

1900.

NEW ZEALAND.

MINES STATEMENT.

BY THE HON. JAMES MCGOWAN, MINISTER OF MINES.

MR. SPEAKER,—

In submitting my Statement I am pleased to be able to remark upon the continued progress that is being made in all branches of mining, and more especially as regards the gold-dredging industry.

Nearly the whole of the river beds and flats in the auriferous districts of the Middle Island have been taken up as dredging claims, and when the numerous dredges at present under construction are in operation a greatly increased output of gold should result.

Both in Otago and on the West Coast the extreme activity in the floating of dredging companies so apparent a few months ago has eased off considerably, and this, no doubt, is an advantage rather than otherwise, as the number of flotations was beginning to be in excess of the amount of local capital to be invested in this industry. In the earlier stages of the dredging development the total capital was nearly, if not altogether, subscribed before registration. Many of the companies more recently floated have been registered with a very small amount paid up, the result often being that an inducement is held out to persons of limited means to subscribe for shares which they are unable to hold, simply with the intention of disposing of them when they are at a premium. The expected rise frequently does not come, and the result to the speculative holder is easily foreseen.

I find much of the ground that in the early days gave rich returns to the individual miner has now been so thoroughly worked that larger combinations of men and money are necessary in order to obtain the gold at greater depth, and also where the ground was considered too poor to work by the old style of digging. In many instances a large expenditure must be incurred for bringing in supplies of water for working ground upon an improved and extensive scale.

Hydraulic sluicing is carried on extensively in certain districts, and this method of working auriferous alluvial ground in the interior, where good supplies of water are obtainable, has hitherto been found to be the most economical and practical for the recovery of the precious metal.

Gold-mining in the North continues steadily to progress, although, no doubt, the district still suffers from the effects of the mining boom of a few years ago.

I consider that large companies are manifestly an advantage where they properly work and open up their ground; but if they do not carry on development-works in some relative proportion to the areas of their holdings, then such companies are inimical to the progress of mining from an industrial point of view. Many of the local claim-holders in the North took advantage of the

boom to dispose of their claims outside the colony, and, as a result of the larger areas of ground being held by single companies, there is less actual prospecting carried on than before the boom period.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The annexed Table No. 1 gives the quantity of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals, including kauri-gum, produced for the year ending 31st December, 1899. The total production of gold and silver was 738,896 oz., valued at £1,554,011, being an increase in value of £440,213 as compared with the production of the preceding year.

The output of other minerals, including coal and lignite, has been 987,812 tons, representing a value of £1,102,543, or 68,818 tons, value £56,680, in excess of the previous year. 11,116 tons of kauri-gum was produced, value £607,919, as compared with 9,905 tons, valued at £586,767, for 1898.

The quantities and values of the chief mineral productions for the past two years are summarised for comparison as follow :—

Product.	Year ending 31st December, 1899.		Year ending 31st December, 1898.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Gold	389,558 oz.	1,513,173	280,175 oz.	1,080,691
Silver	349,338 "	40,838	293,851 "	33,107
Copper-ore	... tons	...	2½ tons	70
Manganese-ore	135 "	407	217 "	703
Mixed minerals	1,309 "	6,591	1,828 "	4,792
Colonial coal exported, including that used by Home steamers	89,480 "	83,085	56,332 "	50,381
Coke exported	18 "	9	9 "	14
Colonial coal consumed in New Zealand	885,754 "	404,532	850,701 "	403,136
Kauri-gum	11,116 "	607,919	9,905 "	586,767
Total value of production for 1899		2,656,554		2,159,661
" " 1898		2,159,661		
Total increase		£496,893		

The total value of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals, including kauri-gum, produced up to the end of 1899 was £73,401,834.

GOLD-MINING.

The quantity of gold entered for exportation through the Customs for the year ending 31st March last, as per Table No. 2 annexed, was 392,663 oz., representing a value of £1,526,344, or 89,138 oz. in excess of the previous year. The quantity exported from each district is as follows: Auckland, 168,836 oz.; Marlborough, 344 oz.; Nelson and West Coast, 96,670 oz.; Canterbury, 22 oz.; Otago and Southland, 126,791 oz.

The greatest increase for the year is in the Otago and Southland Mining District, the gold export being 48,502 oz. in excess of the previous year. This is due principally to the development of dredge-mining.

QUARTZ-MINING.

In the North Island the export of gold to 31st March last shows an advance of 20,653 oz. as compared with that of the preceding twelve months. This is accounted for by the fact of several comparatively new mines having passed the initial stages of opening out and becoming actual producers, also to the extensions which have taken place at some of the older mines. The Waihi Mine, which paid £128,000 in dividends during the year 1899, is the most extensive quartz-mining property, and during the past year the average number of persons employed was 740. The battery already comprises 190 heads of stamps used for dry crushing, and an addition of 100 heads of stamps is now being made. The latter will work by the wet process, and in the event of this proving an advantage over the system now in use it is probable that wet crushing will be adopted throughout. It is worthy of note that the change from dry to wet crushing has already been made at some other batteries in the northern goldfields.

The Thames shows an output of gold valued at £25,372 in excess of the previous year, and now that the large amount of unproductive work necessary to the efficient opening up of the Thames-Hauraki and May Queen-Hauraki Mines is approaching completion it is expected the returns of gold produced will continue to increase.

Development-works of a comprehensive character are in progress at several of the mines in different parts of the district, and, after a considerable amount of prospecting on the Thames Peninsula, a discovery of some importance has been made, payable reefs having been found among the ranges to the south of Guntown, in the Mercury Bay District. Several companies have commenced operations, and it should not be long before the capabilities of the new field are fully proved. Taking the northern district as a whole, there is every reason to expect the gold-mining industry will continue to afford steady employment to a large number of persons, and contribute directly and indirectly to the support of a very considerable portion of the population for a long time to come.

In the Coromandel District the development-works in several mines have not been as successful as was anticipated, and, owing to the unremunerative character of their work, a few of the companies have suspended operations.

So far as the Marlborough, Nelson, and West Coast districts are concerned, the chief centre of quartz-mining is at Reefton. Considerable sums of money have been and are being spent in this locality for the purposes of developing the reefs. The Progress Mines have been opened up to a considerable extent and fitted with up-to-date plant and machinery, the ore being conveyed by an aerial tramway (worked by gravitation) to the 65-stamp battery. The chlorination process of extracting gold is being used here, and a cyanide plant is in course of erection. Gold to the value of £91,078 was obtained by the company as the result of their operations for the year, being an increase of £22,169 as compared with the preceding year.

Other parts of the field are also being developed with a view to working on a fairly large scale. This feature is specially noticeable in the neighbourhood of Crushington, and at the New Inkerman Mines. At the latter property some £35,000 has already been expended in properly prospecting and opening out the ground prior to the erection of new battery-plant. When the works now in progress at the several mines are completed, increased returns may be looked for.

At Lyell the prospects of quartz-mining do not appear promising. As regards the future, much will depend on the result of prospecting in No. 7 Level of the Alpine Extended Mine.

Work on a comparatively limited scale is being carried on at some of the outlying mines, and several small mines have ceased operations.

The gold won from quartz-mining for the year is valued at £137,905, or an advance of £28,886 as compared with the preceding year.

