

At the Blackwater Mine near Reefton development in depth has been suspended, at least for the time being, and if this policy is maintained the life of the mine must be prejudiced.

There has been no serious effort to prospect or develop new quartz-mines for many years.

The decrease in alluvial mining production has been marked during recent years. In 1934 no less than 43,541 oz. of gold were won by this form of mining, but since then output has persistently declined until 1948 when only 2,124 oz. were obtained. At the present time there is only one sluicing company of any consequence in active operation and the bulk of the production is now due to the work, frequently intermittent in nature, of small parties and individuals. This is, of course, due in great part to the continuous exploitation of alluvial deposits over a period of ninety years. Eventual exhaustion of such deposits is inevitable.

From 1st January, 1857, until 31st December, 1948, the quantity of gold exported from New Zealand has amounted to 26,578,231 oz., valued at £118,055,275, and this has been invaluable in the development of New Zealand.

During 1948, 232,563 oz. of silver, valued at £53,587, were produced, as compared with 221,984 oz., valued at £53,840, in 1947. Practically the whole of this amount was obtained from the Martha Mine.

The following Table shows the production of the principal quartz-mines, dredges, and alluvial mines for the year ended 31st December, 1948. It will be noted that over 94 per cent. of the total production of gold was obtained from two quartz-mines and seven high-capacity dredges.

—	Ore, in Tons.	Development, in Feet.	Men Employed.	Gold (Ounces).	Silver (Ounces).	£(N.Z.).
<i>Quartz-mines</i>						
Martha	95,804	5,761	449	26,975	231,753	328,317
Blackwater	24,328	1,117	111	9,977	..	96,023
Charlton's (Kuaotunu) ..	600	..	2	138	91	1,286
Callery Party, Macrae's Flat ..	100	..	1	25	..	250
Sundry	..	..	9	20	21	199
Totals	..	..	573	37,135	231,865	426,075

—	Yardage.	Acreage.	Average Depth, in Feet.	Men Employed.	Gold (Ounces).	Silver (Ounces).	£(N.Z.).
<i>Dredges</i>							
Grey River	3,495,647	73·536	29·5	27	7,323	72	65,670
Arahura	2,863,000	15·079	119·0	39	9,484	187	89,194
Rimu	1,408,780	27·489	31·8	39	4,229	145	31,759
Kanieri	2,670,000	22·024	58·9	38	7,503	..	68,963
Ngahere	1,994,796	15·9	78·0	25	5,850	12	52,958
Snowy River	950,000	41·4	16·0	13	3,639	..	35,213
Atarau	1,338,588	27·6	21·25	12	2,316	..	21,927
Marsden	563,086	10·3	34·0	12	536	..	5,445
Slab Hut	121,400	5·0	15·0	10	161	..	1,640
Austral New Zealand ..	3,154,000	43·5	50·0	50	7,974	282	77,948
Clutha	2,278,000	19·0	74·0	24	5,629	..	52,634
Totals	..	..	..	289	54,644	698	503,351

<i>Alluvial</i>							
Moonlight Goldfields, Ltd.	30,000	..	175·0	3	63	..	483
Golden Sands, Ltd. ..	..	..	40·0	2	39	..	366
Waitahu	61,216	..	15·0	3	144	..	1,248
Round Hill	..	..	..	6	453	..	4,291
Golden Arrow	..	..	..	6	29	..	309
Sundry	..	..	..	148	1,396	..	13,637
Totals	..	..	..	168	2,124	..	20,334
Grand totals	..	..	..	1,030	93,903	232,563	949,760