

# Cherry

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Cherry's battery remains are just above the walkway, mid way between the Crown River Level and the Crown tramway bridge over the Waitawheta River. Remains of a 5 stamp mortar box, and masonry wall beside the walkway.

**1932**

**2 June**

The revival in gold mining which appears to be coming is indicated by the number of old prospectors who are returning to the scenes of their former labours (says the Hauraki Plains Gazette). One such visitor to Paeroa last week-end was Mr William Grace, who later went put to Karangahake to resume prospecting, The improved price of gold and the provision of crushing facilities by Mr Cherry has made it possible for prospectors to make a fairly good living, and there is the chance that they may strike it rich.<sup>1</sup>

**16 June**

COUNTY AFFAIRS  
NEW OHINEMURI COUNCIL MEETS  
WAIHI DISTRICT WORKS  
MINING CLAIM RENTS

An application was received on behalf of Mr J. N. Cherry for a reduction in rent to 2s 6d per acre on the late Crown special quartz claim No. 9556. He said he had recently acquired the claim for the purpose of working it with certain members of his family on a co-operative basis, he had sunk a certain amount of capital in works and machinery for the purpose of extracting and crushing his own ore. He had also acquired a small battery and power plant, and had been granted a special battery site by the Warden, and six months' protection, as there was a certain amount of unprofitable work to be undertaken before actual mining operations could be entered upon. The proposition was not a speculation, but was hoped to be a permanent means of earning a livelihood for Mr Cherry and members of his family.

On the motion of Cr. Morris, seconded by Cr. Robinson, the application was granted.

An application was also received for consent to a reduction in rent to 2s 6d per acre in respect of the Desert Gold river claim of 65 acres 35 perches licensed in the name of H. D. Bedford, and worked by W. F. McCallum. Attempts had been made and were being made to save the gold values which exist in the river, but up to the present time, although considerable money had been expended in the various experiments, no final solution had been found.

The council decided to offer no objection to a reduction, so long as a genuine effort was made to work the claim.

PRESERVING BEAUTY SPOT

The New Zealand Forestry League, Inc., wrote pointing out that Mr J. B. Morris, with the assistance of Mr E. C. Cutten, S.M., had succeeded in having placed under the control of the council a small area at Karangahake on which

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<sup>1</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WHDT19320602.2.6>  
Waihi Daily Telegraph, Volume XXIX, Issue 8318, 2 June 1932, Page 2

there were growing some kauri and other native trees. As the object of the league was to preserve where possible such native forests, it desired to know what steps in that direction the council had taken. Cr. Morris said the job of fencing the area was a small one and he moved that the work be done by relief labour.

The Chairman: I think it is up to us to preserve these little beauty spots.

Cr. Mason seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.<sup>2</sup>

## 1933

### 12 May

AID FOR MINERS.

DEPUTATION TO MINISTER. CRUSHING FACILITIES DISCUSSED.

...An Incomplete Plant.

Mr J. N. Cherry said that he had spent £400 on building a battery but had found that he would require a further £200 to complete it. He had approached the Government for a loan but without success, and as the battery was useless in its uncompleted state he had been forced to accept relief assistance.

Mr D. Leach pointed out that when Mr Cherry had approached the Government it had stated that as there were public crushing facilities available at the Golden Dawn battery there was no need for Mr Cherry to be assisted.

Mr Jessep asked the other members of the deputation whether they thought £600 was sufficient for Mr Cherry to provide a complete battery. Mr Leach said that while it was a question for experts, the deputation thought so.

In reply to a question Mr Leach said that the cost of transport to Mr Cherry's plant would be reduced to 2/6 per ton.

Mr F. E. Flatt explained that in the early days Karangahake had been worked by big companies which had taken out the rich ore and had left the blocks of poorer ore. These blocks were now quite payable, owing to the rise in the price of gold, and it was possible for men to make a good living working them if only they could get the stone crushed. The Golden Dawn people were only prepared to crush when it suited them so if the Government could provide the funds for Mr Cherry's plant a hundred men would be taken off the relief funds. Any amount of the ore was worth up to £5 a ton, so would return good wages to workmen...

In reply to Mr Jessep, Mr Cherry said that his battery, when complete, could treat four tons of ore every eight hours. His idea was to provide a battery to crush for tributers and prospectors in order to earn money for the development of his own mine...<sup>3</sup>

### 13 May

MINING ASSOCIATION.

