

The following is a statement regarding the most productive dredges owned by registered companies:—

Name of Dredge.	Production during 1911 of all Dredges.	Dividends paid by Dredges owned by Registered Companies.	
		During 1911.	To 31st December, 1911.
West Coast District—	£	£	£
Stafford	3,723	404	3,287
Hessy, Cameron, and Tacon (Limited) ...	3,859	1,470	4,695
Worksop	16,284	9,300	15,900
No Town Creek	7,486	5,400	34,200
Pactolus	5,144	1,875	62,500
Blackwater River	6,728	2,605	11,494
Southern District—			
Crewe (2)	3,908	250	6,375
Waikaka Syndicate	5,180	2,450	22,750
Koputai	4,338	1,235	12,537
Earnsclough (3)	9,193	550	24,750
Masterton	3,767	1,250	31,500
Hartley and Riley	3,559	650	83,687
Golden Bed	5,896	1,922	15,269
Rise and Shine (2)	8,607	1,200	35,100
Rising Sun	6,439	2,200	16,000
Magnum Bonum	4,368	1,812	8,875
Electric (2)	10,922	3,250	126,092
Paterson's Freehold (2)	7,244	1,800	15,000
Otago (2)	4,512	250	17,375
Manuherikia	4,924	1,058	33,445
Dredge No. 909	7,251	2,250	3,750
Willowbank	4,491	1,600	2,000
64 other working dredges (registered or privately owned)	158,586	417	...
Totals	296,409	45,198	...

The fifteen West Coast dredges are situated in the following localities—namely, eight on tributaries of the Grey River, two on the Buller River, and one at each of the following places: Capleston, Cronadun, Brennan's Creek, North Beach (Cobden), and Waimea. The most profitable dredging operations in the Dominion were carried out by the Worksop dredge at Antonio's Flat, which obtained gold to the value of £16,284, and paid £9,300 in dividends. The No Town Creek earned £7,486, of which £5,400 was distributed in dividends.

In Otago and Southland the fleet of seventy-eight dredges is distributed as follows: Waikaka Valley, 17; at or near Alexandra, 14; Waikaia, 8; at or near Cromwell, 5; Miller's Flat, 4; Lowburn Ferry, 4; Nevis, 4; Charlton, 3; two at each of the following places—Chatto Creek, Waipori, Glenore, Cardrona, Roxburgh, and Ettrick; and single dredges are working at Island Block, Shingle Creek, Bald Hill Flat, Poolburn, Kyeburn, Waimumu, and Kelso. None of the southern dredges, the property of registered companies, were so profitable to their owners as the two West Coast dredges quoted. The most noteworthy feature of the year in connection with the dredging industry in the south has been a renewal of activity in the Waikaka Valley, where a deep lead has been located by keystone drilling, and a dredge is being constructed by the Waikaka United Company to work the deep ground thus proved. This dredge is designed to operate to a depth of 55 ft. below water-level.

At Waikaia, in Otago, the Mystery Flat Gold-dredging company is engaged upon operations which constitute a departure from former gold-dredging practice. After dredging all the available river-flat, this company's dredge is now working its way up the gentle slopes of the surrounding foothills and terraces. To do this, water has been brought on to the claim by a race of about two miles and a half in length, and at an elevation of about 50 ft. above the river-level. The dredge floats in a "paddock" supplied by this race, and continually stacks its tailing behind, forming a dam to maintain the level of the water in the paddock. As the ground is shallow, a tailing-elevator is not required, the material being passed through a sluice-box. When first attacking the slopes it was found that the tailing embankment could not be raised with the ascent of the ground until a low dam was first built to hold the bulk of the tailing. Once started in this manner, the tailing keeps building an efficient embankment for the paddock. At present the dredge is about 30 ft. above the river-level, and it is proposed to work up to the water-race. After reaching that level, pumping will be necessary to keep the paddock full, for the proposed scheme is, if possible, to work over a low saddle at an elevation of about 50 ft. above the level of the water-race, and so into another gully down which the dredge will work its way to the river again. From the progress already made it would appear that this method of working is quite feasible, and, though in this case it is intended to rise only about 100 ft., there is no reason why this method should not be applied to even greater heights, and so render available ground hitherto considered unworkable owing to the lack of high-pressure water for sluicing. The immediate future of these operations will be watched with interest.