The Southern District shows a decided decrease in respect to the production of gold from quartz-mining operations. The sanguine expectations of a few years ago as to the probable importance of the reefs at Preservation Inlet have not been realised, and during the past year the locality has been extensively depopulated. A certain amount of work is still in progress, and recent reports appear somewhat more encouraging. At Skipper's and Bullendale work has been undertaken which, it is hoped, will tend to materially increase the production of gold there. At Macetown, the Premier Mine is the only one now at work, and, notwithstanding difficulties of a somewhat exceptional character, has more than paid its way. There is a proposal to develop several properties in the neighbourhood. During the year a considerable amount of development work has been done, and a battery plant of modern design erected at the O.P.Q. Gold Mines, Waipori. Several mines in various parts of the district have been worked with varying degrees of steadiness and success. Many of these are on a very small scale.

The returns from quartz-mining have fallen off very considerably during the past two years. The approximate value of gold obtained from this source last year was only £21,717, as against £38,493 for the year preceding. This is due principally to the reduced production of the mines at Preservation Inlet, Macetown, and Bendigo.

ALLUVIAL AND HYDRAULIC MINING.

This class of mining provides employment to a large number of persons in various parts of the Middle Island, the work extending from Nelson and Marlborough in the north to the southernmost part of Southland.

The auriferous deposits are worked in various ways, from the solitary digger using his cradle or simple sluice-box to the elaborate system of hydraulic sluicing and elevating required in places where extensive bodies of material have to be dislodged—elevated to a considerable height and passed over tables (fitted up to meet local requirements) in order to extract the gold. For this latter method, large quantities of water are brought into requisition, mountain streams being intercepted by races at such elevations as will give the necessary hydrostatic power for the work required, the water being conveyed down to the claims by lines of pipes.

Mining for alluvial gold is carried on in various parts of the Marlborough and Nelson Districts with fairly satisfactory results; but dry weather was responsible for a shortage of water during a portion of the year, and operations were somewhat restricted in consequence.

In the West Coast district several of the properties worked on the hydraulic principle are reported to have yielded very satisfactory returns, and a considerable amount of development-work is in progress. This latter feature is especially noticeable at the Wellington Old Diggings (Buller River), Virgin Flat, and Humphrey's Gully. In connection with the Kumara and Dillmanstown diggings, an additional water-race has been constructed by the Government, which taps the Wainihinihi Stream, and is already proving of benefit to this field.

There are several places where the style of mining practised on the West Coast for many years is destined to give way to newer methods. This is a natural sequence; the rich and easily-worked ground is becoming exhausted, and ordinary digging operations usually become unpayable beyond the depth at which free drainage can take place. Some power then becomes necessary to deal with water and the ground below water-level. Where the conditions are favourable, there is, perhaps, no better method of working than by the system of hydraulic sluicing and elevating; but it is anticipated that extensive areas of flat lands known to be auriferous, but too deep and wet to be worked by hand labour, will be successfully worked by dredges.

Large sums of money were spent by the General Exploration Company in opening up ground and erecting plant at Fairdown and Bendigo, near Westport, but, the results being most unsatisfactory, all work has ceased.

At Ross, the Mount d'Or is the only claim which can be said to be satisfactorily profitable at the present time; but, as dredging is being introduced in the locality, it is expected that the yield of gold will increase.

Small parties of miners, both European and Chinese, continue to find employment in various parts of the district. The beaches near Charleston are still the scene of operations familiarly known as "beach-combing," and Messrs. Powell work the black sand deposit by the hydraulic system with satisfactory results.

The Otago and Southland District contributes very largely, from the working of its auriferous drifts, to the gold returns of the colony, and sluicing and elevating plants of considerable magnitude are to be seen in operation in various places. This is notably the case at Blue Spur, near Lawrence, Roxburgh, St. Bathans, and Round Hill; but the principle is general right through these goldfields, and good representative plants are at work at Deep Stream, Waipori, Waikaia, Nokomai, Naseby, Bald Hill Flat, Matakanui, and the neighbourhood of Lake Wakatipu. At Orepuki and Round Hill the gold is very fine in its character, and at the latter place a most efficient system for catching this fine gold has been adopted. So much attention having been devoted in this district of late to the question of dredging, there has not been much development in respect to hydraulic mining, although in a few instances new installations have been made.

A very simple but effective method of using water under pressure for working river-bed beaches has been introduced on the Shotover River. By this means ground much too wet and deep for the ordinary methods of ground-paddock is now being worked, and, in consequence of the success which has attended the operations of those diggers who have adopted this system, the river-bed has been pegged out for several miles by persons who intend to work in a similar manner. Chinese diggers are to be found scattered throughout the district, but their number is gradually decreasing.

DREDGE MINING.

This system of working river-beds and alluvial flats for the gold therein contained is a most important one, and the industry is rapidly expanding. On the 31st March last only four dredges were actually at work in the Marlborough and West Coast Districts, but, owing to the success which has attended this method of mining in the South, the attention of investors and speculators has been turned to other centres, and at the present time there are probably not less than seventy dredges actually in course of construction for various parts of the districts referred to, some of which are fast approaching completion. The results obtained by the first new machines put to work at places hitherto untried by dredging will be awaited with anxious interest. Claims, intended to be worked by dredging, have been taken up in large numbers on the rivers and flats of Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland. Otago, the home of the gold-dredging industry, has experienced quite a boom during the year, and investment in other branches of mining has received very little consideration. This remark is equally applicable to the West Coast District at the present time. Magnificent returns have been made by a few dredges, and notably by the Hartley and Riley, which obtained no less than 1,187 oz. in one week. This has, however, been very recently eclipsed by the phenomenal return of 1,234 oz., obtained by the Lady Ranfurly dredge at Kawarau Gorge, near Cromwell, as the result of a single week's work.

Still, returns like these do not justify the wild excitement and mad rushing to peg out claims and float companies such as have been experienced during the past year. There is every reason to believe that many of the new ventures will prove satisfactory, but others have been put on the market which are not at all likely to come within that category.

The number of dredges actually working in Otago and Southland at 31st March last is returned at 81 out of a total of 97, with 101 others under construction. Apart altogether from the men employed in dredge-building, each dredge is estimated to be responsible for the average direct regular employment of at least eleven men (including coal-miners, carters, &c.), and contributes in an indirect manner to the farming, wagon-building, and other industries. The importance of gold-dredging to the public welfare may be somewhat gauged from the above statement.

In parts of Otago, but more especially in Southland, large areas of auriferous flat land, in the neighbourhood of rivers or streams, have been taken up for dredging, and several dredges are in operation. It is found that the land so worked is, as a rule, rendered practically valueless for agricultural purposes, and where the gold is fine a considerable proportion of it is carried away by the sub-soil and clay, as these, together with the auriferous gravels, are mixed in the sluice-box or screen.

This damage to land, and the loss of gold referred to, are two important considerations which are engaging the attention of the Mines Department with a view to some satisfactory method being devised—and, if possible, of being made applicable to most existing dredges—for first stripping the surface soil and clay and depositing them on the tailings well behind the dredge, thus enabling the land to be fairly well restored, and the gravel to be treated for the extraction of its contained gold without the mixture of surface clay.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF EXPORT OF GOLD AND SILVER FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEARS 1899-1900.

A return from the Customs shows that the export of gold for the first six months of this year was valued at £694,859, as compared with £750,499 for the corresponding period of last year, this being a decrease of £55,640.

The value of silver exported shows a decrease of £3,420 for the same period. The decrease in the value of gold exported may be attributed to the transitory state of alluvial mining, caused by sluicing largely giving place to dredging, and the inability of engineers to build dredges quickly enough to meet requirements.

"THE MINING ACT, 1898."

Amended regulations framed under this Act were published in the Government *Gazette*, under date of 18th June, 1900, and have been referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee.

