

October. "Talisman mine at Karangahake has at last been successfully placed upon the Glasgow market."⁷⁴⁵

October. Woodstock No. 3 level and cableway established.⁷⁴⁶

Electric light is now being used in the Crown Company's ore reduction works.⁷⁴⁷ This is generated at the battery.⁷⁴⁸

"Amongst other improvements is a public hall now in course of erection... the money requisite to pay for it has already been contributed voluntarily—partly by the residents, and partly by Thames, Paeroa, and Auckland business-men." "Effort will be made to obtain an occasional visit from Mr. Park, director Thames School of Mines, so as to get the benefit of that gentleman's instruction as a lecturer on geology and kindred subjects."⁷⁴⁹

November. Crown: tenders called for construction of air compressor site (ex old battery site, ex Railey's)⁷⁵⁰. "The directors have ordered a complete rock-boring plant, including five rock drills."⁷⁵¹

December. Crown: "preparations are now being made for repairing the water race and dam at the site of the old mill, with the object of providing sufficient water to work a 40 horse-power air compressor, to drive four rock drills for pushing the levels ahead with greater speed than is possible by manual labour."⁷⁵²

Summary 1894

“Above the mine [Crown River Level adit], Riley's [Railey's] dam has been repaired, and the water-race to the old battery site thoroughly renovated for the purpose of supplying power for driving a complete rock-drilling plant, which is being erected where the battery stood. This plant comprises one forty-horse-power air-compressor and four Hornaut [Hirnant] drills. The compressed air for driving the drills will be conveyed to the mines, a distance of about 16 chains, by means of 4in. pipes, and carried from the main pipe into the drives by pipes of 2 1/2in. in. diameter.”⁷⁵³

February. “The Talisman and Bonanza. These are two adjacent holdings of 30 acres each, have been amalgamated.”⁷⁵⁴

Earl of Glasgow are erecting a five stamp battery.⁷⁵⁵

March. Crown erects compressor building at old Crown/Railey's site; “the rock-boring plant is now in full operation in the mine”⁷⁵⁶ This appears to be a very early adoption of air drills in the Hauraki area.

June. Woodstock, No. 3 level tramway and cable, completed early in year: “a double aerial line of tramway, which spans the Waitawheta river in order to reach a large hopper located near the horsegrade section of tram-line, and 250 feet below the point of present operations... easy of access by means of a "siding," where the trucks can be filled without interfering with ordinary traffic.”⁷⁵⁷

June. Woodstock battery are “pitting” (saving) their tailings.⁷⁵⁸

27 July. Flood and slip destroy Crown water race.⁷⁵⁹

August. Woodstock to erect 10 stamp mill.⁷⁶⁰

The Earl of Glasgow battery is now in complete working order.⁷⁶¹

September. Earl of Glasgow claim have erected a five-stamper battery.⁷⁶²

31 October. Talisman; arrangements completed with the Crown Mines Company for treatment of a large tonnage of ore by the cyanide process.⁷⁶³

November. Woodstock firewood wire tram, and kiln constructed.⁷⁶⁴

December. RUSH IN KARANGAHAKE. There is a rush in the Karangahake back country, right up to the Willows.⁷⁶⁵

Talisman to erect a battery, similar to that of the Woodstock Company.⁷⁶⁶

24 December. Woodstock United (Karangahake, December 20). —The excavations for the kiln are all complete, and the shed to cover same is now in course of construction.⁷⁶⁷

Summary 1895

January. “A building formerly used as a store and telephone office, adjoining the Tramway Hotel, has been renovated to adapt it to its present use as a billiard saloon, and it is provided with an excellent table. The proprietor, Mr. A. Shepherd, is about to enlarge the Tramway Hotel, by building another storey on it, as its present capacity is altogether insufficient for the streams of travellers requiring accommodation. Mr. Ryan, of the Karangahake Hotel, is also enlarging his premises by excavating under them for the purpose of giving another storey, and at the same time to bring the building, which is at present on a bank, to the level of the main road.”⁷⁶⁸

February. The Woodstock new plant had to be conveyed across the river by means of a wire tramway.⁷⁶⁹

Woodstock water balance and ore kiln installed.⁷⁷⁰

11 February. Woodstock ten stamp battery starts dry crushing.⁷⁷¹ The old 4 stamper remains⁷⁷².

Recently a very large number of mining areas have been taken up.⁷⁷³

Late February. Talisman battery erection underway.⁷⁷⁴

March. Talisman battery. "A strong wire tramway is thrown across the river from the Crown battery tram to the battery site to carry the heavy machinery."⁷⁷⁵

June. Stanley G.M. Co drive tunnel off Crown tramway.⁷⁷⁶

Talisman purchase Bonanza Co.⁷⁷⁷

Tramway Hotel "name shortly to be altered to the Talisman".⁷⁷⁸

Talisman Company directors authorised to purchase for shares in the Talisman Company, the New Bonanza, Marmion, and Golden Treasure mining properties...⁷⁷⁹

10 July. Sludge Channel Proclamation to take effect.⁷⁸⁰

Talisman Extended Goldmining Company (Limited.) formed. To the west of the Talisman Company ground.⁷⁸¹

September. Mining boom.⁷⁸² The present boom is the largest that ever has taken place in the colony.⁷⁸³

United, Imperial, Woodstock United, Golden Crown, Crown, Vanderbilt, St Patrick, Shotover-Ivanhoe, Crescent Special, Prince Regent, Wealth of Nations, Stanley, The Karangahake, Hauraki Special, Victory, Imperial, Golden Fleece, New Find, Jessica, Orient, Sterling, United, Rotokohu and New Shotover. Most of these were reported to be forming new companies.⁷⁸⁴

November. Talisman battery completed, but not working.⁷⁸⁵

December. Preparations for 30 extra stampers for Woodstock. Water race is to be 40inch iron pipe.⁷⁸⁶

Karangahake School building was enlarged in 1895.⁷⁸⁷

Crown. An additional head of twenty stamps, and the necessary cyanide plant and buildings, were in course of erection.

Woodstock. "No. 5 level: The starting-point of this cross-cut is about 30ft. above the bed of the Waitawheta River".⁷⁸⁸

Talisman. "A wire tramway has been constructed to convey quartz from the hopper at the low-level to the mill, but, from some occult cause, this mill has not been completed. The water-race has been finished."⁷⁸⁹

Summary 1896

Talisman. A self-acting aerial tramway and hoppers has been erected, connecting the No. 4 level with the battery, a distance of fully 3000 feet. A substantial iron water-race has been erected to bring in the water. A contract has been let to cut and deliver 2000 tons of firewood to dry the ore.⁷⁹⁰

February. Woodstock. Three kilns are in course of construction. These will each hold about 150 tons of ore, and they will all be placed on the hill-side above the mill, so that the ore will pass right down through the plant by gravitation.⁷⁹¹

Crown. Construction started of a large water-race in the Waitawheta [for the pelton wheel in the Crown Stope].⁷⁹²

March. Woodstock erecting suspension bridge over Ohinemuri for machinery for battery.⁷⁹³

April. Talisman mine sold to the London New Zealand Investment Company.⁷⁹⁴

April 30. "Talisman.—The Talisman battery started crushing on Monday morning last, and has been running day and night since without hitch."⁷⁹⁵

May. Woodstock connect No. 5 level tramway with Crown tramway. "This tramline runs round the hill and joins the Crown tramway, after 290 feet of excavating and 100 ft of tunnelling." Also, "it is the intention to construct a tramway from No. 1 level round to where this intermediate level is being put in, then a line will be run along the side of the hill to a hopper, and the ore from both levels will be thence conveyed by aerial tramway to a hopper above the level of the kiln site, and on the same side of the river".⁷⁹⁶

A large water race, one and a-quarter miles long [2012 m], is being constructed from the upper end of the Waitawheta.⁷⁹⁷ This for the Crown air compressor.

