

a limited liability company. The dredge has been doing fairly well for some time past, but has not paid any dividends. It is said that the prospects are improving, and very good results are now being obtained.

The *Alexandra Dredge* is working on the Buller River, near Fern Flat. This dredge met with an accident in June last, and was sunk during a flood. It was floated about a month ago, and is now on good gold. Although lying idle about eight months, 201oz. of gold were obtained during the year, and it is said that the returns are now 30oz. of gold per week.

The *Matakitaki Dredge* is working on the Matakitaki River, about four miles above its junction with the Buller River. It is held by a company whose office is at Dunedin. The amount of gold obtained during the year was 770oz.

I am informed that there is every reason to believe that another dredge will be placed on the Buller shortly, and possibly one on the Aorere River, in the Collingwood district.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED GREENFIELD, Warden.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

No. 7.

Mr. Warden STRATFORD to the UNDER-SECRETARY of MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Reefton, 28th April, 1894.

I have the honour to forward to you herewith statistical returns for year ended 31st March last, and beg to submit the following report on the Inangahua district for the same period:—

Whilst unable to give a very glowing account of the past year's operations, it will, in some respects, compare favourably with the previous one, inasmuch as the calls are smaller by £4,450, whilst the dividends are larger by £1,932, notwithstanding the fact that the quantity of stone crushed and the yield are somewhat smaller. From the opening of the district to 31st March last 614,330 tons of quartz have been raised and crushed, from which 445,997oz. of gold were obtained, representing a value of £1,740,666; out of this sum £551,581 was paid in dividends. The total amount of alluvial gold obtained for the same period is approximately estimated at 117,571oz., representing a value of £432,998. The total production of gold will thus amount to 563,568oz., of the value of £2,173,664.

In order that the result of the year's operations may be seen at a glance a statement is prepared showing the calls made, dividends declared, &c., by the various companies in the district, which statement is appended hereto:—

LIST of DIVIDENDS declared, CALLS made, &c., by various Companies.

Name of Company.	Calls made.			Dividends declared.			Stone crushed.	Yield.	Value.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Tons.	Oz.	£	s.	d.
Sir Charles Russell ...	1,100	0	0	...	...	...	11	11½	45	1	6
Wealth of Nations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,875	1,156	4,624	0	0
Globe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,330	2,539	10,156	0	0
Keep-it-Dark ...	2,000	0	0	...	...	...	450	130	520	0	0
No. 2 South Keep-it-Dark ...	1,700	0	0	...	...	...	105	71	284	0	0
Supreme ...	233	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Big River ...	...	...	...	9,900	0	0	2,660	3,945½	15,889	2	10
Welcome United ...	3,000	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden Treasure ...	600	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fiery Cross (private company)	...	...	...	...	...	...	384	191½	765	0	0
Exchange ...	400	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cumberland ...	...	...	...	2,400	0	0	3,968	2,068	8,825	2	4
Success ...	100	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hercules ...	1,100	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,092	785	3,174	1	2
Homeward Bound ...	50	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venus Extended ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309	137	548	0	0
Energy (private company) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	525	170	680	0	0
Gallant ...	300	0	0	...	...	...	55	8½	34	3	2
Golden Lead ...	900	0	0	...	...	...	2,435	465	1,890	9	8
Sir Francis Drake ...	1,800	0	0	...	...	...	1,722	343	1,352	0	0
A1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	34½	138	7	2
Lord Edward ...	200	0	0	...	...	...	30	33½	133	12	2
Dillon ...	350	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Specimen Hill ...	166	13	4	...	...	...	27	37	149	7	10
Progress ...	...	...	...	4,800	0	0	8,400	5,073	20,594	16	10
Golden Fleece (private comp'y)	...	...	...	...	...	...	406	167	668	0	0
Victoria (private company) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	114	456	0	0
Inglewood ...	250	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merrijigs ...	100	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal ...	...	...	...	232	0	0	533	493	1,995	10	3
Boatman's Tailings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	440	830	0	0
	14,350	0	0	18,832	0	0	34,518	18,413	73,752	14	11
Alluvial gold ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,972	15,489	11	6
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,385	89,242	6	5

* 900 tons tailings treated by cyanide process.