

season, from November to March, and decreasing during the dry season, from April to October; but the decrease is small in comparison to the increase, so each year increases the number of Chinese on the whole. The population was given as: Chinese, 3690; Europeans, 660; Malays, 30. The revenue from miners' rights reached 676*l*. The amount of gold exported since July 1, 1880, was 28,471½ oz. The discovery of a new gold-field at Bridge Creek came just at the right time, as the question previously was how to tide over the dry season. The last wet season on the gold-fields was the worst ever known, as water was scarce all the season, except during the months of February and March, consequently it was a difficult problem how to get through the 6 dry months; but at Bridge Creek, which is 24 miles from Yam Creek, there was sufficient water to start with. This field has been very successful, although there have not been such heavy finds as at the Margaret; still, as a gold-field, it is much superior, being of greater extent, and this time the Europeans are securing their fair share of gold. Until next wet season, when water will be plentiful, it cannot be fully developed, nor the full extent ascertained; but in the meantime it is supporting a population of over 100 Europeans and about 1500 Chinese, and there is a fair prospect of its being a permanent gold-field for some time. Another new gold-field, 45 miles E. of Pine Creek, and known as Sanders' Rush, has been deserted for want of water; but, from various reports, it will be a very valuable field in the wet season, as, during the short time the water lasted after its discovery, a large quantity of gold was raised. These two new discoveries will probably bring a large increase to the Chinese population next wet season. A fair amount of gold was being raised from the other reefs, and one very rich patch at the Margaret yielded 520 oz. pounded in a pestle and mortar from less than a ton of quartz; and in another reef close by 2 tons of quartz yielded 216 oz. The payment of the 500*l*. bonus to D. B. Tennant for his discovery of the Margaret had given very general satisfaction.

TASMANIA.—Gold-mining was more actively pursued in 1878 than ever before. The average number of persons employed in this industry was 1050, the next highest number having been 530 in 1872. The approximate value of mining plant was: in 1878, 46,000*l*.; in 1872, 19,500*l*. From alluvial operations, 11,462 oz. of gold, valued at 45,750*l*., were produced, against 4020 oz., valued at 15,768*l*., in 1871, the highest yield previously. The number of tons of quartz crushed in 1878 was 15,805, yielding 13,787 oz. of gold, valued at 54,250*l*.; the average value per oz. was 3*l*. 18*s*. 8*d*., and the average yield per ton of quartz, 17 dwt. 12 gr. The largest quantity of stone crushed previously in one year was 8516 tons in 1877; the largest yield, 11,007 oz., in 1876; and the highest average per ton, 1 oz. 8 dwt. 3 gr., in 1876. The total quantity of gold