June. Woodstock. "A contract has been let for constructing an aerial tramline in addition to altering No. 2 aerial tramline, and erecting three ore hoppers and forming one paddock. When this work is completed all the ore obtainable from the different blocks being opened up above the No. 2 level will be delivered at the top of the kilns, thus obviating the necessity for ore elevation so far as that section of the mine is concerned."⁷⁹⁸

Earl of Glasgow and Crown mines combine.⁷⁹⁹

June. Major flood, C. S. Brown drowns.⁸⁰⁰ He was caretaker of the Crown Mines water race.

August. Crown battery has 40 stamps at work.⁸⁰¹

September. Woodstock. Kiln tram line to be continued to intersect known lodes.⁸⁰² This will create the "Windows" tunnel.

September. Talisman Company to erect Howe Truss bridge across the Waitawheta River, to connect battery with Special site. The battery to be enlarged by ten stamps.⁸⁰³

October. Talisman. a substantial bridge has yet to be erected over the river from the Crown tramline before the necessary machinery can be got to the battery site.⁸⁰⁴

November. Electric lighting for all three batteries.⁸⁰⁵

November. Windows tunnel created.⁸⁰⁶ (called kiln tram-line extension).

Summary 1897

January. Woodstock battery install Samson-Leffel turbine water-wheel (ie they do away with the pelton wheels).⁸⁰⁷

March. Woodstock Gold Mining Company's battery started crushing with the new 40-head.

Crown works to be converted from dry to wet crushing plant.

Talisman using old kiln as an ore hopper (or paddock).⁸⁰⁸

April. "A 4-inch diameter [4 foot?] pipe line has been put in from the Talisman dam, and also two Victor turbines, capable of developing 120 horse-power effective. There will be also an electric light installation. A revolving air dryer is being substituted for the kilns; this is now ready for running, and will mean considerable economy, and probably a better extraction."

Crown water race (Waitawheta) fluming commenced, 280,000 feet timber required.⁸⁰⁹

16 June. Talisman new 20 stamper underway, Howe Truss bridge connects to special site (vat house). Ore drier in use.⁸¹⁰

July. Crown battery has 20 stamps running wet.⁸¹¹

August. A new bridge proposed between Dogherty's and the Crown battery.⁸¹²

September. Crown battery 40 stamps wholly running wet.⁸¹³

Woodstock to test wet crushing.⁸¹⁴

December. Crown low grade ore made to pay by wet process.⁸¹⁵

“Lack of water to keep the big mills going at top speed during the exceptionally dry season just experienced, has caused a considerable amount of annoyance and inconvenience. The Ohinemuri River has never previously been so low at Karangahake, and the same remark applies to the Waitawheta Stream. Many batteries had to hang up half their stamps.” “A severe "slump" has existed all the year, being the natural reaction of the boom.”⁸¹⁶

Cyanide Process Gold Extraction Act; for the use of cyanide of potassium, the patent rights of which were purchased from the Cassel Company for £10,000.⁸¹⁷

Sunday Labour in Mines Prevention Act, 1897.⁸¹⁸

Crown: “A 10 ft. Pelton water-wheel (3 nozzles) will be attached direct to the driving-shaft of the compressor. The water-race to supply power for the air-compressor is 1 mile and a quarter in length, with a present capacity of sixty sluice-heads, the pressure being 32 lb. per square inch.”⁸¹⁹

A swing foot bridge was put across the river between River Road and the main road.⁸²⁰

Summary 1898

The new footbridge near Napier's residence completed.^{821 822} It is sometimes referred to as the Crown bridge.

Batteries now closed on Sundays because of new law.⁸²³

February. Crown air compressor started.⁸²⁴

Karangahake school to have additions.⁸²⁵

March. Woodstock Company wet crushing.⁸²⁶

April. More dry weather.⁸²⁷

May. Mr. J. McCombie, leaves Woodstock Co., Mr. Rich replaces. “Never in the history of Ohinemuri has the river been so low as at present, and the want of rain is being most severely felt all over the district...”⁸²⁸

July. Severe flood, considerable damage.⁸²⁹

August. Woodstock to install six Union vanners.

Crown battery start extra 20 head stamps, now 60.⁸³⁰

Karangahake Traffic bridge opened.⁸³¹

29 October. Fire at Karangahake, destroyed twelve buildings.⁸³²

Talisman battery install 80 horse-power engine and boiler.⁸³³

Woodstock retire water-balance.⁸³⁴

Crown change the numbering of their levels. AJHR 1899.

Summary 1899

January. "The Talisman Company having decided to increase its area of ground by the taking over of the Talisman Extended Gold Mining Company's property, which consists of a special claim and battery site."⁸³⁵

February. Crown mine level numbering changed. No. 6 level in future will be known as the Waitawheta tunnel.⁸³⁶

10 May Governor Ranfurly at Karangahake.⁸³⁷

June. Royal Mail and Victor Waihou special claims taken up by Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co.⁸³⁸

October. A public meeting held in October, 1899, for the purpose of establishing a school of mines at Karangahake.⁸³⁹

December. Crown Company are to construct a new tramway to the battery, on the level (our current walking track).⁸⁴⁰ "At a point opposite the Talisman cyanide plant a deviation has been made, and an easy grade made to the company's mill. The tramway terminates on a level with the ground-floor of the battery, and the trucks of quartz are hoisted up an incline tramway on the outside of the crushing plant up to the rock-breaker with an engine erected near the bottom of the incline."⁸⁴¹

..."the long [railway] tunnel at Karangahake, is now proceeding actively. The approach cutting to the tunnel is being excavated, and the work on the tunnel itself will be commenced immediately the approach has been taken out. The temporary bridge over the Ohinemuri has been completed. This will admit of the spoil from the tunnel excavation being conveyed across the river and there utilised in the formation of the station-grounds, &c."⁸⁴²

Summary 1900

February. Never in the history of Ohinemuri has the river been so low.⁸⁴³

February. New (level) tramway to Crown battery complete (current walkway). Hoisting apparatus being installed beside battery (an incline tram), to lift ore from new tramway to top of battery. Will be run by pelton wheels.⁸⁴⁴

In the early part of this year [February] a school was opened at Karangahake to meet the requirements of the locality. Mr. E. B. McDuff, has the position of Director of the Karangahake School of Mines.⁸⁴⁵

March. Woodstock constructing new dam on Ohinemuri River. This will be a wooden structure, a little upstream from the later eastern rail tunnel portal⁸⁴⁶

April. New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company amalgamate with Talisman Consolidated Company.⁸⁴⁷

May. Talisman to erect new battery.⁸⁴⁸

July. Woodstock battery to add an air compressor and steam plant.⁸⁴⁹

"The New Zealand Talisman Gold Mining Company's property has now been amalgamated with the Talisman Extended, Royal Mail, and Victor-Waihou special claims, to be known as the **Talisman Consolidated**."⁸⁵⁰

August. "Woodstock Gold Mining Company have accepted a tender for excavating a shaft chamber at No. 5 level."⁸⁵¹

Woodstock. "The grading of the pipe line for the race is almost completed. A start has also been made to construct the aqueduct across the Ohinemuri River [Warren Truss]. This is being erected with the object of carrying the fluming over the river."⁸⁵²

August. Talisman No. 8 level to be driven, about 200 ft below the No. 7. It will be the main outlet for the mine, "as all the ore from the upper workings will be concentrated there, and sent on to the battery, one length of aerial tramline being sufficient to land the ore at the battery".⁸⁵³

Woodstock new dam, 3ft 9in pipeline and Warren Truss bridge across the Ohinemuri River completed. The Pelton wheel to be installed is 11 ft. 2 in. in diameter over all, and is to drive the air-compressors and battery during the greater part of the year. A new tail-race 69 ft. long under the mill, and below the old tail-race, has been driven and timbered so as to gain the utmost pressure-head. The old bridge across the Waitawheta Stream removed, a new and more substantial bridge built, going direct to the battery ore-hopper, 180ft long. The shaft-chamber in No. 5 level, which is 45½ft. long by 37½ft. wide, and 40 ft. high, has been completed, and a connection from it to the surface also made. The shaft is being sunk 8 ft. by 18 ft. in the clear, and has two hoisting-compartments, 6 ft. by 4 ft.; also a pumping-compartment and ladder-way, 6 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in.⁸⁵⁴

Crown Company. Driving a tunnel on opposite side of Ohinemuri River (true right). Erecting an engine at the battery to supplement water power⁸⁵⁵ [this is the boiler and engine at the back of the battery].