An organisation to be known as the Karangahake Tributers and Prospectors' Association has been formed at Karangahake, some twenty odd members being enrolled. Mr D. Leach was appointed chairman and Mr. C. Waines secretary and treasurer, Messrs J. B. Morris, W. Symes, T. J. Maher and N J. Cherry the committee. Rules for the conduct of business were drawn up and

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<sup>2</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WHDT19320616.2.9>

Waihi Daily Telegraph, Volume XXIX, Issue 8324, 16 June 1932, Page 2

<sup>3</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HPGAZ19330512.2.35>

Hauraki Plains Gazette, Volume XXXIV, Issue 3020, 12 May 1933, Page 7

active work was commenced a few hours later, when a deputation waited upon the Minister of Employment.<sup>4</sup>

### 7 October

John Nathaniel Cherry was granted a prospecting license over 27 acres near the confluence of the Ohinemuri and the Waitawheta Streams, in Block 2, Aroha S.D.<sup>5</sup>

## 1934

### 7 February

DISTRICT MINING.

THE OHINEMURI FIELD. APPLICATIONS TO WARDEN.

The following mining applications were dealt with by the mining warden, Mr. F. W. Platts, S.M., at the monthly sitting of the Court at Paeroa on Monday afternoon:—

Karangahake Prospecting Association (for a tramway license over an area 1000 yards long by 10 feet wide). —The inspector's report was favourable and the application was recommended for the consent of the Minister.

J. N. Cherry (for protection on the S.P.C. No, 9556 and battery site license No. 9830). —The inspector's report was favourable and the application was recommended for the consent of the Minister.

David. Leach (for a prospecting license over 100 acres at Karangahake).—The report was favourable and the application was granted.

J. N. Cherry (for a license to construct a dam in the Waitawheta Stream). — Referred to the Minister.<sup>6</sup>

### 10 Feb

SEARCH FOR GOLD

SUCCESS OF KARANGAHAKE SYNDICATE OLD N.Z. CROWN MINE

Working quietly on the old Crown mine property at Karangahake is a private syndicate comprising Mr J. N. Cherry and his sons. In marked contrast to public companies they say little of what they are doing, but those in a position to know realise that they are meeting with greater success than many a gold mining proposition listed on the stock exchange. Messrs Cherry and Sons commenced operations some time ago with but little capital. For about £500 they equipped a battery and have since worked to such purpose that they have now been able to spend a further £500 on machinery. This comprises a low head turbine of 45 horsepower, pipes to convey water from a dam to be made in the Waitawheta stream to the turbine site at the present battery, and an air compressor. Up to the present the plant has been able to show a profit from ore returning £2 10s a ton, valuing the gold won at £4 an ounce, but with improvements to be effected later it will be found possible to profitably treat dirt of considerably lower grade. Hitherto the Cherrys have been working a five-stamp battery capable of crushing four tons of ore every eight hours, and

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<sup>4</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19330513.2.26>

Auckland Star, Volume LXIV, Issue 111, 13 May 1933, Page 4

<sup>5</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19331007.2.15>

Auckland Star, Volume LXIV, Issue 237, 7 October 1933, Page 4

<sup>6</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19340207.2.145>

Auckland Star, Volume LXV, Issue 32, 7 February 1934, Page 10

with a return of £2 10s a ton there are wages at £1 a man a shift. Much of the ore on the claim is of higher value and tributers have obtained up to £6 a ton. The syndicate is having its claim thoroughly prospected by tributers who work under a strict agreement in respect to leaving the ground in a workable condition.<sup>7</sup>

## 19 April

MINING NEWS.

THE OHINEMURI FIELD. APPLICATIONS TO WARDEN.

Sitting as the mining warden at the Paeroa Courthouse on Monday, Mr. F. W. Platts, S.M., dealt with the following applications :—

The Karangahake Prospecting Association, the granting of a license for a tramway of 1000 yards alongside the Waitawheta stream at Karangahake, such application having been consented to by the Minister; granted.

John Nathaniel Cherry, the granting of a license to construct a dam in the Waitawheta stream 200 feet to the west of the Old Crown bridge to store water to drive a turbine., such application having been consented to by the Minister; granted.

Timothy B. Hurley, for protection for six months for a special dredging claim No. 9829, such application have been consented to by the Minister for a period ending May 7, 1934; granted.

