

WEST GODOLPHIN MINE.

The general meeting of the adventurers was held at the Offices, 7, Union Court, Old Broad Street, on Wednesday—Mr. F. G. Lane in the chair.

The notice convening the meeting was read, and the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed. The accounts for the twelve weeks ending March 15th showed that 7 tons 10 cwt. 2 qrs. 20 lbs. of tin had been sold, realising, after deducting 18s. 11s. 8d. lords dues, 427s. 10d. The labour costs amounted to 816s. 10s. 8d., and the merchants' bills, less discount, to 333s. The balance against the mine was 149s. 12s. 3d.

The CHAIRMAN stated the accounts, which had been circulated amongst the shareholders, were of a less satisfactory character than those presented at the last meeting. The costs had exceeded those of the previous twelve weeks principally on account of the extra merchants' bills, that item amounting to 383s. against 328s. On the other hand, the returns had fallen off about a ton and a quarter, contrary to the expectation of the agent, and committee. It arose principally from their being unable to stope away the ground laid open, and which, it was believed, would turn out advantageously. During the past quarter, they have communicated Hope shaft with the 20-fm. level, and they had made every preparation for drawing the stuff through it. They had a very good lode there, and it was hoped that good returns would be made from it during the current quarter. They were already drawing through the shaft. The cost of the extra erections had been charged in the accounts, and, so far as could be seen, there would be no further extraordinary outlay in connection with the Hope lode. This was an entirely new part of the mine, and from all appearances, they might expect good returns from it. The 20-fathom level was in a very fair lode, and the 40-fm. level was now going in, and it was hoped that the returns would be increased from this course. Unfortunately the western portion of the mine had temporarily failed, and the points there had been suspended, the appearances not warranting further prosecution at present. Hereafter it would be a question whether they should sink the shaft and get under the 70-fathom level. The 40-fathom level was going towards the junction of the Hope and caunter lodes, and judging from all the indications they might expect favourable results from the intersection of these lodes. With regard to the accounts, they had about 70s. worth of copper ore now ready for sale, which would reduce the debit balance to about 80s. The committee were of opinion that they should make a call of 1s. 6d. per share, to clear off the debit and provide for the probable loss on the current quarter's working. The chairman, in conclusion, proposed the reception and adoption of the accounts and the agents' report.

Mr. BELLINGHAM seconded the proposition, which was carried. Mr. BELLINGHAM asked if there was sufficient stamping power for an increased return, if such an increase could be obtained.

Capt. HODGE, in reply, said at present only about half the stamps were being used. In reply to other questions, Capt. Hodge said he expected they would make larger returns this quarter; but he did not wish to promise that they would do so. They had not yet touched the bottom of the 70-fm. level yet. He did not expect any decrease in the labour costs, as the men who had been working at surface would be put to sink the shaft and cut the plat. He did not anticipate a large increase in the returns in the current quarter; but he believed they would be in a better position at the next meeting than they were now in. There was a great change for the better in the 70 and 80-fathom levels since they commenced to work them. They were now concentrating their energies on the eastern part of the mine.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a call of 1s. 6d. per share, payable on or before the 12th April.

Mr. MILNER seconded the proposition, which was adopted. It was also decided that, in future, the agents' report should be sent to the shareholders before the meeting. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

OLD GUNNISLAKE MINE.

A FOUR-MONTHLY meeting was held on Tuesday at the Account-house—Mr. J. C. Isaac, of Liskeard, in the chair.

The accounts from the 30th September to the 20th January last, which were read by the PURSER (Mr. Skinner), showed a balance against the mine at the commencement of the accounts of 231s. 2s. 10d.; paid for labour, 412s. 13s. 8d.; merchants' bills, 166s. 16s. 5d.; discount on calls, 23s. 15s. 2d.; royalty and interest, 8s. 7s. 6d.; received from a call of 1s. 6d. per share on 3,885 shares, 666s. 7s. 6d.; rents and discounts, 8s. 4s. 4d.; sale of 11 tons 20 cwt. copper ore, 107s. 11s. 5d., leaving a balance against the mine of 60s. 12s. 4d.

The accounts were passed. The AGENTS, in reply to questions as to the general condition of the mine, stated that the end driving west on the Bonny lode had improved in appearance, and judging from the fact that its bearing was inclining to the north of west—a characteristic of all lodes which had made ore in the district—it was considered a favourable indication, and the agents thought it would not be long before a great improvement took place.

The agents' report having been adopted it was decided to make a call of 1s. 6d. per share, payable on or before the 19th April.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and committee closed the meeting.

LEVANT.

A MEETING of the shareholders was held on Tuesday—Mr. White, purser, in the chair.

The labour costs were 4,727s. 13s.; merchants' bills, 1,031s.; coals, 324s.; tin credited, 82 tons, realising (less dues) 4,248s.; copper ore, 2,664s.; balance in favour of the shareholders, 681s.

The CHAIRMAN said that twenty tons of tin had been credited for last month, but only a half of it had been sold, they intending sending the remainder to the smelters on Friday. It would have been sent before had they been able to burn it.

The agents stated in their report that since the last meeting the mine had opened up to their expectation, and they believed they should show a profit on the next sixteen weeks' working.

Capt. BOYNS (Wheal Owles) remarked that the costs were somewhat heavy, and he believed the labour costs and the charges for materials would be less in the future. He objected to the tin being credited on principle. He believed they had in Levant a valuable concern, but in regard to the rock borer everything was done wrong.

The accounts were passed, and a resolution in favour of a 5s. dividend was then carried.

NORTH LEVANT MINE.