THE CYANIDE PROCESS.

Royalties amounting to £3,254 17s. have been paid to the Government by licensees in the colony during the two years and a half since the patent rights were acquired for New Zealand, or nearly one-third of the cost incurred.

PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1900, the sum of £1,400 9s. 6d. was expended in subsidies to parties of miners and prospecting associations actually engaged in the work of prospecting for minerals.

WATERCOURSES FOR TAILINGS, &c.

Applications having been made to the Government for the proclamation of certain rivers and streams in Otago and Southland as watercourses into which tailings and waste water from mining operations may be discharged, Commissioners have been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to inspect the rivers and streams in question, and to take evidence in connection therewith. Two interim reports have been received.

SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The School of Mines at Reefton, which was closed for some time, has been reopened, and the schools at Thames, Coromandel, and Waihi, as well as that in connection with the Otago University at Dunedin, have been carried on as usual. Students to the number of 211 have attended the various schools, and are returned as follows: Thames, 69; Coromandel, 29; Waihi, 50; Reefton, 15; Dunedin, 48. Some instruction has also been given in blowpipe analysis and geology at Nelson.

During the past fifteen years the total expenditure by the Government in connection with Schools of Mines, including grants to the school attached to the Otago University, has been £29,895 1s. 6d.

WATER CONSERVATION.

The large storage reservoir at Eweburn, Otago, is now practically completed, and, as it has been partially filled for some time, the increased water-supply obtained from this source has already been of considerable benefit to mining operations around Naseby. The value of this reservoir will be more fully realised during the ensuing summer. Other sites for storage are receiving the attention of the department.

GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS.

During the past year the survey of Cape Colville Peninsula and Hauraki Goldfields was continued, and the collection of rocks and mineral specimens now made represents all parts of the peninsula from Cape Colville to Te Aroha. A typical set of the rocks from Coromandel and the northern part of Thames counties has been forwarded to England for description by a petrological expert, and a like representation of the southern goldfields is now being prepared.

During the season coal deposits at Cabbage Bay and on Moehau Mountain were examined, but, though the coal is of high quality, the seams are too thin to be worked.

The discovery of gold in the district south of Guntown, to which I have already referred, led to an examination of the Upper Rangihau and Kapowai Rivers, where a few claims were yielding phenomenal results from surface workings in a kind of rock not usually regarded as gold-bearing. The geologist (Mr. McKay) reports that the three claims obtaining rich gold show the walls of the lodes to be rhyolite, and, as this rock is extensively developed on the east side of the Peninsula, like discoveries in other parts are to be expected.

Recent discoveries of coal between Pakawhau Inlet and Cape Farewell were examined and reported on. Hitherto but thin seams of bituminous coal have been worked at Pakawhau and near Collingwood, but the existence of an 8 ft. seam of glance coal of high quality has been proved to exist in the vicinity of Puponga Inlet, and the tracing of this, it is hoped, will lead to other discoveries in the district to the south-west, in which direction the coal measures extend.

COAL-MINING.

The gross output for the year ending the 31st December, 1899, was 975,234 tons, this being an increase of 68,201 tons as compared with the year 1898. In the North Island the coal output shows a falling-off amounting to 7,262 tons, but that of the Middle Island is increased by 75,463 tons.

So far as coal-mining in the North Island is concerned, the most important centre is at Taupiri, where several interests have lately been consolidated. The output from these mines for 1899 was 66,966 tons, the production of the Hikurangi Coal Company being next in order with 34,037 tons. Ten other mines are at work, but with two exceptions their output is very small.

The principal mines in the West Coast District are those of the Westport Coal Company (Limited), from which the output last year was 327,931 tons, or rather more than one-third of the entire production of the colony. The Brunner and Blackball Mines are next in importance, the output from these mines for last year being 96,511 tons and 58,136 tons respectively. From sundry causes the Westport-Cardiff Coal Company found it necessary to cease operations about the end of September last, and the property has lately been taken over by the Government for royalties and other charges owing. At the latter end of January it was discovered that a portion of the mine was on fire, and steps were at once taken by the company to keep this under control as much as possible. The necessary supervision has been continued by the Government, and from recent advices I am pleased to be able to state that only a very limited area of coal of commercial value is likely to be lost, that portion of the mine in which the fire occurred being already practically worked out.

Some attention is being devoted to the coal deposits in the locality of Collingwood, and, as it may eventually become necessary to expend considerable sums of money in making the necessary provisions for getting this coal to a market, the question of a systematic development of the field there is one which will demand careful consideration, and must largely influence the granting or refusal of applications for leases.

In Otago, the Kaitangata Collieries rank first in order as producers, the output for 1899 being 111,510 tons. Shag Point Colliery is second in point of output, which is practically equalled by that of the Nightcaps Colliery, in Southland.

Throughout Otago and Southland there are a large number of small mines working brown coal and lignite for local consumption, and, having in view the future requirements of the gold-dredging industry as regards its coal supply, considerable care will have to be exercised in respect to the granting of licenses or leases to mine coal on Crown lands, in order that the proper and efficient working of the coal deposits may be secured, and the reasonable demands for fuel in each locality adequately met.

Owing to the growing demand for coal throughout the world, and recent dislocation of shipping arrangements with New South Wales in consequence of

the restrictions caused by plague, the coal supplies of this colony have been drawn upon to some increased extent, and the consequently enhanced price, coupled with the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of coal of suitable quality in certain parts of New Zealand, may yet render it necessary for the Government to consider the advisability of opening a mine to provide for its own requirements.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

The following statement shows the fatal accidents which have occurred in connection with the various classes of mining for the year covered by the reports of the Inspectors of Mines :—

Class of Mining.	Number of Persons Employed.	Fatal Accidents.	Rate per 1,000.
Quartz-mines	4,663	5	1·07
Alluvial and hydraulic mines and dredging	8,628	16*	1·85
Coal-mines	2,153	3	1·39
	15,444	24	1·5

* Includes four fatalities in connection with dredges.

Of the fatal accidents reported, investigation showed that, with one exception, no blame was attributable to the management. In this case it was clearly proved that safety provisions had been neglected, and a prosecution followed, at which a conviction was obtained. The majority of fatalities in connection with alluvial mining have occurred to men working their own claims.

Non-fatal accidents have, for the greater portion, been of a slight character, and such as are incidental to mining work, but in a few instances somewhat serious injuries have been sustained.

IRON-ORE.

There are, as yet, no further developments with regard either to our iron-deposits in the Middle Island or to the immense quantities of ironsand on the Taranaki coast; but the present high price of iron, combined with the growing demand for that metal, should lead to the attention of capitalists being directed to this colony as a suitable field for the establishment of smelting-works on a large scale.

With a view to encouraging the introduction of sufficient capital for the erection of such works, the Government are prepared to consider favourably a proposal based on the following lines: That a company shall be formed with a capital of not less than £200,000; that of this £200,000 £100,000 shall be expended in acquiring lands, erecting buildings, and the necessary plant and appliances. This having been done, that the Government shall grant a bonus of £1 per ton on the first 20,000 tons of marketable iron or steel produced; that the iron and steel required for the colony shall be taken from the company at a margin above the market rates ruling beyond the colony, allowing freights.

SULPHUR.

1,227 tons of sulphur were exported from the neighbourhood of Rotorua during the year 1899, this being a decrease of 538 tons in comparison with the returns for 1898.

KAURI-GUM.

The export for the year was 11,116 tons, valued at £607,919, this being an increase of 1,211 tons, valued at £21,152, as compared with the preceding year. The total quantity exported since 1853 has been 211,592 tons, valued at £9,707,538. A considerable number of Natives and Europeans find employment on the gumfields.