H. D. Bedford, for protection for twelve months for the Desert Gold S.D.C. No. 8967; adjourned.

Eliza Adams, executrix in the estate of H. H. Adams, deceased, for protection for twelve months for sundry tunnel, water race and battery site licenses; granted.<sup>8</sup>

## 14 July

GOLDMINING CASE

TENURE OF A CLAIM

ACTIONS FOR FORFEITURE WARDEN IMPOSES FINE

(BY TELEGRAPH —OWN CORRESPONDENT) PAEROA Friday

A mining case with unusual features which was partly heard last Court day was concluded in the Warden's Court at Paeroa yesterday. Talisman Dubbo Gold Mines, Limited (Mr. C. N. O'Neill), and Athol Dally (Mr. Edwin Clendon) both claimed by separate action a decree of forfeiture in respect of the Crown Mine special quartz claim at Karangahake held by John Nathaniel Cherry (Mr. R. S. Carden). The ground on which each plaintiff relied was that Cherry had made default in the observance of the labour conditions prescribed by the Mining Act.

A preliminary legal question was raised to determine whether the Talisman Dubbo Company, which had filed its summons first, was entitled to any preferential consideration on that account, as it was only by accident that Dally's summons had not been filed first. This was for the purpose of determining who would have the prior right to take up a claim if forfeiture were decreed.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WHDT19340210.2.26>

Waihi Daily Telegraph, Volume XXXIII, Issue 8577, 10 February 1934, Page 3

<sup>8</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19340419.2.21>

Auckland Star, Volume LXV, Issue 92, 19 April 1934, Page 4

#### Claims by the Plaintiffs

The Talisman Dubbo Company claimed to have agreed to purchase portion of Cherry's ground, and on finding the title liable to forfeiture, had filed the summons to protect its rights. It was prepared to abide by the agreement for sale and purchase, whether forfeiture was decreed or not, provided it obtained a clear title to the portion mentioned.

Dally alleged that while working as a tributer on Cherry's ground he had discovered a rich leader from which he had obtained three crushing during April and May, the returns being £74, £153 and £95 respectively. As a result of this discovery, the Talisman Dubbo Company desired to purchase the area, and Cherry had given him notice terminating his tribute. Dally claimed that this gave him an equitable right to have the forfeiture decreed in his favour. Cherry admitted that he had not had the full number of workmen employed, but submitted it was only as the result of a misunderstanding that he had not applied sooner for a certificate of protection which would have protected the claim from forfeiture during the time the default had occurred. It was stated he had spent over £2000 in developing this property during the past two years, and in view of all the circumstances, it was submitted, this was a case in which a fine should be inflicted in lieu of forfeiture.

Several witnesses were called by the parties.

#### The Warden's Decision

The warden, Mr. F. W. Platts. S.M., in delivering his judgment, said the Talisman Dubbo Company had instituted its proceedings for the purpose of protecting the interests it had acquired by purchase. This was a natural proceeding, and he could see nothing wrong in it. He did not consider it had been proved that they were taking any advantage of anything Dally may have discovered. Dally had no enforceable right, and no equitable right to a forfeiture.

The evidence showed that the Crown claim was worked 30 years ago, and abandoned as worked out, continued the warden. In 1931 when Cherry took it up, mining in the district was at a very low ebb. It was admitted that Cherry had not employed the number of men required, but the circumstances were exceptional. The mine had been worked out by the former owners, and the place was riddled with drives.

Cherry took it up in the hope that something profitable could be found and worked, the warden said. Cherry had sunk a lot of capital. He and his son had worked continuously and they had erected a lot of machinery. In a worked-out claim the full number of men could not conveniently be employed. In this case, there were special circumstances that justified the Court in inflicting a fine in lieu of decreeing forfeiture.

On the two summonses Cherry was fined £15 and costs £11 16s.<sup>9</sup>

#### AJHRs

**Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1933 Session I, C-02**  
MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. C. E. MACMILLAN, MINISTER OF  
MINES. p28

Crown Claim, Karangahake (J. N. Cherry, Owner). —This claim has been prospected by the owner in a number of places without any satisfactory result.

<sup>9</sup> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19340714.2.29>  
New Zealand Herald, Volume LXXI, Issue 21852, 14 July 1934, Page 9

The owner also inadvisedly went to considerable outlay in erecting a battery of five head of stamps on the claim before sufficient ore had been proved to justify the expenditure. No quartz was treated at this plant, but 11 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. won by a tributing party was treated at the Golden Dawn plant for a return of 17 oz. 3 dwt. 22 gr. gold and 76 oz. 11 dwt. 20 gr. silver, of total value of £103 17s. 1d. This is the total yield and value since commencing work.<sup>10</sup>

**Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1934 Session I, C-02 MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. C. E. MACMILLAN, MINISTER OF MINES. p27**

