

He discovered an auriferous deposit in a gully of the Buninyong ranges on 8th August, 1851. He communicated this fact and the precise locality of the find to the editor of the "Geelong Advertiser" on 10th August.

Hiscock's discovery attracted a great number of diggers to the neighborhood, and was the cause of the discovery of Ballarat. "Golden Point" (Ballarat), the report states, "is claimed by two parties, both of whom went first to Hiscock's diggings, and then extended their searches, one on one side, the other on the other side, of that grand focus of attraction. Where so many rich deposits were discovered almost simultaneously within a radius of little more than half a mile, it is difficult to decide to whom is due the actual commencement of the Ballarat diggings. It is, however, clear that Mr. Brown and his party were working during the first days of September on one side and Messrs. Regan and Dunlop on the other side of the range forming Golden Point."

MOUNT ALEXANDER • (CASTLEMAINE).

The honor of first finding gold at Mount Alexander (Castlemaine) was attributed by the Committee to Christopher Thomas Peters, a hutkeeper at Barker's Creek station, owned by Mr. William Barker. The find was made at Specimen Gully on 20th July, 1851. John Worley, George Robinson and Robert Keen, all employed on the same station, were associated with Peters in working the deposits during July and August. They became alarmed at their unauthorized appropriation of the gold, and on 1st September, Worley, on behalf of the party, published in one of the Melbourne newspapers the precise situation of their workings. The paper, however, erroneously described the locality as at "Western Port."

GOVERNMENT REWARDS FOR DISCOVERIES OF GOLDFIELDS.

The Committee recommended, "That to Mr. Michel and his party as having, at considerable expense, succeeded in discovering and publishing an available goldfield, the sum of £1,000 should be given; to Mr. Hiscock, as the substantial discoverer of the Ballarat deposits, a like sum of £1,000; to Mr. Campbell, as without doubt the original discoverer of Clunes, a like sum of £1,000; to Mr. Esmond, as the first actual producer of alluvial gold for the market, a like sum of £1,000; and to Dr. Bruhn, as an acknow-

ledgment of his services in exploring the country for five or six months and diffusing the information of the discovery of gold, the sum of £500."

The Committee considered the claims of Mr. E. H. Hargreaves to recognition for having discovered the first goldfield in Australia (at Summerhill, near Bathurst, New South Wales, a few months before the first discoveries in Victoria), and the Rev. W. B. Clarke, a scientific investigator, who had made known the existence of gold in New South Wales in 1841. "Considering," the Committee's report states, "that the gold discovery has advanced this colony a century in progress, has placed it first in position of all the Australian colonies, and materially benefited it much more than New South Wales, your Committee recommend that the sum of £5,000 should be presented to Mr. Hargreaves, and that the sum of £1,000 should be awarded to the Rev. W. B. Clarke, in appreciation of his researches into the mineral wealth of the country."

In subsequent years a number of rewards were paid to the discoverers of other goldfields. In 1864 a Board appointed to consider applications for rewards for goldfields' discoveries made a number of recommendations. Amongst these was a sum of £600 for the discovery of the "Wardy Yallock" goldfield. From the minutes of evidence it appears that "Wardy Yallock" was the original name of Smythesdale. It was also applied to a "diggings" about two and a half miles from Happy Valley. The Board divided the £600, awarding £300 to Herbert Swindells, and £300 in equal portions to H. V. Smith, T. Kemp and J. Hardy and their respective parties. Swindells, in his evidence before the Board, stated that he was sent out in 1852 by a Gold Exploration Committee at Geelong to search for a goldfield. In that year he found gold at Wardy Yallock, near Springdallah. He asserted that he also found gold at Smythe's, but he did not claim to be the discoverer of Smythe's diggings. He had, he said, been presented with a silver cup by the Exploration Committee, and each of the men under him received a bonus of £50.

In the "Argus" of 30th August, 1852, the Geelong correspondent of the paper stated that "The Gold Exploration Committee met last evening and decided that the party at the 'Wardy Yallock' were entitled to the bonus, they believing that the object had been gained—the dis-