Diagram showing TOTAL OUTPUT of COAL from N.Z. MINES for the years 1872 to 1899.

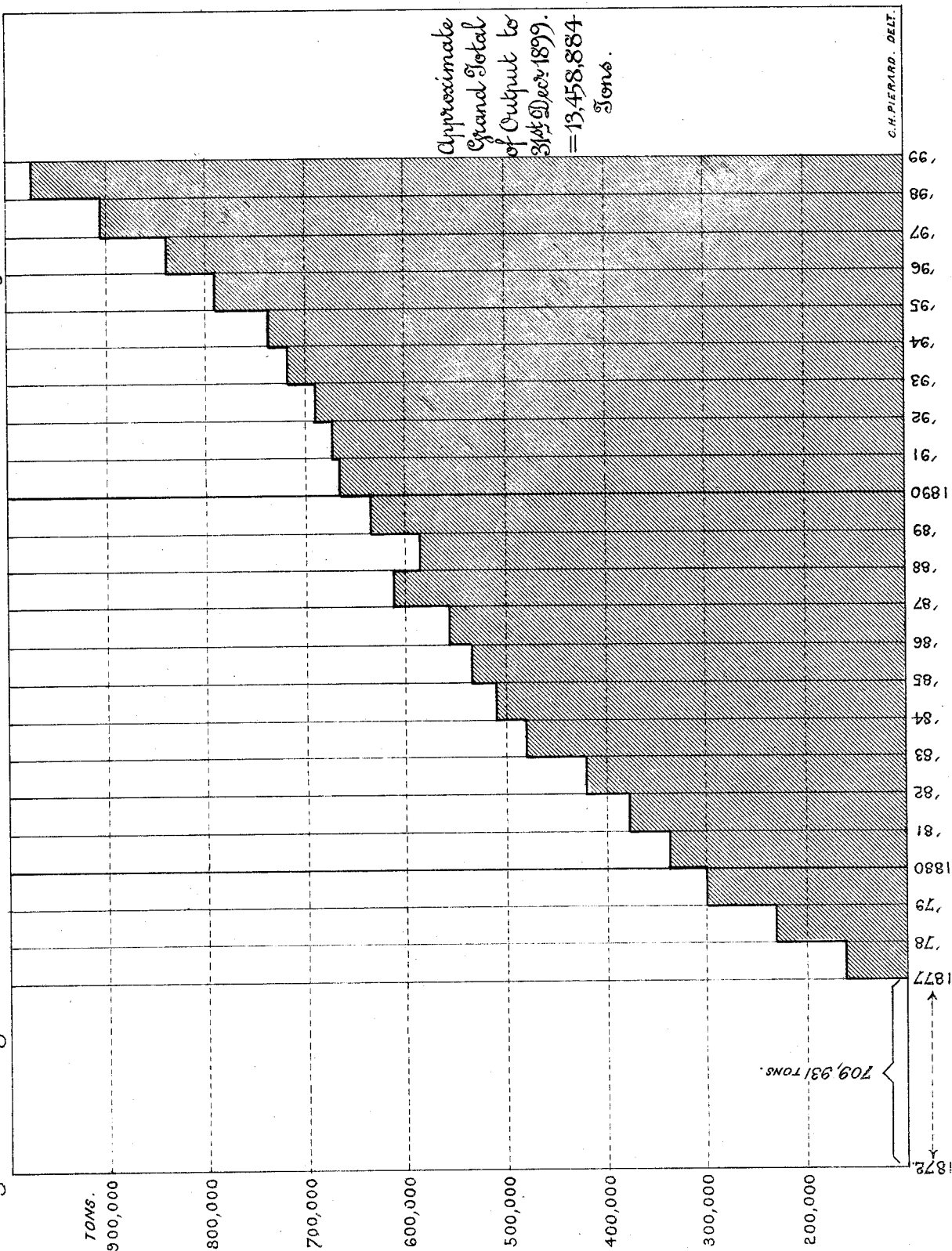
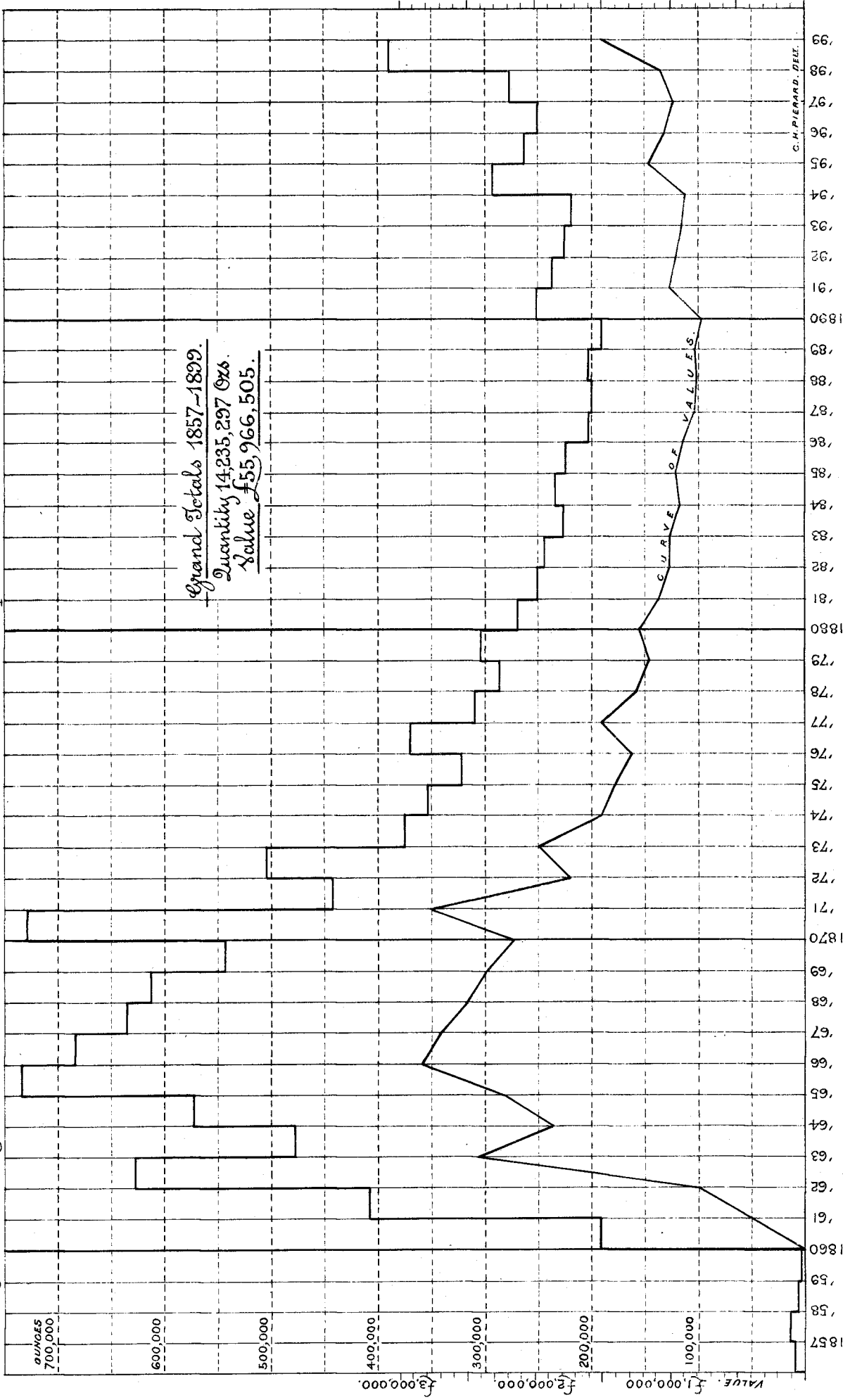


