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FINNERTY, JOHN N.

REPORT UPON THE YILGARN GOLDFIELD
TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.

1891.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

UPON

THE YILGARN GOLDFIELD

TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1890,

BY THE WARDEN.

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EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.

MONDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1891.

5.—REPORT OF THE YILGARN GOLDFIELD.—Mr. Marmion presented a Report by the Warden upon the Yilgarn Goldfield.

Report read by the Clerk and ordered to be printed.

Report upon the Yilgarn Goldfield to 31st December, 1890,
by the Warden.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Warden's Office, Yilgarn Goldfield.

February 1, 1891.

SIR,—

I have the honor to forward report on this Goldfield for the year 1890.

At the end of the year, eighty-four (84) leases and six (6) claims had been registered, but of these only nineteen (19) leases and one (1) claim were being worked.

The cause of abandonment of many leases was not that the prospects were not sufficiently good, but that the Companies holding leases were formed without capital sufficient to open up the mines and to provide necessary machinery.

The difficulties, uncertainty, and cost of transport have also considerably delayed the general development of the Goldfield.

ALLUVIAL.—During the first part of the year a considerable number of men worked a lead close to Southern Cross Township. It is impossible to estimate the amount of gold obtained from this lead, but many of the men working declared themselves satisfied with the results of their work.

REFRIG.—From difficulties connected with the water supply, the crushing plants erected were able only intermittently to work until June last. Since then, with but slight interruption, crushing by the ten-stamp batteries on Fraser's and Central leases have been continuous.

A Huntington mill, owned by the Exchange Gold Mining Company, has from time to time, as water was procurable, worked, generally as a public crusher.

During the year crushings have been obtained from the South Fraser's, Fraser's, Central, Central Extended, Exchange, and Blackburne's mines.

As there is not any regulation as to reports of crushed stone and yield of gold being made to this office, I am unable to give the quantity of stone crushed and the gold yielded.

MACHINERY.—There were at the end of the year, either erected or being erected, (5) five ten-stamp batteries and (1) one Huntington mill.

SOUTHERN CROSS TOWNSHIP.

On April 3rd Southern Cross was proclaimed a township. Since then several Town blocks, one quarter acre each, have been sold by Government, at prices ranging from £20 to £46.

AGRICULTURE.—Several applications for land for agricultural purposes having been received, ten (10) blocks of one hundred acres each have been surveyed near Southern Cross, and are now open for occupation.

Near Yorkrains on the old York road, about forty miles distant from Southern Cross, about twenty acres of land have been cleared and ploughed. On this land next winter hay growing is to be attempted. At Golden Valley, also, land is now prepared for cultivation. Should these attempts prove successful, many persons, who are now watching the experiment, will be encouraged to try farming in this district. The rainfall during the year exceeded nine inches, almost the whole of which fell during the winter months.

WATER CONSERVATION.—During the year, Kooricooline Tank was increased to capacity of 125,000 gallons. A tank was also excavated about seven miles from Southern Cross. This tank is capable of holding one million gallons of water. Unfortunately it was not completed until the winter rains were ended, and is still dry.

POPULATION.—At the end of the year there were about 280 persons on the goldfield. Of these (70) were women or children. The population has since considerably increased.

During the year there have not been any serious accidents in connection with mining. From natural causes three (3) deaths have occurred.

TRANSPORT.—From 1st April to end of year—during which time count has been taken—two hundred and thirty-three (233) waggons or drays have arrived (laden) at Southern Cross. I have no means of obtaining the numbers arriving at Parker's Range, Golden Valley, or Hope's Hill, taking the numbers arriving at Southern Cross alone. The average load may be taken at thirty (30) hundredweight. The price of cartage, £18 per ton. The means that since 1st April to end of year—nine months—for freight to Southern Cross alone, the sum of £6,291 has been paid. During the time taken, very little machinery was carted, it having arrived prior to April 1st. I consider that at least Ten thousand pounds have during the year 1890, been paid for cartage to this goldfield.

In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to state that the future of this goldfield is now assured.

I have, &c.,

JOHN M. FINNERTY,

Warden.

The Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, Perth.



