

CINNABAR.

Some prospecting work has been carried on on a lode containing cinnabar which had been discovered at Mangakirikiri, in the Thames District, but no appreciable quantity has yet been recovered.

THE MINING BUREAU.

The publication of "The New Zealand Mines Record" has been continued since August, 1897, by the Secretary of the Mining Bureau. A great deal of valuable information, more particularly with regard to improved mining processes and machinery, is collected both inside and outside the colony, the publication of which in the "Record" should tend to the advantage of the mining industry, and give investors a better idea of the varied mineral resources of New Zealand.

CONCLUSION.

It is satisfactory to state that the mining industry continues on a sound basis. There has been an increased gold production, and capital is being judiciously expended in the development of mines, erection of new machinery, construction of dams and water-races, and especially in the building of new dredges.

Towards the further development and the extension of the industry it is imperative to continue the construction of roads and tracks, water-conservation, and aid to deep-level prospecting, and substantial votes for these purposes are necessary.

That mining in this colony has entered upon a new era of prosperity, I have little doubt, for the latest records of gold and coal production afford a clear indication of the continued progress and the more stable basis on which the industry now rests, but I would again direct attention to the injury done to legitimate mining by rash speculation.

No. 1.

TABLE showing the COMPARISON in QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for EXPORTATION, and also the QUANTITY and VALUE of other MINERALS produced, for the Years ending the 31st December, 1897 and 1898, as well as the TOTAL VALUE since January, 1853.

Name of Metal or Mineral.	For Year ending the 31st December, 1897.		For Year ending the 31st December, 1898.		Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Precious metals—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Gold	251,645	980,204	280,175	1,080,691	13,845,727	54,453,325
Silver	183,892	20,872	293,851	33,107	1,379,013	235,831
Total gold and silver	435,537	1,001,076	574,026	1,113,798	15,224,740	54,689,156
Mineral produce, including kauri-gum—	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copper-ore	..	2	2½	70	1,396½	17,938
Chrome-ore	..	..	..	..	5,666	37,367
Antimony-ore	10	157	..	..	3,610	52,361
Manganese-ore	180	541	217	703	18,502½	59,237
Hematite-ore	..	..	..	..	52½	226
Mixed minerals	1,561	5,892	1,823	4,792	17,702	83,574
Coal exported	76,073	69,595	56,332	50,381	1,031,331	1,008,622
Coke exported	..	..	9	14	16,352	24,795
Coal, output of mines in colony	764,640	382,320	850,701	425,350	11,452,315	5,726,157
Kauri-gum	6,641	398,010	9,905	586,767	200,475	9,099,619
Total quantity and value of minerals	849,105	856,517	918,994½	1,068,077	12,747,402½	16,078,338
Value of gold and silver, as above	..	1,001,076	..	1,113,798	..	54,689,156
Total value of minerals produced, including gold and silver	..	1,857,593	..	2,181,875	..	70,767,494