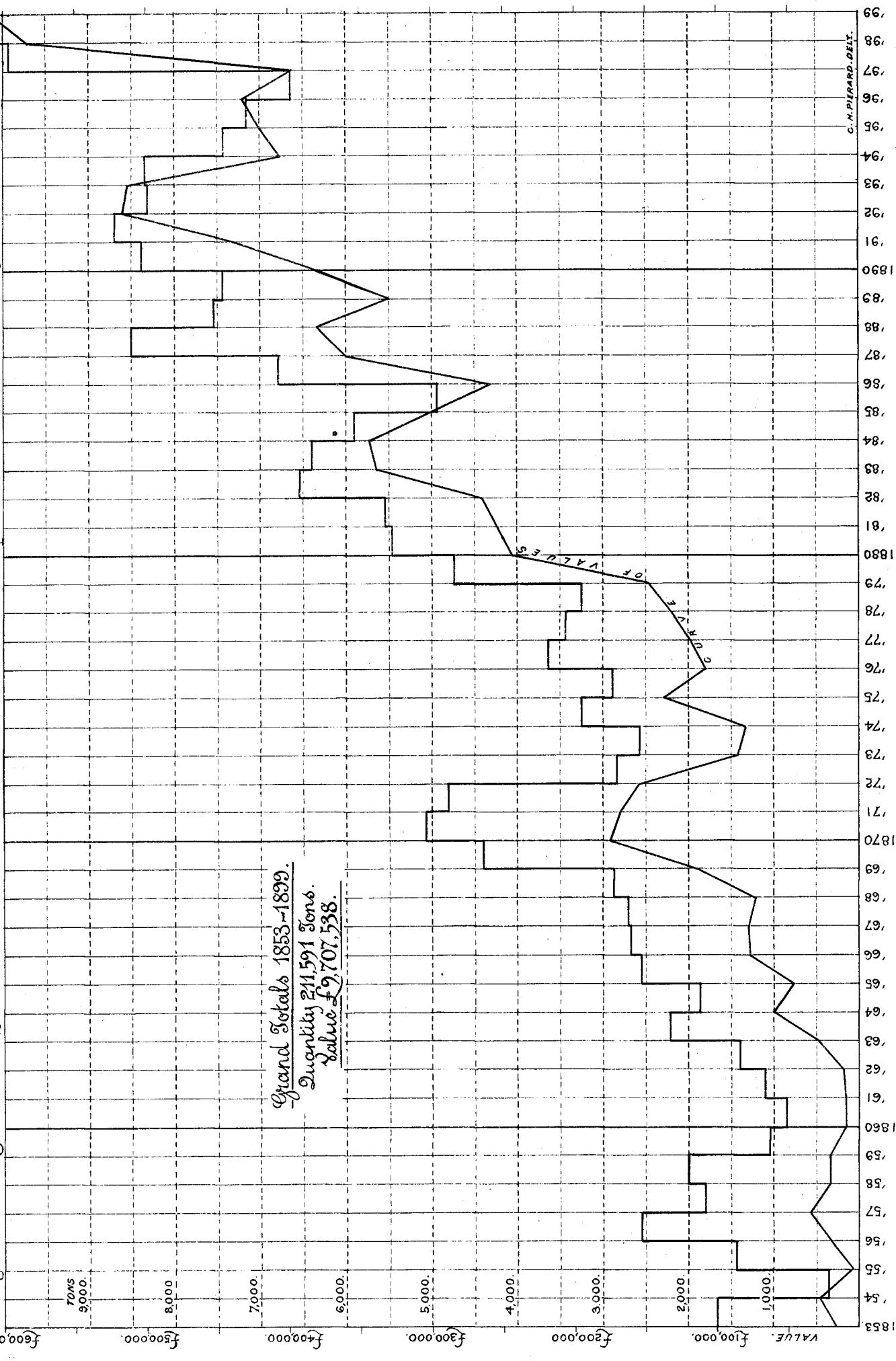
Diagram showing TOTAL QUANTITY & VALUE of GOLD exported from N.Z. for the years 1857 to 1899.



C. H. PIERARD, DEL.

1/16 tons

Diagram showing TOTAL QUANTITY & VALUE of KAURI GUM exported from N.Z., for the years 1853 to 1899



SCHEELITE.

A recent discovery is reported from Central Otago, but so far the only place where this mineral is prepared for the market is at the mine of Messrs. Donaldson Brothers, at Macrae's. Owing to the increasing demand, other parties working reefs in the same district (where scheelite is associated with the quartz) are reported to be making arrangements to supply requirements.

HÆMATITE PAINT.

This is produced at the works of the New Zealand Paint-manufacturing Company at Thames, and by Messrs. Washbourne Brothers in the Collingwood District. Some hæmatite suitable for paint-making has been discovered in the neighbourhood of Invercargill.

CINNABAR.

Some prospecting work is in hand near Waipori, Otago, where the indications are said to be such as will warrant further efforts being taken to thoroughly prove the ground. Some very good ore has been obtained there, and also near Taipo, in the West Coast District.

SHALE-OIL.

An industry entirely new to the colony will shortly be started at Orepuki, a very complete plant being in course of erection at that place for the purpose of working the extensive deposits of shale in the district. The company carrying on the operations appear sanguine of success, and if the products of the shale, when worked on a large scale, are equal in quality to the various extracts obtained in the laboratory, I think there is every reason for supposing that their expectations will be realised, provided, of course, the manufactured article can be supplied at or below ruling market rates.

The different classes of oils for lighting and lubricating purposes which have been experimentally extracted are extremely pure and free from the disagreeable mineral odour usually accompanying such oils. The paraffin wax, another product, is even superior to that ordinarily on the market, and as the company is providing machinery for the treatment of all the by-products, there should be very little waste in connection with their operations.

ROADS AND TRACKS.

The expenditure on roads and tracks during the year shows an increase compared with that of last year. The total expenditure by the department during the last eighteen years on roads and tracks for the development of the mining industry amounts to £329,147 18s. 1d. in direct grants, and £95,564 8s. in subsidies to local bodies; out of which £44,258 2s. 6d. and £2,865 7s. 4d. respectively were expended during the year.

THE MINING BUREAU.

The publication of the *New Zealand Mines Record* has been continued during the year by the Secretary of the Mining Bureau, and the information obtained by the department from its officers and other sources has been thus made available at regular intervals. Some of the papers have been separately printed for distribution through the Agent-General, Chambers of Mines, and other bodies; while the orders issued by the Home Office in reference to explosives have been issued in a handy form for distribution by the Inspectors of Mines.

Most of the Australian Colonies are now publishing monthly or quarterly statistics, and lately the Queensland Government has commenced the issue of a monthly mining journal.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Owing to failing eyesight Mr. George Wilson, the late Inspecting Engineer, has retired from the service. He has been succeeded by Mr. John Hayes, F.S.Sc., who was Inspector of Mines for the Southern District, Mr. Edwin Ridley Green being appointed to fill the position formerly occupied by the present Inspecting Engineer.

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.

No. 2.

TABLE showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for EXPORTATION from NEW ZEALAND for the Years ending the 31st March, 1899 and 1900, and the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE from 1857 to the 31st March, 1900.