Summary 1901

January. "The New Zealand Crown Mines (Limited) have now 60 head of stampers, and it is proposed to erect an additional 20 head, making a total of 80 stamps. The Talisman Consolidated Company, whose present crushing power of 20 head is now being added to by the erection of a further 50 head, also propose a still further addition of 30 head, so as to increase their milling capacity to 100 head of stampers."⁸⁵⁶ Neither companies do so.

January. Woodstock start the new shaft from No. 5 level.⁸⁵⁷

February. Karangahake School of Mines.

"W H Baker, assistant instructor at the Thames School of Mines, had been elected to be Director of the Karangahake School of Mines which was then opened on Monday 4 February, 1901 by the Hon James McGowan, Minister of Mines. The School of Mines at Karangahake was opened on Monday with a satisfactory attendance of people. There are 50 students on the register."⁸⁵⁸

Woodstock to add an air compressor to their battery, for driving a pump at the shaft.⁸⁵⁹

"Woodstock Company has recently erected a corrugated iron building at its mine; it is to be used for a change-room."⁸⁶⁰

Woodstock: The 8in compressed-air pipe line (between the mill and the mine) is completed. A large Pelton wheel about 11ft 2in in diameter is installed, and, with six buckets [surely more than 6?] and shafting, it weighs five tons, and is capable of developing 450 horse-power. A small and large air compressor are being installed.⁸⁶¹

The 8in compressed-air pipe line that the Woodstock Company have installed crosses the Waitawheta River on the distinctive wooden bridge, from cliff to cliff. It is seen in many photographs, at about the location of the modern "Windows".

April. Crown. "The whole of the company's underground machinery is now worked by a powerful air-compressor, and it is doubtful if a more complete and up-to-date plant is to be found on the Australasian goldfields." Talisman: "The hoppers at the mill site and at No. 8 level are nearing completion. The No. 1 section of the aerial

tramway has been taken down and re-erected, so as to deliver ore to the new mill...[moving the battery hopper to the other, upstream, side of the new battery building?]. Crushing operations in the old mill were stopped on February 16”⁸⁶²

May. “The corrected census returns show that the population of Ohinemuri is 9975...The population of the four Ridings is therefore: Waihi, 4271; Karangahake and Waikino, 2239; Paeroa, 2142; Waitekauri, 1207; Waitoa, 116; total, 9975.”⁸⁶³

June. Woodstock: “The steam boiler has been removed from the shaft chamber, and sinking operations have been carried on with satisfactory results, more especially during the past fortnight, when compressed air has been utilised in connection with the work.” The pipe line bridge across the Ohinemuri River, of over 80ft span, and the bridge across the Waitawheta, are completed.⁸⁶⁴

July. At the Woodstock Gold Mining Company's mine...

“Very satisfactory progress continues to be made with the sinking of the shaft, especially since the rock drills were put into the workings. Four of these machines are now being utilised in the shaft, and are being operated by compressed air, as are also the pump and hoist. The reheater in the shaft chamber for the compressed air is giving most satisfactory results, and, in consequence, there is no trouble from freezing at the pumps, etc. The air pipe line between the mine and the mill acts well, a loss of only 1lb in pressure resulting in the transmission of the compressed air from the mill (generating station) to the mine. The mill office and smithy have been moved, to make more storage room, and a storeroom has been built for battery supplies, etc. These changes permit of a storage platform being built at the battery end of the Waitawheta bridge, a much-needed and most economical improvement.”⁸⁶⁵

July. A landslip “caused part of the New Zealand Crown Mines' water race to carry away and the company's tramline to be blocked for some distance”.

The Talisman's new wet stamper battery of 50 stamps gets underway.⁸⁶⁶

“The concentrators, pumps, and agitators are operated by water-power; the breakers and stamps are operated by steam-power; the plant for generating the steam consisting of two Babcock-Wilcox boilers, and the engine being a Wheelock-Corliss single-cylinder horizontal engine of 245 indicated horse-power.”⁸⁶⁷

August. Woodstock Gold Mining Company resumed crushing operations on August 30.⁸⁶⁸

September. Crown battery adding two Babcock boilers at the back of their battery.⁸⁶⁹

The railway tunnel is being pushed ahead from both ends.⁸⁷⁰ There is a temporary bridge across the Ohinemuri to deal with the spoil.⁸⁷¹

Night soil service to be established.⁸⁷²

Summary 1902

January. Woodstock battery closes. “Early in the present week instructions were cabled out from the Home directors to the local management of the Woodstock Gold Mining Company to close down the company's mine at Karangahake. It is understood that the financial position of the company renders it necessary to reconstruct, and that the suspension of operations which has taken effect will be only temporary”...⁸⁷³

A nightsoil service in Karangahake to be established.⁸⁷⁴

“The result of the Talisman Consolidated Company's operations have so far been of a disappointing nature. The outcome of the crushings put through on the completion of

the company's new mill, did not by any means come up to expectations, the ore yielding less per ton than was anticipated according to the assay values.”⁸⁷⁵

March. “Woodstock Company received instructions to resume development work in the mine, and the old staff of miners have been got together and operations resumed.” “All the works about the mine will be vigorously prosecuted with the exception of crushing operations, the resumption of which will be delayed until there is sufficient water power available from the river to keep the mill and the compressors running without stoppages.”⁸⁷⁶

April. 180hp steam engine and boilers at Crown battery.⁸⁷⁷

May. Talisman erect an air compressor. They also make use of Woodstock upper levels to access their own ground below No.8 Level.⁸⁷⁸

June. “The New Zealand Crown Mines Company is the only one that is at present utilising its battery, though the Woodstock is expected to resume crushing operations shortly.”⁸⁷⁹

October. Talisman start an incline shaft from No.8 Level.⁸⁸⁰

December. New steam plant at Crown battery working well. All three batteries are at work.⁸⁸¹

Woodstock. “A new steam plant has been installed as an auxiliary to the water-power during the dry season of the year. This plant consists of two 150-horse-power Elephant boilers and a 250-horse-power Corliss engine. These have been set up at the mill, and are so arranged that either the mill or compressors, or both, may be driven by either steam or water, or, if need be, both steam and water power can be coupled together.”⁸⁸²

New Zealand Crown Mine is now the second largest employer of labour on the peninsula.

“The Woodstock Company appear to be remarkably unfortunate. A great amount of capital has been sunk in this mine without returning anything to the proprietors. The battery runs for a few months, when it ceases to crush. Fair returns are made for the time, but the supply of ore is not sufficient to keep it working. The quartz here is very hard, and evidently so far of low grade. Recently boring operations have commenced, which it is hoped may result in finding something more workable and payable.”⁸⁸³

Summary 1903

February. Woodstock. Boring operations (diamond drill) have been commenced from the No. 5 level crosscut.⁸⁸⁴

July. Karangahake to be supplied with gas from Paeroa.⁸⁸⁵ Ohinemuri Light and Power Company.

The Crown have auxiliary steam plant at the mine.⁸⁸⁶ This is the concrete pillbox perched on the cliff beside the Waitawheta entrance to the mine.

September. “GAS PIPES. Miller and Porritt, on behalf of the Ohinemuri Light and Power Company, gave notice of the intention of the company to lay down gas pipes to Karangahake.”⁸⁸⁷

The Crown Company propose to tunnel from their main shaft under Taukani and then the Ohinemuri to their special claims, over 3.3km.⁸⁸⁸

November. “The combined railway and road bridge over the Ohinemuri River at Karangahake has been finished [and?] the section of the railway to Karangahake is just on the point of completion and will be opened for goods traffic shortly.”

