

*Palmer districts.*—An expedition in search of gold and other minerals in the Palmer districts, N. Queensland, was made by James V. Mulligan and party in April–September, 1875. The auriferous indications met with may be summarized as follows.

*Byer's Creek.*—All auriferous country, and little gullies and ravines have been worked.

*St. George river.*—On the upper waters, the formation passed over is mostly slate, but contains no indications of gold.

*Hodgkinson river.*—Between here and the Mitchell river is auriferous looking country, and the party found about 8 gr., and believed that more was to be had by searching. On another branch, colours were found, and a gold-field is suspected in the neighbourhood. Following another branch or feeder, some dishes of wash-dirt gave over 20 colours, yet not amounting to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. Mulligan believes there is a great extent of similar country, and that there are payable gullies, though they might be in little dabs. The formation is a foliated sandstone or slate, with hard bars running across, containing iron-pyrites in great abundance.

*Mitchell river.*—After crossing the Mitchell, an abundance of quartz, iron, and ironstones were met with. Innumerable colours were got in the dish, and specks sometimes as big as pins' heads, but no payable prospects, though there is a splendid wash. The position by observation was  $16^{\circ} 51' 15''$  S. Payable gold will be found not far from here, and this piece of country is highly auriferous. Farther on, colours and specks like pin-heads were met with everywhere, but no payable prospects.

*Tate river.*—On a creek running into the Tate, shotty colours of gold were found; and numerous colours in the Tate itself. Also colours of the finest description in Pint Pot Creek.

No payable deposits are reported throughout, but such doubtless exist at no great distance.

*SOUTH AUSTRALIA.*—Several gold-fields have been discovered and worked; but although gold is to be found in nearly every part of South Australia, none of the deposits of the precious metals has so far proved of great extent. The bed of the river Torrens has yielded a small quantity; but none of the finds has proved of an enduring character. The Echunga gold-fields, which were discovered in 1852, were the only ones of any value which had been worked up to that time; but they only gave employment to a comparatively small number of diggers. The same may be said of the Jupiter Creek diggings, in the same locality. The Barossa gold-fields, distant about 35 miles from Adelaide in a N.E. direction, were the next discovered; but these did not prove very rich as compared with the deposits in the sister colonies. Alluvial gold-digging was carried on for years at Barossa, and something has been done there in the way of mining. About 3 years ago, however, opera-