District and County or Borough.	Year ending 31st March, 1900.		Year ending 31st March, 1899.		Increase or Decrease for Year ending 31st March, 1900.		Total Quantity and Value from January, 1857, to 31st March, 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.		
AUCKLAND—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	£
County of Coromandel ..	14,559	60,978	13,259	55,404	1,300	..	..	..
County of Thames ..	12,815	52,175	6,367	26,803	6,448	..	..	..
County of Ohinemuri ..	135,952	489,054	124,846	447,680	11,106	..	..	..
County of Piako ..	250	1,057	89	363	161	..	..	..
County of Manukau ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
County of Marsden ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
County of Whangarei ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Borough of Thames ..	5,260	21,943	3,622	15,213	1,638	..	..	..
Te Aroha Town District ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	168,836	625,207	148,183	545,463	20,653	..	2,484,394	9,340,936
WELLINGTON ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188	706
MARLBOROUGH—								
County of Marlborough ..	344	1,382	621	2,406	..	277	..	..
Blenheim Borough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Picton Borough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	344	1,382	621	2,406	..	277	86,729	337,797
NELSON—								
County of Waimea ..	89	356	356	1,424	..	267	..	..
County of Collingwood ..	2,500	9,895	1,364	5,458	1,136	..	..	..
	2,589	10,251	1,720	6,882	869	..	1,677,448	6,650,296
WEST COAST—								
County of Buller ..	12,521	50,082	13,386	53,576	..	865	..	..
County of Inangahua ..	34,614	138,406	19,588	78,350	15,026	..	..	..
County of Grey ..	23,644	94,528	19,773	79,090	3,871	..	..	..
County of Westland ..	19,848	79,241	19,069	76,277	779	..	..	..
Brunnerton Borough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kumara Borough ..	161	644	242	966	..	81	..	..
Hokitika Borough ..	611	2,449	358	1,429	253	..	..	..
Ross Borough ..	2,682	10,726	2,284	9,136	398	..	..	..
Reefton Borough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	94,081	376,076	74,700	298,824	19,381	..	4,493,678	17,874,334
CANTERBURY ..	22	87	12	49	10	..	58	232
OTAGO—								
County of Taieri ..	1,878	7,435	3,121	12,251	..	1,243	..	..
County of Tuapeka ..	30,267	122,688	19,361	78,325	10,906	..	..	..
County of Vincent ..	51,471	208,423	24,185	97,349	27,286	..	..	..
County of Maniototo ..	10,988	44,884	9,357	37,785	1,601	..	..	..
County of Waihemo ..	2,615	10,512	578	2,356	2,037	..	..	..
County of Waikouaiti ..	313	1,242	24	95	289	..	..	..
County of Waitaki ..	2,341	9,695	2,000	8,039	341	..	..	..
County of Bruce ..	3,026	12,047	1,717	6,886	1,309	..	..	..
County of Lake ..	8,759	35,499	4,883	19,879	3,876	..	..	..
County of Wallace ..	9,011	36,247	7,262	29,168	1,749	..	..	..
County of Fiord ..	586	2,355	2,591	10,373	..	2,005	..	..
County of Southland ..	5,451	21,974	3,128	12,592	2,323	..	..	..
County of Stewart Island ..	..	..	52	208	..	52	..	..
County of Clutha ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Borough of Alexandra ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	126,706	513,001	78,239	315,306	48,417	..	5,588,506	22,134,593
Unknown ..	85	340	..	..	85	..	207	824
Totals ..	392,663	1,526,344	303,525	1,168,930	89,138	..	14,331,208	56,839,718

TABLE showing the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for DUTY for EXPORTATION from the 1st January, 1857, to the 31st December, 1899. (This return shows the produce of the various goldfields. Gold entered at Nelson from Hokiuka, Greymouth, and Westport is put under the head of "West Coast," and gold from Invercargill and Riverton under the head of "Otago.")

Year.	Auckland.		Nelson.		Marlborough.		West Coast.		Otago.		Wellington.		Canterbury.		Grand Totals.	
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.
1857	..	..	10,437	40,422	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,437	40,422
1858	..	1,192	13,236	51,272	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,236	51,272
1859	..	..	7,336	28,427	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,336	28,427
1860	..	..	4,538	17,535	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,538	17,535
1861	..	..	6,335	24,552	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,335	24,552
1862	..	4,098	10,422	40,386	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,422	40,386
1863	1,239	13,853	9,580	37,120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410,862	1,591,389
1864	3,448	10,552	14,410	55,841	24,838	95,231	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	638,450	2,431,723
1865	5,449	17,096	12,137	47,030	7,952	30,814	289,897	1,127,370	..	..	..	..	..	..	480,171	1,856,837
1866	5,814	17,463	7,650	29,643	469	1,818	552,572	2,140,946	..	..	..	..	..	..	574,574	2,226,474
1867	6,637	18,277	9,123	35,918	501	1,978	511,974	2,018,874	..	..	..	..	..	..	735,976	2,844,517
1868	53,660	168,874	5,993	38,396	666	2,664	317,169	1,269,664	..	..	..	..	..	..	686,905	2,698,862
1869	132,451	434,687	10,631	42,524	666	2,664	317,169	1,269,664	..	..	..	..	..	..	614,281	2,504,326
1870	85,534	319,146	12,244	48,692	1,852	7,408	280,068	1,121,535	..	..	..	..	..	..	544,880	2,157,585
1871	330,326	1,188,708	10,014	40,056	1,867	7,468	232,882	931,528	..	..	120	..	..	..	730,029	2,787,520
1872	104,890	369,341	8,175	32,700	2,057	8,228	172,574	690,296	..	..	..	..	..	..	445,970	1,731,261
1873	119,449	437,123	13,697	54,786	1,274	5,050	188,501	756,442	..	..	..	..	..	..	505,837	1,987,425
1874	76,910	305,068	5,642	22,158	1,198	4,748	157,531	631,203	..	..	..	..	..	..	376,388	1,506,381
1875	69,485	262,156	4,577	17,866	1,159	4,635	158,673	635,480	..	..	..	..	..	..	355,922	1,407,770
1876	56,057	221,905	14,018	55,862	450	1,796	138,014	531,974	..	..	..	..	..	..	322,016	1,284,328
1877	99,081	403,627	5,367	21,092	870	3,197	153,198	612,823	..	..	..	..	..	..	371,685	1,496,080
1878	55,982	220,454	4,463	17,223	404	1,617	144,634	578,508	..	..	..	..	..	..	310,486	1,240,079
1879	37,901	154,295	2,993	11,424	879	3,460	142,822	571,061	..	..	..	..	..	..	287,464	1,148,108
1880	42,720	176,416	3,222	12,223	1,550	5,650	144,090	575,258	..	..	..	..	..	..	305,248	1,227,252
1881	35,516	141,326	3,453	13,039	1,378	4,531	127,544	509,971	..	..	..	..	..	..	270,561	1,080,790
1882	33,059	131,697	3,289	12,494	1,352	5,400	116,905	519,978	..	..	..	..	..	..	251,204	1,002,720
1883	41,291	163,618	2,064	7,724	636	2,524	116,905	467,152	..	..	..	..	..	..	248,374	993,352
1884	36,087	143,564	2,159	8,002	1,079	4,306	111,686	446,517	..	..	..	..	..	..	229,946	921,797
1885	42,969	170,416	2,798	10,337	750	2,160	117,861	471,325	..	..	..	..	..	..	237,971	908,615
1886	32,271	128,140	2,582	9,979	404	1,451	112,671	446,387	..	..	..	..	..	..	237,079	908,569
1887	30,697	121,564	2,914	10,829	1,041	3,759	98,774	395,430	..	..	..	..	..	..	203,869	811,100
1888	35,223	139,556	3,027	11,320	699	2,547	100,139	400,405	..	..	..	..	..	..	201,219	801,066
1889	28,655	113,191	3,252	12,310	5,189	20,167	101,696	406,451	..	..	..	..	..	..	203,211	808,549
1890	31,745	125,760	2,856	11,049	6,073	24,285	89,096	356,368	..	..	..	..	..	..	193,193	773,488
1891	45,392	181,185	4,445	16,896	22,576	82,576	109,268	437,126	..	..	..	..	..	..	231,996	1,007,488
1892	45,555	183,655	2,535	9,604	3,898	15,429	103,106	413,383	..	..	..	..	..	..	238,079	954,744
1893	45,714	186,553	2,145	8,187	2,165	8,644	99,127	396,516	..	..	..	..	..	..	236,811	913,138
1894	52,916	211,974	2,860	10,634	2,536	10,123	86,950	347,464	..	..	..	..	..	..	221,615	887,839
1895	111,213	430,862	2,460	9,016	2,695	10,771	89,429	357,719	..	..	..	..	..	..	293,491	1,162,164
1896	92,346	350,355	2,753	10,333	916	3,588	79,317	317,161	..	..	..	..	..	..	263,694	1,041,428
1897	105,477	392,837	1,892	7,055	810	3,195	58,817	235,430	..	..	..	..	..	..	251,645	980,204
1898	142,383	527,786	1,720	6,882	781	3,003	79,948	319,789	..	..	..	..	..	..	280,175	1,080,691
1899	168,769	624,737	413	1,571	..	..	90,031	360,149	..	..	..	..	..	..	389,558	1,513,173
Totals	2,449,122	9,211,917	255,859	1,010,459	86,231	385,838	5,889,242	23,410,277	5,554,482	21,996,660	273	1,044	76	303	14,235,285	55,966,498