“Some proposals with the view of expediting the completion of this railway have lately been made by the Waihi Goldmining Company and are now under consideration by Parliament

This is “The Paeroa-Waihi Railway Act, 1903”.⁸⁸⁹ “AN ACT to provide for the Speedy Construction of a Railway from Paeroa to Waihi, 20th November, 1903.”⁸⁹⁰ Double-decker road/rail bridge.⁸⁹¹

December. Death of Middleton and McColl.⁸⁹² One of the largest funerals ever seen in Ohinemuri. All work in the mines was practically suspended, and the whole community took part in the solemn proceedings.⁸⁹³

The School of Mines building has been doubled in size.⁸⁹⁴

“Woodstock Mine. —This property has been closed down for the greater part of the year. Although a considerable amount of money has been recently spent in prospecting and developing the mine and in alterations to the battery, the results obtained were not sufficient to meet the working-expenses.”⁸⁹⁵

Summary 1904

February. Woodstock for sale. “Amongst mining properties that are now offered for sale are the Woodstock Gold Mining Company's (Karangahake).”⁸⁹⁶

March. “A number of miners have been discharged from the New Zealand Crown Mines at Karangahake, the reason being that Mr. Daw, the general manager, is anxious to cut down expenses. Mr. J. Napier, metallurgist, has also severed his connection with the company. Mr. Napier has been with the Crown Company for many years, and was one of the first in New Zealand to apply cyanide in the extraction of the precious metal.”⁸⁹⁷

11 April. David Deans, employed in the railway tunnel at Karangahake, dies of his injuries.⁸⁹⁸

May. Coal is railed to Karangahake, and waggons loaded from the double deck bridge.⁸⁹⁹

“The work of laying the gas pipes between Paeroa and Karangahake was completed a few days ago, and Karangahake will now be supplied with gas from the works in Paeroa.”⁹⁰⁰

June. Talisman buy Woodstock for £7000⁹⁰¹

July. “THOSE who remember John McCombie's connection with the Woodstock mine, his plucky fight against unprofitable conditions, and his displacement as manager at a time when he was doing his level best for the British owners of the property, and when he had nearly all he possessed invested in the Woodstock, will be interested to learn that the underground operations in that property will again be under his management. In other words, he has accepted a responsible position with the Talisman Company, which recently purchased the Woodstock mine. Also, he will again occupy the residence at Mackaytown which was built for him as manager of the Woodstock. It is the opinion of old Karangahake miners, who are the authorities most qualified to speak, that if any man in Auckland can bring the Woodstock out on top that man is John McCombie. Of course, his duties also include the work in the Talisman mine itself.”⁹⁰²

18 October. Walter Ings and Fredk. Thomas Shaw are injured in the Karangahake rail tunnel. Ings dies from his injuries.⁹⁰³ Shaw dies 6 November.⁹⁰⁴

December. “The Ohinemuri Light and Power Company has just established a new system upon which it will instal gas into private houses. The company supplies all the necessary fittings, burners, rings etc, and for which, it only charges a nominal rent. When the hire paid amounts to the cost of the fittings, etc., supplied they become the property of the hirer. The manager informs us that he has already installed gas into about twenty houses on this basis.”⁹⁰⁵

“Operations at the Crown Mines have not been so successful during the year as was the case for some years previously, a result attributed to the decreased value of the ore worked—viz., an average of £1 19s. 8³/₄d. per ton, as against £2 12s. 0¹/₂d. for the previous year, and also to the conditions met with in the lower levels.”

“At the Talisman Mine operations have been very steady throughout the year, and a considerable amount of development-work carried out. The acquisition of the Woodstock Mine is of considerable benefit in the working-arrangements of the Talisman Mine, providing, as it does, an outlet at a lower level and increased facilities for ventilation.”⁹⁰⁶

KARANGAHAKE SCHOOL OF MINES.

“In five subjects students were first in New Zealand—viz., mining, wet and dry assaying (senior), mineralogy, and junior theoretical chemistry. The average number of marks of all the papers sent in by members of the local school was 64.3 per cent, nearly—a much higher percentage than any other school in the colony.”⁹⁰⁷

“The headings in the Karangahake tunnel met in the beginning of September last (1904), and the tunnel was completed by the end of January.”⁹⁰⁸

Summary 1905

January. Crown mine considers closing.⁹⁰⁹

“CROWN MINES. (By Telegraph.—Own Correspondent.) PAEROA, this day.

Reports are current that the Crown mine, at Karangahake, intends closing down on the 6th prox. The battery is now only working day shift.

“In connection with this rumour it will be remembered that at the annual meeting of shareholders in London reference was made to the unsatisfactory results of the past year's operations, and the advisability of undertaking prospecting work with a view to picking up other payable lodes.”⁹¹⁰

September. KARANGAHAKE RAILWAY CROSSING.⁹¹¹

The road over the tunnel mouth, Waihi end, must have been completed shortly after this date.

October. Both the Talisman and Crown are obtaining richer ore.⁹¹²

November. The Karangahake bowling green at Mackaytown was opened last week.⁹¹³

Paeroa-Waihi. This railway was completed and opened for traffic on the 9th November last.⁹¹⁴

December. The Talisman holds now 565 acres.⁹¹⁵

Talisman: “first dividends paid since operations were commenced in the mine”
£30,000⁹¹⁶

New Zealand Crown Mines (limited).— “This year the trestles and fluming which carry the water-supply over the Waitewheta Stream have shown signs of decay, and necessitated the erection of new fluming, &c, estimated to cost £800.”⁹¹⁷

Summary 1906

16 September. Fire at Karangahake. Tramway Hotel destroyed.

“A serious fire occurred at Karangahake last night by which the Tramway Hotel, which is situated on the east side of the river, was destroyed. The hotel, which is the property of Mr Montgomery, was a substantial two-storeyed building and was well furnished throughout. The fire was at its height about ten o'clock last night, and Thames residents observed the bright glare in the sky. The whole of the hotel was completely destroyed and the bulk of the furniture, while the hall which adjoined was also burnt.”⁹¹⁸

A flag station is to be opened at Mackaytown.⁹¹⁹

October. “The bridge across the Ohinemuri River at Mackaytown, to give access to the flag station, is now completed.”⁹²⁰

November. “Waihi Train Sensation. Stuck Up in the Tunnell. Driver and Fireman Asphyxiated. Both Fall off the Engine. Narrow Escape from Death.”⁹²¹

December. Petition sent to Minister.⁹²²

Crown mine discovers rich new reef.⁹²³

“On the Karangahake Goldfield the Talisman Consolidated Mine has developed into a profitable concern, having declared during the year £60,000 in dividends as a result of treating 49,573 tons of ore for a return of £152,011.”⁹²⁴

Talisman: “a new Ingersoll Sergeant compound air-compressor having been installed at the Woodstock Battery”.

Crown: “The company's water-race on the Ohinemuri River has for some time been leaking and in much need of repairs. During the year a new bridge at the junction of the Ohinemuri and Waitawheta Rivers has been erected to carry the race over; this is a good piece of work, and when the race along the banks of the Ohinemuri River, recently destroyed by the heavy floods, is restored and other sections repaired, the water-supply from this race will be available for use at the company's mill.”⁹²⁵

“Comstock United Gold-mining Company.—In the early part of the year a company was formed to raise capital to carry on further development-work.” To supply fresh air to the very long tunnel a small dam was constructed on the Hauraki Stream, and a water-blast set up to force air into the drive.⁹²⁶

“At Karangahake discoveries of cinnabar have been made, and several mineral leases applied for.”⁹²⁷

“The Talisman Consolidated.—The property owned by this company consists of 507 acres, upon which 275 men have been employed during the past year... The total value of the bullion produced by this mine to date is £598,886, out of which £90,000 has been returned to the shareholders in dividends.”⁹²⁸

Karangahake School of Mines. “Averaging forty-two students, and having fifty-nine students on the roll during the second term. This is the highest average attendance yet reached for this school.” “Laboratory. Owing to the Council's decision to do free assays for prospectors, no less than 196 assays were made during the year, in addition to a number of assays which were paid for.”

