

operating in the adjoining banks of older drift by shafts and drives. There can hardly be a doubt, however, that other branches of the Ulooloo Creek and the latter itself are auriferous, and will soon be attacked. Touching the gold found, it is generally coarse and solid, frequently even nuggety in character, and resembles somewhat that of Daisy Hill, in Victoria.

A serious difficulty under which the miners labour is want of water, for the washing-stuff has to be carted a considerable distance to some water-holes in the Ulooloo Creek, and these, it is to be feared, will in a dry season soon give out. Some other water-holes lower down the creek might then, perhaps, be still available; but the, no doubt, much higher rate of cartage would greatly affect the earnings of the diggers. Judging from the character of the stuff, it appears very favourable for sluicing or working in the long-tom; and with plenty of water at command, a considerable amount of gold might be produced in a short time by attacking the older creek deposits *en masse*; for it seems from the arrangement of the drift, incident to its mode of deposition by floods and creek currents, that not only the bottom layer, but also intermediate higher layers, are very likely to contain gold—a point at present overlooked. As regards older hill deposits, i. e. rounded quartz-pebble drifts and conglomerates, no evidence of their existence is apparent, nor is there a likelihood of the occurrence of deep leads, except it might be at the point where the Ulooloo Creek passes out of the ranges into the E. plain; and whether the gold did exist there in large enough quantity to pay for the far more troublesome and expensive modes of working required, is doubtful, considering that its higher sources have hitherto not proved rich. The main hope for the permanency of this gold-field lies undoubtedly in the discovery of the quartz reefs from which the drift-gold has been derived, and these have to be searched for in the ranges bounding the main creek and its branches.

According to the but slightly water-worn character of the gold found at the present principal diggings, the reefs that there supplied the metal can indeed not lie far off, and the intended prospecting by some enterprising miners of several well-defined reefs higher up the creek has good chance of proving successful, more especially as auriferous quartz specimens have been found in close neighbourhood to these reefs.

The country round the diggings is generally well wooded, and the miner can therefore easily provide the necessary timber for rendering his shafts and drives safe for working.

*The Northern Territory.*—Taking the overland telegraph as a base line, the gold-fields at present known extend from the Stapleton to the Driffield, a distance of more than 100 miles in a S.S.E. direction. The main road from Port Darwin to the reefs runs pretty close to the