TABLE showing the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of MINERAL ORES other than Gold (the Product of New Zealand Mines), COAL, COKE, and KAURI-GUM, EXPORTED from the Colony up to the 31st December, 1899.

Year.	Silver.		Copper-ore.		Chromite-ore.		Antimony-ore.		Manganese-ore.		Hæmatite-ore.		Mixed Mineral Ore.		Coal.		Coke.		Kauri-gum.		Total.	
	Oz.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
1853 ..	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	..	£	830	15,972	830	15,972
1854 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,661	28,864	1,661	28,864
1855 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	355	4,514	355	4,514
1856 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,440	18,591	1,440	18,591
1857 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,522	35,251	2,522	35,251
1858 ..	351	5,000	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,811	20,087	2,167	25,066
1859 ..	245	2,605	..	..	..	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,010	20,776	2,263	23,501
1860 ..	137	1,590	..	..	..	116	1,440	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	9,851	1,300	12,883
1861 ..	110	1,300	..	..	..	52	520	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	856	9,888	1,018	11,708
1862 ..	51	1,024	..	..	..	3,843	24,719	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,103	11,107	3,997	36,850
1863 ..	..	..	..	..	..	595	4,318	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,400	27,026	1,995	31,344
1864 ..	..	..	..	..	..	768	4,910	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,293	60,590	2,996	65,500
1865 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,867	46,060	1,867	46,060
1866 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,535	70,572	3,077	72,287
1867 ..	246	2,700	..	..	..	281	1,315	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,685	77,491	3,904	81,419
1868 ..	84	977	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,690	72,493	3,801	74,680
1869 ..	..	2,993	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,850	111,307	3,600	115,100
1870 ..	11,063	11,380	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,391	175,074	6,070	188,082
1871 ..	37,123	23,145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,054	167,958	80,272	192,715
1872 ..	37,064	9,910	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,811	154,167	37,064	164,982
1873 ..	36,187	9,850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,834	85,816	36,187	96,821
1874 ..	40,566	10,380	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,569	79,966	40,566	91,957
1875 ..	29,085	7,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,231	138,523	29,085	149,272
1876 ..	12,683	3,171	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,934	109,248	12,683	129,372
1877 ..	33,893	7,556	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	3,633	33,893	8,682
1878 ..	23,019	5,755	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	132,975	23,019	154,687
1879 ..	20,645	4,512	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,229	147,835	20,645	168,001
1880 ..	20,005	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135	242,817	20,005	275,799
1881 ..	18,885	4,236	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,725	253,778	18,885	271,623
1882 ..	5,694	1,286	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,593	260,869	14,019	251,016
1883 ..	16,826	3,785	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,057	336,606	16,826	350,086
1884 ..	24,914	5,125	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,393	342,151	18,071	353,024
1885 ..	16,624	3,169	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,872	299,762	16,624	362,779
1886 ..	12,108	2,946	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,920	257,653	12,108	318,783
1887 ..	20,809	3,453	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,791	362,449	20,809	419,844
1888 ..	403	71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,482	380,383	79,147	459,501
1889 ..	24,105	4,043	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,519	329,590	24,105	439,260
1890 ..	32,637	6,162	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,637	378,563	80,287	467,465
1891 ..	28,023	5,151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,388	437,056	104,164	544,638
1892 ..	22,053	3,996	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,705	517,678	22,053	614,360
1893 ..	63,076	9,743	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,317	510,775	63,076	598,330
1894 ..	54,177	6,697	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160	404,567	54,177	487,132
1895 ..	85,024	10,679	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,425	481,323	94,026	516,149
1896 ..	94,307	10,889	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	175	431,766	86,878	495,069
1897 ..	183,892	20,872	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,141	398,010	183,892	675,884
1898 ..	238,851	33,107	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,905	586,767	238,851	738,849
1899 ..	349,338	40,838	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,116	607,919	349,338	738,849
Totals	1,728,351	276,669	1,396	17,938	5,666	37,367	3,610	52,361	18,637	59,644	226	19,011	1,120,811	1,091,707	16,370	24,804	211,592	9,707	538	1,728,351	1,397	11,368,419

* Including 1,765 tons of sulphur, value £4,097.

† Including 1,227 tons of sulphur; quartz, 5 tons; scheelite, 32 tons.

‡ Silver-ore, 46½ tons, £1,497.

No. 5.

RETURN showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of COALS IMPORTED into NEW ZEALAND during the Quarter ended the 31st March, 1900.

Country whence imported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
New South Wales	21,519	20,280
Tasmania	20	20
Totals	21,539	20,300

No. 6.

TABLE showing the INCREASE or DECREASE in the PRODUCTION of COAL in the Colony, and Imported, Year by Year, during the last Twenty-two Years.

Year.	Coal raised in the Colony.		Coal imported.		
	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.	Tons.	Plus or Minus.	Increase and Decrease.
1878	162,218	..	174,148	..	..
1879	231,218	69,000	158,076	—	16,072
1880	299,923	68,705	123,298	—	33,778
1881	337,262	37,339	129,962	+	6,664
1882	378,272	41,010	129,582	—	380
1883	421,764	43,492	123,540	—	6,042
1884	480,831	59,069	148,444	+	24,904
1885	511,063	30,232	130,202	—	18,242
1886	534,353	23,290	119,873	—	10,329
1887	558,620	24,267	107,230	—	12,643
1888	613,895	55,275	101,341	—	5,889
1889	586,445	27,450	128,063	+	26,722
1890	637,397	50,952	110,939	—	17,124
1891	668,794	31,397	125,318	+	14,379
1892	673,315	4,521	125,453	+	135
1893	691,548	18,233	117,444	—	8,009
1894	719,546	27,998	112,961	—	4,483
1895	726,654	7,108	108,198	—	4,763
1896	792,851	66,197	101,756	—	6,442
1897	840,713	47,862	110,907	+	9,151
1898	907,033	66,320	115,427	+	4,520
1899	975,234	68,201	99,655	—	15,772

No. 7.

