

telegraph-line, and the gold-workings, as a rule, are a few miles to the E. or W. of this road. The width of auriferous country has recently been proved by prospecting parties to be much greater than was formerly supposed, Chinaman's Rush being over 20 miles from the telegraph-line.

From this, it will be seen that gold is distributed over a very large area, and wherever slate and quartz are met with, the precious metal is usually to be found in minute grains ; but the rich patches which lure the digger from one country to another are deposited in a very puzzling and uncertain manner. There are no long leads of auriferous drift—most of the alluvial gold being found in short gullies and ravines—so that a great deal of prospecting has to be done before payable ground is usually reached. Occasionally rich pockets are met with, which suddenly reward the miner for months of unremunerative toil ; but the prizes are not scattered with a too lavish hand, and gold-digging in the Territory, as nearly everywhere else, becomes a matter of working for something like a living. In the rainy season, when water is abundant, the Chinese do a large amount of "surfacing," often washing fine gold out of the earth-bound roots of the grass. During the dry months, many of the more energetic miners stack their wash-dirt, and sluice it when the heavy rains of the following wet season begin to fall.

Quartz reefs and leaders are numerous in the following districts :—Stapleton Bridge Creek, Howley, John Bull, Britannia, Fountain Head, Yam Creek, Chinaman's Rush, Extended Union, Union Lady Alice, Pine Creek, Driffield, &c. Some of these may be traced for miles, and many yield payable percentages of gold ; but none has been tested below 200 ft., and only a few have gone down more than half that depth. The proper development of the reefs depends, as with all other industries, on railway communication. When cheap and easy conveyance reduces the cost of carriage and of food, tens of thousands of tons of stone, bearing $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of gold to the ton, will be manipulated by powerful machinery, and made to pay handsomely.

Rich leaders, carrying 10 to 50 oz. of gold to the ton, are occasionally met with, and return large yields of treasure ; but they almost invariably die out, and are, therefore, not to be regarded as possessing the permanent value of quartz lodes. The average yield of all the quartz which has been crushed has been about $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of gold from the ton of stone.

Some of the hills are interlaced with leaders and veins that are too thin to work upon separately ; but the day will come when great faces will be opened out, the workmen taking all before them, as at the Black Hill at Ballarat, and the whole mass—good, bad, and indifferent—passed through the crushing-mill with satisfactory results.

Quartz-reefing is now carried on by small parties of working miners, so that there is but little chance of any deep shafts being sunk in order