“During the year a storeroom 16 ft. by 12 ft. has been erected.”⁹²⁹

Summary 1907

January. A lack of miners; many Australian miners returning home.⁹³⁰

A flood destroys much of the Crown Company's water race.⁹³¹

"The footbridge at Mackaytown, over the Ohinemuri River, has also been carried away by the water."⁹³²

Another new rich reef found in the Crown mine.⁹³³

March. This Lloyd lode is "now considered the most important in the Crown mines."⁹³⁴

The damaged water races of the Crown "would cost about £6000 and occupy 14 months to repair."⁹³⁵

July. Mackaytown footbridge rebuilt after blowing down.⁹³⁶

September. "KARANGAHAKE MINING. At no period in the history of the Hauraki goldfields has the outlook for the Karangahake section looked so bright as at the present time."⁹³⁷

Crown. "The company's water-race on the Ohinemuri River, which was destroyed in the early part of the year, is now being reconstructed, and the milling plant has been worked by steam."

Comstock United. "For upwards of thirteen years Mr. Tregoweth has held to the mine, spending an amount of capital and carrying out a great amount of prospecting."

Karangahake Gold-mining Company has been established.⁹³⁸

Summary 1908

January. Karangahake Company at work.⁹³⁹

May. Firebell to be erected.⁹⁴⁰

Mr. Daw has been in England arranging for an electrical generating and pumping plant for the Crown Company.⁹⁴¹

Another large slip damages Crown water race and tramway.⁹⁴²

May. Firebell appears to exist. Therefore constructed May or June.⁹⁴³

July. Ohinemuri County Council has decided to erect a rotunda, to cost £125. This, I understand, will be erected in the main street, alongside the new firebell tower.⁹⁴⁴

Talisman are installing new pump to lift the water from No. 13 level. Operated by compressed air.⁹⁴⁵

Crown intend discontinuing development works below No. 3 level, pending the installation of the new electrical plant recently ordered.⁹⁴⁶

August. Karangahake presses for Borough status.⁹⁴⁷

Talisman lower levels flooded owing to Crown mine stopping pumping.⁹⁴⁸

September. Crown mine closed due to a dispute with the mining contractors over insurance.⁹⁴⁹

November. Talisman. The installation of the new air-compressor plant at the Talisman mine is now completed, pumps holding the water below No. 12 level.⁹⁵⁰

Crown. For the first time for over 25 years mining and milling operations in the New Zealand Crown mines at Karangahake have been suspended. At the earliest work is not likely to be resumed for several months, during which the new electrical pumping plant for unwatering the mine to a greater depth will be installed. A number of men will be thrown out of work in consequence. Part of the new plant, which in all cost from £12,000 to £13,000 in England, is on the ground, and the estimated cost of the water-race now in course of construction is £6000.⁹⁵¹

Band rotunda, Karangahake, £138 (W. H. Taylor)⁹⁵²

Summary 1909

January. Workers Compensation Act of 1908. Miners refuse to submit to medical examination regarding miners' complaint (phthisis). The Talisman capitulates, not the Crown.^{953 954}

February. The new compound Cornish air-compressor recently installed by the Talisman Consolidated is working most satisfactorily. The water in the shaft has been reduced about 80 feet, leaving 60 feet yet to be pumped before operations can be resumed at No. 13 level.⁹⁵⁵

CROWN MINE. The concrete foundations for a powerful electrical plant are now being prepared at the Crown mine [battery].⁹⁵⁶

The Talisman Company is pumping from their incline shaft. The pumps are powered by compressed air, supplied by a large new compressor in the power house on Battery Flat and/or the old Woodstock battery (it is run by water, and steam backup). Smaller, older, compressors are on standby. The compressed air is conveyed to the mine via a pipeline (8 in. diameter wrought-iron welded pipes⁹⁵⁷) which enters at the Woodstock No.5 Level portal.

The Talisman pumps are lowering the water level in their mine, and also to some extent in the Crown. The Crown are not pumping; they are installing an electricity plant at their battery to power their new pumps when installed.

The Talisman Company intend to cut out a large chamber in the vicinity of the Woodstock shaft (inside No. 5 level) to house a powerful winding and pumping plant. This will become the "Underground Pumphouse" as we know it. This is additional to, or adds to, the original chamber cut by the Woodstock Company. The machinery will be run by steam, the boilers will be installed outside the No.5 portal, jammed in a tiny area beside the Waitawheta.

March. Ohinemuri Licensing Poll: Vote = No-license.

The hotels to be closed as a result of the Court's decision, as from June 30, number 14, and are as follows; At Waihi: The Central, Sterling, Rob Roy, and Waihi. At Waikino: The Waikino. At Karangahake: The Tramway and Talisman. At Mackaytown; The Mackaytown. At Waitekauri: The Waitekauri. At Golden Cross: The Golden Cross. At Paeroa: The Commercial, Paeroa, Criterion, and Royal Mail.⁹⁵⁸
April. Haywards' Picture entertainment at Karangahake (movies).⁹⁵⁹

August. Talisman. In the Woodstock section the cutting out of a huge chamber for the new machinery, in connection with the sinking of the Woodstock shaft from its present depth of 250 ft to the Talisman low levels, was well in hand. The shaft should be going in about 18 months. At the battery the company are installing three tube mills, eight B. and M. agitating tanks, a vacuum filter plant, and a new mill engine.

Crown. The power station near the company's reduction works is finished. Here a large triple expansion engine for driving a three phase 550 kilo. generator has been installed. There is also a large Francis turbine for driving the same generator when there is a sufficient supply of water in the Ohinemuri River for doing so. There are two Babcock boilers of 250 horse-power each, feed pumps, and every type of safety device to provide against accidents. The plant has been built on very substantial foundations, a great deal of the concrete work being over 20ft deep.⁹⁶⁰

October. Talisman. Water low enough to allow deepening of shaft from No.13 level. The large chamber in Woodstock section completed.⁹⁶¹

A rich patch of cinnabar ore struck in the Mackaytown cinnabar mine.⁹⁶²

November. Karangahake bowling green official opening.⁹⁶³

December. Crown mining again, crushing with one shift. Mining had ceased for about a year. Electrical plant and pumps working well (at a cost of £20,000⁹⁶⁴).⁹⁶⁵

The Ascot Cinnabar Syndicate have erected a plant for the reduction of cinnabar, and, so far, their operations, which are on a small scale, appear to be meeting with some success, as they have recently notified me of their intention of claiming the Government bonus for the production of quicksilver, of which they had then produced a small quantity.⁹⁶⁶

Talisman. To vigorously develop the Woodstock section of their mine by enlarging and sinking the Woodstock shaft to connect with the lowest workings of the Talisman section. At the present time the bottom of this shaft is about 10 ft. above the No. 13 level of the Talisman workings, and a considerable distance therefrom. A horizontal compound pumping-engine is being installed in a chamber at drainage level in this shaft to work rope-driven Cornish pumps of 26 in. diameter by 10 ft. stroke.

A new 500-horse power Fraser and Chalmers' compound engine has been erected and brought into use [at the battery]. This engine has cylinders of 18 in. and 35 in. respectively by 3 ft. 6 in. stroke, and runs at 75 revolutions per minute. A new surface condensing plant for main engine and auxiliaries has also been installed. Additional boilers will be installed at the power plant during the next year. Also, a new boiler plant is to be erected at Woodstock No. 5 level to supply steam for the Woodstock shaft pumping and winding machinery.

The following additions have been made to the treatment plant: Complete new assay office with latest appliances; new smelting-room, with tilting, oxidising, and bullion furnaces; slag reduction plant and prospecting stamps: new slimes, Spitzkasten's; eight new pneumatic slime-agitators, each 30 ft. by 8 ft.; one new slime-dewateriser; three tube mills, each 4 ft. by 12 ft., on the Abbe roller principle; also five classifiers and two sand-elevators.

Crown. The machinery in the power-house is as follows: One 550 BHP high-speed triple-expansion engine: one 550 K.W. generator, 25 periods, 2,200 volts. 300 revolutions per minute; one 25 K.W. exciter, 110 volts, 750 revolutions per minute; one two-panel switchboard; one Francis turbine; one condenser; one feed-water heater.

Transmission Line. — From the power-station to the mine the distance is 92 chains, and the transmission is by single circuit, consisting of three bare stranded conductors, each made up of thirty seven wires of No. 4 standard gauge. The conductors are carried on ironbark and kauri poles, which in the Waitawheta Creek are bolted to the solid rock, and stayed by struts and guy ropes. Under the aerial tramways in the gorge the cable is laid in 3 in. galvanized pipes under the ground.⁹⁶⁷

Ascot Cinnabar-mine.