TABLE showing the OUTPUT of COAL from the various Mining Districts, and the Comparative INCREASE and DECREASE, for the Years 1898 and 1899, together with the TOTAL APPROXIMATE QUANTITY of COAL produced since the Mines were opened.

Name of District.	Output of Coal.		Plus or Minus.	Increase or Decrease.	Approximate Total Output of Coal up to 1st December, 1899.
	1899.	1898.			
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Kawakawa and Hikurangi	51,661	57,332	—	5,671	1,083,180
Whangarei, Kamo, Ngunguru, and Whau-whau	15,662	16,808	—	1,146	407,523
Waikato	68,929	70,191	—	1,262	1,089,977
Mokau	4,876	4,059	+	817	22,588
Pelorus	..	..	..	..	711
West Wanganui	240	1,230	—	990	51,236
Westport	363,043	340,321	+	22,722	3,346,347
Reefton	4,017	5,076	—	1,059	79,765
Greymouth	154,647	118,626	+	36,021	2,669,201
Malvern	14,192	13,347	+	845	369,224
Timaru	..	..	..	..	10,657
Otago	249,824	233,003	+	16,821	3,807,124
Southland	48,143	47,040	+	1,103	521,347
Totals	975,234	907,033	+	68,201	13,458,880

No. 8.

TABLE showing the DIFFERENT CLASSES of COAL from the MINES in the COLONY.

Name of Coal.	Output of Coal.		Increase.	Approximate Total Output of Coal up to the 31st December, 1899.
	1899.	1898.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous	588,036	538,477	49,559	7,272,962
Pitch	37,835	36,432	1,403	1,760,323
Brown	314,542	298,365	16,177	3,979,161
Lignite	34,821	33,759	1,062	446,434
Totals	975,234	907,033	68,201	13,458,880

No. 9.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of COAL-MINES in OPERATION, the NUMBER of MEN EMPLOYED, and the OUTPUT of COAL per MAN.

Number of Mines working.	Number of Miners employed in each Mine.	Total Number of Men employed.	Output of Coal during 1899.	Average Output per Man.
112	1 to 4 men in each	187	Tons. 48,546	Tons. 259.60
22	5 to 10 "	140	53,181	379.85
11	11 to 20 "	155	55,247	356.43
15	21 men and upwards	1,671	818,260	489.68
160		2,153	975,234	452.96

No. 10.

RETURN showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of COAL IMPORTED INTO and EXPORTED FROM NEW ZEALAND during the Year ended the 31st December, 1899.

Imported.			Exported.		
Countries whence imported.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£		Tons.	£
United Kingdom	50	50	United Kingdom	66,036	63,201
New South Wales	98,786	92,142	Tasmania	184	125
Victoria	363	281	New South Wales	4,639	4,513
Queensland	456	342	Queensland	..	..
			British Columbia	748	712
			United States of America—		
			On the West Coast	2,863	2,572
			Fiji Islands	5,831	4,110
			South Sea Islands	9,133	7,804
			Norfolk Island	46	48
Totals	99,655	92,815	Totals	89,480	83,085

No. 11.

NUMBER of MINERS EMPLOYED during the Years ending 31st March, 1899 and 1900.

Mining District.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz-miners.		Totals.		Grand Totals.	
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	1900.	1899.
AUCKLAND—								
North Hauraki and Coromandel ..	..	..	667	..	667	..	667	888
Thames	..	..	838	..	838	..	838	820
Ohinemuri	..	..	1,891	..	1,891	..	1,891	1,852
Te Aroha	..	..	15	..	15	..	15	15
Puhipuhi	..	..	8	..	8	..	8	8
Tauranga	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	10
Great Barrier	..	..	38	..	38	..	38	6
	..	..	3,458	..	3,458	..	3,458	3,599
MARLBOROUGH—								
Pelorus, Queen Charlotte Sound ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wairau, North Bank	50	..	10	..	60	..	60	43
Cullen's Creek	19	..	..	..	19	..	19	19
Waikakaho	3	..	..	..	3	..	3	3
Wakamarina	59	..	2	..	61	..	61	61
	131	..	12	..	143	..	143	127
NELSON—								
Wangapeka, Baton, and Sherry ..	19	..	..	..	19	..	19	24
Takaka	23	..	..	..	23	..	23	27
Collingwood	131	..	20	..	151	..	151	96
Motueka	20	..	..	..	20	..	20	20
Inangahua	173	133	646	..	819	133	952	807
Ahaura	315	104	40	..	355	104	459	878
Charleston	130	..	..	..	130	..	130	161
Westport, including Addison's, Northern Terraces, Waimangaroa, North Beach, Mokihinui, Karamea, and Lower Buller Valley	275	..	5	..	280	..	280	320
Lyell	35	40	55	..	90	40	130	128
Murchison	170	90	..	..	170	90	260	295
Owen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1,291	367	766	..	2,057	367	2,424	2,756
WESTLAND—								
Ross	100	3	4	..	104	3	107	96
Stafford and Goldsborough	300	100	..	..	300	100	400	400
Hokitika and Kanieri	450	30	..	..	450	30	480	455
Kumara	350	100	..	..	350	100	450	440
Greymouth	716	203	24	..	740	203	943	921
Arnold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Okarito	78	1	..	..	78	1	79	65
	1,994	437	28	..	2,022	437	2,459	2,377
OTAGO—								
Hindon	40	5	2	..	42	5	47	47
Tuapeka	450	200	50	..	500	200	700	715
Clyde, Roxburgh, Black's, and Alexandra	915	150	14	..	929	150	1,079	1,143
Cromwell	410	140	30	..	440	140	580	585
Tapanui	10	6	..	..	10	6	16	40
Waikaia	200	80	..	..	200	80	280	300
Wyndham	25	..	..	..	25	..	25	18
Waiau	20	..	..	..	20	..	..	..
Orepuki	350	65	..	..	350	65	675	600
Roundhill and Wilson's River ..	120	70	50	..	170	70	..	..
Wakatipu Goldfields—Arrow, Macetown, Cardrona, Kawarau, Bracken's, and Motatapu	200	20	100	..	300	20	320	320
Queenstown	300	25	100	..	400	25	425	425
Naseby	143	75	..	..	143	75	218	251
St. Bathans	84	..	2	..	86	..	86	94
Hyde	12	11	11	..	23	11	34	42
Macrae's	24	33	40	..	64	33	97	101
Maerewhenua and Kurow	90	..	..	..	90	..	90	90
Pembroke	30	12	..	..	30	12	42	42
Gore	73	20	..	..	73	20	93	..
	3,496	912	399	..	3,895	912	4,807	4,813
SUMMARY.								
AUCKLAND	..	..	3,458	..	3,458	..	3,458	3,599
MARLBOROUGH	131	..	12	..	143	..	143	127
NELSON	1,291	367	766	..	2,057	367	2,424	2,756
WESTLAND	1,994	437	28	..	2,022	437	2,459	2,377
OTAGO	3,496	912	399	..	3,895	912	4,807	4,813
Totals	6,912	1,716	4,663	..	11,575	1,716	13,291	13,672

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