

On the Thames Goldfield the result of mining operations has been somewhat disappointing, but as the 1,000-ft.-level crosscut to connect the Government pumping-shaft with the Kuranui-Caledonian shaft is now well under way, there is reason to anticipate a recovery at this once important and famous goldfield.

On the West Coast considerable activity and energy were displayed in developing quartz-mining propositions. During the year in the Reefton, Big River, and Blackwater districts the ore produced amounted to 121,105 tons, valued at £229,315, being an increase of 19,978 tons in quantity and £27,344 in value. Systematic prospecting has been carried on during the year in connection with other quartz-mining ventures in this district, and also in connection with the Mokihinui reefs, as well as new reefs recently discovered in the vicinity of Lake Brunner.

Quartz-mining in Otago was practically at a standstill during the year, with the exception of the Barewood Reefs, which produced 5,428 tons of ore, valued at £4,118. A number of other small quartz-mines throughout New Zealand produced 33,028 tons of ore valued at £55,803. In the following table the present position of our quartz-mining is summarized:—

Name of Company.	During 1910.				Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.	Total Cost per Ton.	1910.	Total to End of December, 1910.	
Northern District—		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£	
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)*	442,020†	894,815†	2 0 5½†	0 15 2-252	446,316	4,007,427	1,400
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	84,226†	132,295	1 11 5	0 15 3	...	...	462
New Zealand Crown Mines (Ltd.)	6,661	13,301	1 19 11¼	§	...	70,000	70
Bremner's Freehold	1	2,238	£2,238	...	600	600	6
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ...	45,020	210,264	4 13 5	1 18 5-9	94,374	450,984	380
Komata Reefs (Ltd.) ...	10,880	20,576	1 17 10	1 4 9	...	33,333	75
Old Hauraki Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	704	13,058	18 10 11¼	...	2,625	225,208	31
West Coast District—							
Keep-it-Dark Quartz-mining Company (Ltd.)	3,273	3,025	0 18 6	§	...	158,667	50
Progress Mines of New Zealand (Ltd.)	50,207	71,352	1 8 5	1 5 5-5	10,312	326,562	353
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand (Ltd.)	21,363	36,385	1 14 0¾	0 18 4	...	...	129
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	3,040	15,628	5 2 9¾	§	5,400	88,090	45
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.) ...	39,192	91,331	2 6 7	0 18 7-5	37,500	50,000	274
Southern District—							
Barewood Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	5,428	4,118	0 15 2	0 17 8-2	...	2,000	21
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	33,028	55,803	1 13 9½	§	...	§	1,028
Totals, 1910 ...	745,043	1,564,189	2 5 5	§	597,127	§	4,324

* The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £9,106,318. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

† Short tons of 2,000 lb. dry weight.

‡ In the annual report of the directors of this company for 1910 the value of the bullion production is stated to be £926,100; but the figures given in the table above are the official returns from the company to the Inspector of Mines. The discrepancy occurs owing to the actual value of the bullion not being known until it is refined in England.

§ Unknown.

ALLUVIAL AND DREDGE MINING.

As already indicated, this branch of the mining industry experienced an exceptionally bad year, owing, doubtless, primarily to the unusually dry weather and the consequent scarcity of water prevailing during the most of last year, and probably also to the general prosperity and plentiful employment offering in other industrial pursuits. The yield from sluicing operations last year amounted to £188,464, as against £333,235 produced from the same source during the previous year, the decrease for the period amounting to £144,771. The yield from dredging amounted to £315,237, being a decrease of £12,439. The number of dredges in