This mine is situated on the east side of Mackytown, on the Rahu Road, about one mile north of the Talisman Mine. The property consists of 176 acres, a mill-site of 5 acres, and timber reserve of 20 acres, together with aerial tram and dam-site. The cinnabar-deposit outcrops on the face of a steep escarpment about 600 ft. above the Rahu Road...

The Novak furnace installed for the treatment of the ore is of the latest type, it being double walled, 21 ft. in height by 8 ft. diameter externally. The inner wall is of firebrick and the outer of ordinary brick, the whole being surrounded by an iron

jacket, which serves to prevent the escape of fumes. The ore and fuel (charcoal) are charged at intervals at the top of the furnace...

The mercurial vapours are drawn from the furnaces into condensers...⁹⁶⁸

Summary 1910

30 March. Flood! Biggest on record.⁹⁶⁹ Water rushed through the railway tunnel.⁹⁷⁰ Talisman water race pipe crumpled and twisted.⁹⁷¹ Old Woodstock battery damaged.⁹⁷²

4 April. Gorge Road closed.⁹⁷³

Mackaytown station bridge destroyed.⁹⁷⁴

August. Talisman battery. Three new tube mills and eight pneumatic slimes agitators have been installed.⁹⁷⁵

15 September. Old Woodstock battery destroyed by fire. The plant destroyed included three air compressors and two steam engines.⁹⁷⁶

Except the compressors, the contents of the old Woodstock mill were, it is stated, mostly old machinery, not at present in use. The compressors were driven by a Pelton wheel, and there was in the building a steam engine, that served as an auxiliary power, in the event of the water supply breaking down.⁹⁷⁷

The property destroyed or damaged includes the mill, a building of wood and iron, containing two engines, three air compressors, vats, stamps, and the electric light plant. Approximate value is £8000.⁹⁷⁸

November. Ohinemuri County Council decided to erect a footbridge over the Ohinemuri river, at Karangahake, near the School of Mines.⁹⁷⁹

The following contracts let: erection of a footbridge over the Ohinemuri river at Karangahake, M. Gojack, £104.⁹⁸⁰

December. Dougherty's swing bridge (suspension bridge) is built early 1911?

Crown battery still run by steam from the old engine behind the mill.⁹⁸¹

Talisman. The reopening of the Woodstock section of the property is being rapidly advanced. In the shaft chamber, at drainage level, new winding and horizontal compound pumping-engines have been installed, also rope-driven Cornish pumps 26 in. in diameter by 10 ft. stroke. Two Babcock and Wilcox boilers, with mechanical stokers, to work at 160 lb. pressure, are now being installed. A new Ingersoll-Sergeant air-compressor, with a capacity of 3,700 cubic feet of free air per minute, will be installed early in 1911

New Zealand Crown Mines (Limited): This company having undergone reconstruction and a change of management, development was resumed after the completion of the electric installation in April 1910. The mill engine (steam) has been put out of commission, and will be reserved for use in case of emergency. The mill is now being driven by power delivered from the generator at the power-house.

During May the old company was wound up and a new company, having the same name, was formed to provide further capital to open and develop the mine at greater depth. In October Mr. F. R. W. Daw (general manager) resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. John McCombie, formerly of the Talisman Mine.⁹⁸²

Mr. J. McCombie was appointed general manager of the New Zealand Crown Mines.⁹⁸³

Summary 1911

3 February. Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers' Conference. The mining delegates left Waihi this morning by special train, stopping at Karangahake to inspect the Crown and Talisman mines. They were entertained at luncheon, and left for Thames in the afternoon.⁹⁸⁴

4 October. Karangahake Dispute. Cooperative System Adopted.⁹⁸⁵

Crown. The machinery in connection with the treatment plant is now all electrically driven, and the Waitawheta main adit is lighted by electricity for 1,700 ft. along the level, and a horse is now used here for trucking purposes.

Mill. —All the machinery in the mill is now being driven by a 250-horse-power electric motor, which is working very satisfactorily. A transformer has been installed in the power-house, which enables the electric power to be used for working small motors, and a 9½-horse-power motor now drives all the fitting-shop machinery. Electric power is also used for hoisting ore from the tram-line to the top of the mill buildings.⁹⁸⁶

Talisman. A new change-house, 30 ft. by 70 ft., has been erected at the mouth of the Woodstock No. 5 level, and will be equipped with hot and cold shower-baths and steam-heat for drying clothes.⁹⁸⁷

Summary 1912

27 January. The Maria reef (the Talisman Company's, main ore body) is to be picked up at the Crown mine No. 7 level, where a drive is now being pushed out to intersect the lode. At the mouth of the drive at a point near the County road a hopper is to be erected and an aerial tram will be constructed from the hopper to deliver the quartz into a hopper alongside the Company's horse tram so that the cost of transit of ore to the mill will be comparatively small.⁹⁸⁸

March. Crown: improvements and additions to the treatment plant are being made to accommodate ore from the Talisman section. It is more refractory.⁹⁸⁹

Waihi Strike. 13 May - 12 November 1912⁹⁹⁰

10 June. The Woodstock shaft is now being sunk at a rate of about 1ft per day⁹⁹¹

28 August. Strike for a day at Karangahake.⁹⁹²

4 October. New croquet lawn should be ready for use about Christmas time.⁹⁹³

Coal miners' strike at Huntly.⁹⁹⁴

16 October. Talisman mine closes. The superintendent of the Talisman mine at Karangahake reports that owing to the interruption of coal supplies from Huntly it is necessary to reserve the present coal in stock for pumping only. He says, "We regret having to stop all operations of the mine and mill at 8 o'clock this morning until further supplies are available. All pumping operations will be continued as usual."⁹⁹⁵

27 November. The Karangahake Bridge has been commenced, but not yet been completed.⁹⁹⁶

Summary 1913

25 January. N.Z. Crown Mines. Unpayable Development Work Abandoned. About 60 hands all told have been dispensed with recently by the New Zealand Crown Mines, Ltd., Karangahake, it having been decided to abandon all unpayable development works at various parts underground.⁹⁹⁷

Large heavy trestle bridge, replaces first swing bridge at Karangahake⁹⁹⁸

11 August. Edgar Rock Drill. An official trial of the Edgar patent rock drill took place on Saturday at Karangahake. Mr Edgar (the inventor) claims that the drill he has invented will to a large extent prevent the dread disease, miner's complaint, by the water being automatically fed and forced through a longitudinal hole in the centre of the drill to the actual face being cut, thus preventing the usual dust in boring generally.⁹⁹⁹

Crown battery: Five slime-vats have been equipped with mechanical agitators, and consequently a considerable improvement has been effected in the percentage of bullion-recovery.¹⁰⁰⁰

Summary 1914

17 January. TALISMAN...Stoppage: Owing to interruption of coal supply through strikes, mining and milling was stopped on November 7.¹⁰⁰¹

1 June. Crown. Operations suspended, battery ceases crushing.¹⁰⁰²

4 August New Zealand at war¹⁰⁰³

18 September. Bowling. Karangahake Club. It had been found necessary to put down a new green of four rinks, which will be ready for play late in the coming season.¹⁰⁰⁴

Summary 1915

10 August. The closing down of the New Zealand Crown mine, at Karangahake, under a term of six months' protection granted by the warden on July 22 last, is a matter for regret in view of the past history of this old and familiar property. For some time past it had not been paying, and owing to the war the prospects of obtaining fresh capital were so poor as to render the application for protection a necessity.¹⁰⁰⁵

10 August. Crown. At present the only work in the mine is being done by tributers.¹⁰⁰⁶

During its existence as a bullion-producer the Crown mine has yielded gold worth £880,883. Between May, 1910, and June 30, 1913, under the first reconstructed company, the total expenditure on the property amounted to £131,433. Of that sum about £126,000 was spent in New Zealand in connection with the actual mining and milling operations. The total value of the bullion won in the same period was £112,255, leaving a net deficit of £19,178, which represents approximately, the sum expended in exploratory work. From June 30, 1913, to July 31 last, when the mine was closed down, £32,152 was spent in New Zealand by the company, of which £25,500 represents wages paid. Bullion won in the same period was valued at £28,500, leaving a deficit of £3652. The total amount paid in wages by the company during the past six years was £113,916.¹⁰⁰⁷

