

Quantities of pyrites, blanketings, &c., treated during the 6 years 1874-79, and gold obtained :—

Year.	Pyrites and Blanketings treated.	Produce.			Average per ton.		
		tons.	cwt.	oz.	dwt.	gr.	oz.
1874 ..	6,725	15	18,941	14	13	2	16
1875 ..	7,499	5	18,565	18	2	2	9
1876 ..	7,057	3	17,538	19	21	2	9
1877 ..	7,359	6	13,645	3	5	1	16
1878 ..	5,375	0	13,589	14	23	2	10
1879 ..	5,304	3	13,014	11	8	2	9

During the 11 years 1869-79, 58,040 tons 6 cwt. of pyrites were operated on, and a total yield of 146,905 oz. 8 dwt. 1 gr. of gold obtained, equal to an average of 2 oz. 10 dwt. 14·92 gr. per ton.

Quantities of vein-quartz crushed, and average yield of gold per ton, during the 6 years 1874-79, in the several districts :—

District.	1874.			1875.			1876.		
	Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.		Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.		Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.	
	tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.		tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.		tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.	
Ararat .. ..	63,757	0 0 18 5 80		75,467	10 0 17 23 16		88,729	0 0 16 22 47	
Ballarat .. ..	276,409	16 0 7 15 88		283,668	12 0 8 17 60		315,407	6 0 6 14 46	
Beechworth ..	73,125	15 0 10 5 26		64,042	4 0 11 1 93		65,638	12 0 11 6 61	
Castlemaine ..	156,146	10 0 9 16 98		117,504	10 0 8 4 09		111,716	10 0 7 14 45	
Gippsland .. ..	42,234	8 1 3 12 79		43,426	16 1 4 7 94		40,784	6 1 3 12 58	
Maryborough ..	31,903	0 0 9 10 77		33,671	0 0 10 13 48		32,605	0 0 8 18 66	
Sandhurst .. ..	323,493	0 0 14 6 35		331,688	0 0 13 6 09		356,927	10 0 11 22 86	

  

District.	1877.			1878.			1879.		
	Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.		Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.		Quartz crushed.	Average Yield of Gold per ton.	
	tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.		tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.		tons cwt.	oz. dwt. gr.	
Ararat .. ..	77,798	13 0 18 4 04		74,221	14 0 14 8 67		76,323	9 0 11 17 73	
Ballarat .. ..	350,761	0 0 6 20 69		337,797	0 0 6 16 97		346,540	5 0 6 18 44	
Beechworth ..	64,471	12 0 10 23 41		54,764	2 0 10 21 94		55,092	16 0 10 11 04	
Castlemaine ..	94,463	0 0 6 13 90		75,397	0 0 6 1 91		75,692	0 0 5 18 45	
Gippsland .. ..	35,517	0 1 1 12 24		35,518	0 1 0 21 69		26,991	12 1 2 18 66	
Maryborough ..	40,409	0 0 12 6 02		38,261	0 0 17 10 38		36,603	14 0 11 22 67	
Sandhurst .. ..	302,153	10 0 8 19 20		258,758	10 0 9 20 41		232,081	0 0 9 8 09	

It will be observed that for 1879, the Gippsland district still holds the first place in regard to high average yields of gold, but the number of tons crushed is small as compared with the quantity treated in other districts.

The continuous decrease in the number of alluvial miners has ceased. The number employed in 1879 was 265 more than in the year 1878; the number of men engaged in quartz mining since the same year has increased 652. The increase in the number of both classes of miners, comparing the return for 1879 with that for 1878, is 917. The number