Crown Claim, Karangahake (J. N. Cherry, Owner). —The old 5a level of the mine was cleaned up and repaired for about 1,000 ft., and a light aerial was erected to transport quartz from it to the tramline in Waitawheta Gorge. The owner mined 62 tons of quartz from a small block over the level, which yielded 52 oz. gold, valued at £278 4s. 9d., and 188 oz. 12 dwt. 14 gr. silver, valued at £13 18s., making the total value £292 2s. 9d. Several parties of tributers also mined from other parts of the property 37 tons 16 cwt. of quartz, which yielded 40 oz. 8 dwt. 3 gr. gold, valued at £251 13s. 2d., and 274 oz. 14 dwt. 15 gr. silver, valued at £21 1s. 2d., making the total output of the claim from the commencement of operations 649 oz. 11 dwt. 2 gr. bullion, valued at £668 14s. 2d.<sup>11</sup>



The remains of Cherry's battery, March 2021.  
Base of the mortar box at left, camshaft to right.

<sup>10</sup> Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1933 Session I, C-02 MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. C. E. MACMILLAN, MINISTER OF MINES.  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1933-I.2.2.2.3>

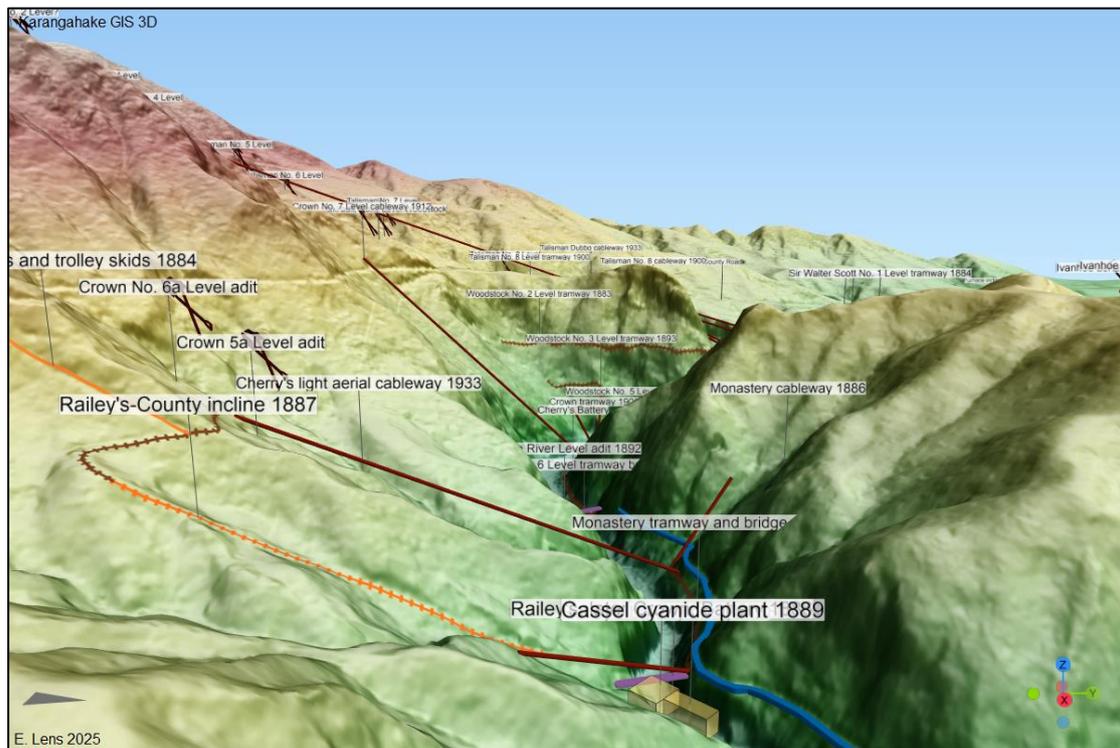
<sup>11</sup> Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1934 Session I, C-02 MINES STATEMENT, BY THE HON. C. E. MACMILLAN, MINISTER OF MINES.  
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/parliamentary/AJHR1934-I.2.2.2.3>



Looking upstream to the Crown River Level adit and boiler house, c.1933. Above the skyline can be seen an ore skip on a cableway. This must be Cherry's light cable from Crown No. 5a level. It will deliver ore to the old Monastery hopper area, and then by the early Crown connection to the main Crown tramway. The bottom of the skip hangs down, having discharged ore at the hopper. The skip is making its way back up the mountain.

An ore cart can be seen at left of bridge. This may be from the cableway, or from the Crown River Level adit. The bridge is supported by cables strung from cliff to cliff. The river is high.

Staples collection, c. 1933.



Cherry's light cableway from Crown No.5a Level.