Summary 1916

21 February. Tramway Hotel Destroyed. Woman Burnt To Death. Two Men Injured.

One of the most disastrous fires that have occurred at Karangahake for a long time happened at 3 o'clock yesterday (Sunday) morning. The hotel was run as a boarding house by Mr. Monsey and his wife, who are at present on a visit to Australia. During their absence Mr. Monsey's mother-in-law, Mrs. Dawson, was in charge of the house.¹⁰⁰⁸

9 March... the insurance companies having decided to cancel risks at Karangahake, where there has been a series of fires in the past two or three months...¹⁰⁰⁹

15 March. A remarkable series of fires in dwellings at Karangahake is giving the authorities much concern.¹⁰¹⁰

Summary 1917

10 January. Military Service Board. Sitting At Paeroa. The Auckland Military Service Board held a sitting at Paeroa Monday to deal with applications for exemption lodged by members of the first division of the Expeditionary Force Reserve who have been drawn in the ballot under the Military Service Act...¹⁰¹¹

July. Crown powerhouse sold to Gisborne Borough¹⁰¹².

Summary 1918

15 April. Military Appeals. Sitting Of No. 2 Service Board. The chairman explained that miners are entitled to exemption so long as they are actually engaged in a gold-producing mine.¹⁰¹³

Talisman. Prospecting by means of a Government diamond drill is now being carried out.

Summary 1919

March. Crown Quarry granted by Warden.¹⁰¹⁴

14 June. The demolition of empty houses is still going on apace. The better parts of the houses are being removed for re-erection in other places, mostly in the King Country.

The local quarry adjacent to the Crown battery has been fully opened up, and good bell metal is to hand, which is in great demand by various councils, etc.¹⁰¹⁵

13 August. Crown mine is being dismantled.¹⁰¹⁶

3 October. Gas lighting discontinued, electric lights curtesy of Talisman battery.¹⁰¹⁷

20 November. The Talisman mine has yielded in bullion to date a total of £2,933,097, and the dividends, etc., paid to the shareholders amount to £1,151,164.¹⁰¹⁸

Talisman. As the ore reserves had become exhausted, milling operations were suspended last [this October] October, and will not be again commenced unless the development work undertaken by the company justifies resumption.¹⁰¹⁹

Summary 1920

The large building in the main thoroughfare, which was at one time a busy licensed hotel, has been dismantled and taken to Te Puke to be re-erected as a boardinghouse.¹⁰²⁰

7 July. The concrete bridge that is being erected over Doherty's creek is almost completed, and will be available for traffic in a few days' time.¹⁰²¹

16 December. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of development work carried on up to the present the directors of the Talisman Consolidated, Limited, have decided, with a view to curtailing expenses under these circumstances, that the mine shall be closed down as soon as the material in the underground workings can be withdrawn.¹⁰²²

New Zealand Crown Mines (Limited), Karangahake. —During the year five men have been employed dismantling the machinery and keeping the water-races in repair.¹⁰²³

Summary 1921

29 January. The New Zealand Crown Mines Co., Ltd., invite tenders for the working of their road metal quarry at Karangahake on tribute for a term of two years from the fourteenth day of February, 1921. All plant and machinery other than tools will be provided by the Company, the tributers to provide all labour and stores and pay all expenses...Tenders, to be addressed to G. N. McGruer, Manager, Crown Co., Karangahake...¹⁰²⁴

15 February. Karangahake Bowling Club. Owing to mining operations ceasing at Karangahake many of the members are shortly leaving the district, and the club will be disbanded. It has been in existence, for about 20 years, and the members are all true sports and very hospitable, and their green has for many years been considered one of the best in the Auckland province. The club has a wonderful record, having won a great number of tournaments, including the much-coveted Dominion tournament, which they secured twice. It is the only club in the Dominion to achieve this great honour, and many expressions of regret were voiced by the visitors on Saturday that such a fine club should have to break up and its members depart for other spheres...¹⁰²⁵

5 August. OHINEMURI COUNTY.

County Engineer E. Shaw reported as follows to the Ohinemuri County Council yesterday:

...The band rotunda at Karangahake which was left in the hands of Cr. McGuire and myself to dispose of was sold to the Paeroa Beautifying Society for the sum of £50.

The foot-bridge over the Ohinemuri River at Karangahake known as Docherty's Creek bridge has become unsafe for traffic through one of its anchors giving way, and as it is not urgently required I would not recommend any expenditure in repairing same.¹⁰²⁶

RIVER COMMISSION

The Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Commission, 1921, commenced its sittings at Paeroa yesterday, in the County Chambers, at 10 a.m...

The Commission will inquire into and report upon the allocation of the cost of providing the funds required under the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Act, 1910, and kindred matters...¹⁰²⁷

24 August. On Monday the Farmers' Auctioneering Company conducted a sale of the Talisman Gold Mining Company's house properties and household and office furniture.¹⁰²⁸

Summary 1922

27 November. Tenders. Karangahake School of Mines. Tenders are invited for the Cash purchase of the buildings and contents of the above School of Mines situated at Karangahake, either separately or as a whole.¹⁰²⁹

Summary 1923

6 January. New Talisman Company wish to develop the parallel system of the Crown and Talisman mines.¹⁰³⁰

3 February. Mining operations in Karangahake had practically ceased up to six months ago, following upon the closing down of the Talisman Consolidated mine, with the exception of some prospecting work in the Crown Mines property. During the last six months, however, numerous applications have been made through the

Warden's Court for fresh mining leases in that district, where there are now several prospecting parties at work. ¹⁰³¹

Summary 1924

A Talisman air compressor removed to Huntly coal mines. ¹⁰³²

Two classrooms from Karangahake school removed to new school at Waikino. ¹⁰³³

Summary 1925

4 March. The Talisman Consolidated mine, up to March, 1921, had put out gold to the value of £2,951,315, equal to £7 5s a ton. The total dividends paid amounted to £1,151,164, or about £4 17s 6d a share. The Crown mine has yielded £871,386, the total dividends bring £70,000. From these two mines the total output was, therefore, £3,822,701, the combined dividends amounting to £1,221,164. ¹⁰³⁴

3 July. The county Council plan to remove the Talisman (ex Woodstock) dam on the Ohinemuri. ¹⁰³⁵

Summary 1926

8 January. The Talisman Dam. Demolition by Dynamite. Water Released Safely.

After functioning for nearly twenty years the Talisman dam, situated in the Karangahake Gorge across the Ohinemuri River, was freed by Mr E. Shaw, Ohinemuri county engineer, and his staff on Wednesday...

Much valuable timber will be taken from the dam when it drains sufficiently. This has been purchased by the county council, and will be useful for bridge repair work. ¹⁰³⁶

14 May. The Minister of Mines asked to provide a public battery for Karangahake. ¹⁰³⁷

3 September. John McCombie dies, aged 76. ¹⁰³⁸

Summary 1927

11 January. Electricity for lighting and power purposes has now been installed at Karangahake by the Thames Valley Power Board. ¹⁰³⁹

7 June. During the past nine months Mr J. B. Morris, with a party of men, has been engaged in erecting a five head battery about three miles along the Trig Road [County Road. Earl of Glasgow area]. ¹⁰⁴⁰

3 August. The Crown battery has not yet been demolished. Water races still intact. ¹⁰⁴¹

22 August. Mr. J. B. Morris elected representative on Council, Karangahake Riding. ¹⁰⁴² JB Morris continued till 1938. ¹⁰⁴³

4 November...the Crown Quarry Company at Karangahake is resuming its crushing operations at an early date. ¹⁰⁴⁴

19 November. Quite a small pegging out boom is in progress in the Karangahake section of the goldfields. "Practically all Karangahake has been pegged out" ... ¹⁰⁴⁵

New Zealand Crown Mines, Karangahake. —The area held by this company was forfeited by the Warden early in July. ¹⁰⁴⁶

