

CONCLUSION.

The mining industry generally may be described as being on a satisfactory footing. During the year under review, there has been a marked increase in the production of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals (including kauri-gum), representing a value of nearly half a million sterling in comparison with that of the year preceding.

When the development-works in progress at many mines are completed, and the large number of dredges now in course of construction have been put to work, I confidently expect to find the returns of gold produced will materially increase. There is also every indication that the output from coal-mines will advance.

In view of the excitement caused by the success which has attended the dredging industry and the consequent activity in floating new ventures, I would reiterate the need of prudence in respect to speculation, and point out the fact that, although this branch of mining opens out a field for sound investment, its credit may be seriously jeopardized by the flotation of properties which ought never to be put on the market.

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, 1898 and 1899, as well as the TOTAL VALUE since January, 1853.

Name of Metal or Mineral.	For Year ending the 31st December, 1899.		For Year ending the 31st December, 1898.		Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1899.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Precious metals—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Gold	389,558	1,513,173	280,175	1,080,691	14,235,285	55,966,498
Silver	349,338	40,838	293,851	33,107	1,728,351	276,669
Total gold and silver	738,896	1,554,011	574,026	1,113,798	15,963,636	56,243,167
Mineral produce, including kauri-gum—	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copper-ore	..	..	2½	70	1,396½	17,938
Chrome-ore	..	..	..	..	5,666	37,367
Antimony-ore	..	..	..	..	3,610	52,361
Manganese-ore	135	407	217	703	18,637½	59,644
Hæmatite-ore	..	..	..	..	52½	226
Mixed minerals	1,309*	6,591	1,828†	4,792	19,011	90,165
Coal (New Zealand) exported	89,480	83,085	56,332	50,381	1,120,811	1,091,707
Coke exported	18	9	9	14	16,370	24,804
Coal, output of mines in colony (less exports)	885,754	404,532	850,701	403,136	12,338,069	6,076,917
Kauri-gum	11,116	607,919	9,905	586,767	211,592	9,707,538
Total quantity and value of minerals	937,812	1,102,543	918,994½	1,045,863	13,735,215½	17,158,667
Value of gold and silver, as above	..	1,554,011	..	1,113,798	..	56,243,167
Total value of minerals produced, including gold and silver	..	2,656,554	..	2,159,661	..	73,401,834

* Including 1,227 tons sulphur; quartz, 5 tons; scheelite-ore, 32 tons; unenumerated, 45 tons.
† Sulphur, 1,765 tons; quartz, 22 tons; unenumerated, 41 tons.