A SIXTEEN WEEKS' ACCOUNT was held on this mine, near St. Just, on Saturday—Mr. R. Boyns (Bank), the purser, in the chair.

The statistics showed the labour costs to have been 1,184s. 5s. 2d.; merchants' bills, 141s. 10s. 11d.; coals, 73s. 3s.; interest and commission, 17s. 15s. 9d.; total debits, 1,420s. 8s. 1d. On the credit side the tin sold had realised 1,171s. 8s. 4d., less dues, 48s. 16s. 2d.; the loss on the sixteen weeks' working was 296s. 9s. 6d.; and the present total adverse balance against the mine, 394s. 4s. 10d.

In replying to questions from Mr. Read, Capt. BENNETTS said he thought it desirable to sink now because their lode was large. As a rule large lodes were productive when deep, and small lodes were productive when shallow. He thought their lode would be productive deeper, more so than any other lode they were working upon, but it would be better to open some fathoms more before they decided the exact place where they should put the engine. They were 10 fathoms below the adit, and the depth of the mine working now was 60 fathoms to the sea level. They had had deposits in shallow ground. The richest deposits in this neighbourhood had been from the 120 to the 160 or 170. They had been as far as the 150.

Mr. READ intimated it had been said outside that the mine ought to be sunk deeper.

Capt. ARTHUR said during the past sixteen weeks they had brought to surface, stamped and dressed, tin out of about 858 tons of stuff, at about 2s. per cent., or 2s. 8d. per sack. They had used 25 lb. of dynamite, 240 lbs. of powder, and about 113 tons of coal. What they would do in the ensuing sixteen weeks he could not tell, but he would be very glad if they could have a larger balance.

The meeting shortly afterwards terminated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the Opinions or Statements of our Correspondents.]

THE GOLD COAST.

To the Editor of "THE MINING WORLD AND ENGINEERING RECORD."

SIR,—Since I last wrote to you (March 17th), another letter, from my Melbourne friend, has come to hand. It is really tantalizing to read "In New Zealand we wash away (by hydranlicking) hills, trees, and all." While this is doing at the Antipodes, we on the Gold Coast stand wrangling about the possibility of washing a few tons of earth. My correspondent also informs me that he can find honest and sober miners who are willing to take service in West Africa, and who will not be frightened away by reports spread for the purpose. Amongst the Guinea Coast companies, have we no man of energy who would take steamer for Australia and return with our prime requisite—a few trustworthy men?

Hitherto, as a correspondent writes from the Gold Coast, we have mostly made a "devil of a mess." The last death by deliberate drinking was preceded by a gambling-bout, highly profitable to the local curse, who keeps a kind of "hell," for the relief of whisky-patients and all washed wits. Stores and tools were systematically made away with; bills were run up when ready money failed, and work was the last thing thought of. The unhappy wretch visited the property, of which he was manager, three times in twice that number of months. His last debt was for a small sum intended to take him to Cape Coast Castle, and to lodge an injunction against his company working its own grounds, because he wanted them for himself. It is highly interesting to trace the origin of this graceful affair. I wish mine owners only to remember that what injures one property injures, more or less, all.

Fortunately for the noble Apatim concession, Capt. Cameron is now on the spot, and doing hard, honest work. I only hope that he will be liberally supplied with funds; if not, we shall have another fine illustration of the old saying, "Penny wise and pound foolish." He found a tent pitched, three rude huts, a rough bit of clearing, and a boundary line cut 150 yards the wrong way. This represented the work of nearly half a year. He planted poles in the right direction, and cut on the first day 250, and on the second 580 yards. The expensive hydraulic engine, which the drunken wretch called "Cameron's folly," had been badly set up, and had been left to rust. He got it into order with the aid of the artificer on board H.M.S. "Pioneer," and intends working it without delay. He only regrets that it is not a traction engine, which could be driven by its own power. He proposes, for the future, engines with winding drums like steam ploughs, and wheels 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches in width, like "the dukes" which cross the Sutherland moss-hags.

Capt. Cameron has built a smithy and a carpenter's booth; has set up a forge, anvil, and grindstones; has begun shaft sinking, and has cleared the "bush" off a favourite outcrop. He has pitched upon a good place for a dam and a tail-race, and declares that he will wash down a whole hill side. And all this navvying, bush-clearing, building and engine fitting (to say nothing of answering summonses) has been done in a fortnight or so, between January 26th and February 11th.

I have two other items of news from Axim. The dangerous Hoeven rock has been buoyed, and "Pioneer" anchored in 7 fathoms, within half a mile or so of land. Yet the Liverpool steamers keep up the old abuse of lying in the offing and thus causing as much trouble and expense as they can. The second is that the local manager of an English house has been allowed by the careless young Commissioner to enclose a considerable tract of beach, thereby preventing thoroughfare. The Admiralty should look to this violation of public rights in the matter of foreshore. I hear that the question is to be settled by a free fight. On his side, the Governor should at once stop all concession-mongering by Government servants, who thereby are prevented from doing their duty. This "industry" leads also to grave offences, and in one case fraud is freely spoken of.

In conclusion, I would again submit to the companies concerned the advisability of supporting Capt. Cameron with ample funds and all their influence. It too often happens that hundreds are recklessly squandered in supporting abuses, and that tens are grudging to hard and honest labour—especially when the labourer is a gentleman.—I am, &c.,

RICHARD H. BURTON.

Trieste, Austria,
22nd March.

NO CHINESE FOR THE GOLD COAST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 17th inst., you publish a letter from Capt. Burton, in which he, to a certain extent, advocates the introduction of Chinese labour to the gold mines of West Africa. I thank Capt. Burton