Summary 1928

13 January. Large fires at Karangahake. ¹⁰⁴⁷

19 April. Talisman battery is still being dismantled. ¹⁰⁴⁸

Summary 1929

12 June. County Council consider taking over the Crown tramway and aerial at Karangahake.¹⁰⁴⁹

Summary 1930

10 February. Work was started last week on the Talisman-Dubbo property at Karangahake, which was part of the Crown mines area. A five-stamper battery is owned by the company and is situated at the mouth of the Rose crosscut on the road up the mountain.¹⁰⁵⁰

Summary 1931

Daylight saving.¹⁰⁵¹

Summary 1932

11 March. Relief Camp workers are clearing ragwort at Karangahake.¹⁰⁵²

16 June. Mr J. N. Cherry said he had recently acquired the claim, he had sunk a certain amount of capital in works and machinery for the purpose of extracting and crushing his own ore. He had also acquired a small battery (5 stamps) and power plant, and had been granted a special battery site by the Warden, and six months' protection.¹⁰⁵³

17 September. The Golden Dawn Goldmining Company, in the erection of its battery at Owharoa, was assisted by the Mines Department, conditional on the company having also to treat parcels of ore for small companies and private prospectors. The Talisman Dubbo Company is having its ore treated here.¹⁰⁵⁴

Summary 1933

May. The Karangahake Tributers and Prospectors' Association has been formed at Karangahake, some twenty odd members being enrolled. Mr D. Leach was appointed chairman and Mr. C. Waines secretary and treasurer, Messrs J. B. Morris, W. Symes, T. J. Maher and N J. Cherry the committee.¹⁰⁵⁵

10 October. Talisman Dubbo (Karangahake). The aerial ropeway from Talisman No. 1 level to the county road near No. 8 Talisman level (2100 ft. in length, with a fall of 800 ft.), and loading and discharging hoppers are now working.¹⁰⁵⁶ Ore is taken to the Golden Dawn battery, Owharoa.

In 1933 the first one-day School Reunion was held on the Mackaytown Recreation Ground.¹⁰⁵⁷

Summary 1934

3 February. Unemployed men's camps:—"Public Works camps in the county are accounting for very good work."¹⁰⁵⁸

19 April. John Nathaniel Cherry, the granting of a license to construct a dam in the Waitawheta stream 200 feet to the west of the Old Crown bridge to store water to drive a turbine, such application having been consented to by the Minister; granted.¹⁰⁵⁹

1 December. Mr. J. Morris has completed the erection of his battery in the township. The old stamper system has been discarded and the plant consists of a stonecrusher and ball mill. Mr. Morris is working a claim on top of the Taukani Mountain.¹⁰⁶⁰

Summary 1936

January. Karangahake Gorge road to be closed for widening work. Detour to be over Rahu Road. ¹⁰⁶¹ Public Works department.

2 February. Flood. Waikino footbridge was washed away. Rahu road impassable. ¹⁰⁶²

10 July. The Ohinemuri County Council yesterday decided to dismantle the Karangahake swing bridge [River Road to Irishtown?] as it was considered to be a danger to children. ¹⁰⁶³

22 December. Gorge road. Many thousands of yards of solid rock have been blasted from the cliff face. Three dangerous bends have been widened and the river-bank has been faced with rock, and for some distance with a concrete wall. Opened to traffic at Christmas. ¹⁰⁶⁴

Summary 1937

19 February. Karangahake Gorge road closed again for further work, including bridge over railway at eastern portal. ¹⁰⁶⁵

7 June. Talisman Dubbo Gold Mines Ltd. Start on erecting their own mill at old Talisman powerhouse site. ¹⁰⁶⁶

15 June. New Bridge Opened.—The new ferro concrete bridge over the Ohinemuri River at Waihi was officially opened on Saturday, the Mayoress, Mrs W. M. Wallnutt, cutting the ribbon. The structure, which cost £2400, has been christened the Coronation Bridge. ¹⁰⁶⁷

18 October. Talisman Dubbo Goldmining Company request the Council to reopen the old Scotchman's gully road. ¹⁰⁶⁸

17 November. The old Talisman battery site clean-up is still yielding bullion. ¹⁰⁶⁹

Summary 1938

14 February. Waitawheta River considered as a water supply for Paeroa. ¹⁰⁷⁰

10 March. New Waitawheta Road bridge erected. ¹⁰⁷¹

2 April. Karangahake gorge road to be sealed. ¹⁰⁷²

28 May. Talisman Dubbo new mill started. All the machinery is new and of the latest type. It has been designed for efficiency and low running costs. The gold will be saved by cyanidation. Electricity provides the motive power and the mill can be operated with a shift of two men. It is designed to treat from 125 to 150 tons a week. ¹⁰⁷³

28 July. Storm. Gorge road closed by slips, extensive damage. Rahu road reused. ¹⁰⁷⁴ Recently opened after costing the county £500 for construction and metalling, Scotchman's Gully Road, leading to the battery of the Talisman Dubbo Gold Mines, has been completely destroyed. Talisman Dubbo battery forced to close. ¹⁰⁷⁵

Summary 1940

8 February. The Talisman Dubbo Gold-mining Company closing down. ¹⁰⁷⁶

The up-to-date battery, erected in 1937, has been dismantled and sent to Fiji. ¹⁰⁷⁷

Summary 1941

Mines Department is prospecting the Ascot Mine at Karangahake. ¹⁰⁷⁸

Summary 1942

Golden Dawn Gold-mines, Ltd., Owharoa—Work suspended and plant being sold for removal. ¹⁰⁷⁹

Summary 1943

Operations have now been suspended at the Ascot Mine, where the Mines Department was carrying out some investigations. ¹⁰⁸⁰

Summary 1945

Talisman Battery Site, Karangahake.—This is now held as the Grace claim by E. C. Roberts. Approximately 100 tons of material were treated for a return of bullion valued at £707. ¹⁰⁸¹

Summary 1946

Morris' Battery Site, Karangahake.—A final clean-up gave a return of 11 oz. 5 dwt. of bullion worth £43 0s. 7d., after which all plant was sold and transferred to a claim at Komata. ¹⁰⁸²

Summary 1947

6 October. The Paeroa Borough Council Water Supply Empowering Bill revokes the sludge channel status of Waitawheta stream. ¹⁰⁸³

Summary 1948

24 March. The four-foot diameter sheet iron pipes of the Woodstock/Talisman Ohinemuri water race were salvaged by the Tauranga Borough Council to provide boxing for the concrete lining of a new diversion tunnel for its McLaren's falls hydro-electric scheme. ¹⁰⁸⁴

Summary 1957

December 7, 1957, Karangahake was en fete for the official opening of its new hall. ¹⁰⁸⁵

Summary 1959

Paeroa Municipal Water Supply.

The pipe line measures 33,700 feet (about 6½ miles) from the Borough boundary via the Waitawheta Gorge to the intake above Dickey's Flat. The pipe line crosses 2 large swing bridges and passes through a 500 feet long tunnel before going under the bed of the stream to reach the treatment plant. Rising costs and additional features added to the scheme after the original tender was accepted resulted in the completed job costing just over £95,000. The first draw off from the supply was taken shortly prior to Christmas 1959 although the final work had not been completed at that stage.

For the first time for nearly 40 years Paeroa Borough had an adequate supply of water. ¹⁰⁸⁶

In 1933 the first one-day School Reunion was held on the Mackaytown Recreation Ground, but in 1959, through the initiative of Mr Eric Nash (the Headmaster) and his wife, Gwen, a grand, long weekend celebrated 70 years of the school's history. It was no small matter to accommodate the hundreds who came to the now sparsely populated area, but it was a wonderful success, aided by the fact that a new Hall had been built by the community. ¹⁰⁸⁷

Summary 1960-63

Karangahake Picnic Reserve. This portion of the old town site contains an area of 3 acres 2 roods 10 perches and was vested in the control of the Ohinemuri County Council as a reserve for recreational purposes on 27th October 1960.

A concrete block building containing toilets and changing facilities erected late 1963. Notice Board on the Reserve was erected by the Paeroa Rotary Club.¹⁰⁸⁸

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