The following is a statement of the production, dividends declared, and the number of persons employed by the principal gold-quartz mining companies during 1914:—

Name of Company.	During 1914.					Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.			1914.	Total to End of December, 1914.	
	Statute Tons.	£	£	s.	d.	£	£	
Northern District—								
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)*	163,754	324,038	1	19	7	99,181	4,577,720	700
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	103,321	227,637	2	4	1	48,047	105,703	440
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ..	52,210	263,516	5	11	4	116,437	935,478	330
West Coast District—								
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.)	50,426	93,848	1	17	3	12,500	112,496	213
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	6,273	30,185	4	16	5	9,600	91,200	75
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	125,355	214,990	1	14	4	2,500	§	1,125
Totals, 1914	**501,339**	**1,154,214**	**2**	**6**	**0**	**288,265**	§	**2,863**

* The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £10,787,038. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

† In the annual report of the directors of this company for 1914 the value of the bullion-production is stated to be £332,165; 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.

‡ 144,300 statute tons of old tailing from Waihi and Karangahake mines dredged from Ohinemuri River sludge-channel, crushed during former years and recorded therein, but re-treated during 1914.

§ Unknown.

Northern Inspection District.

Waihi Goldfield.—At the Waihi Mine, athough no ore-bodies of importance have been developed during the past year, at No. 11 (or 1,301 ft.) level the Martha lode has shown a decided improvement, the oxidized quartz being in parts replaced by smaller lenses of sulphide ore, and the country has become more settled, which is decidedly encouraging, and upsets the most prominently published of the geological theories regarding this mine—viz., that the Martha lode had passed from a productive intrusive to an unproductive bedded dacite country at a depth of about 1,000 ft.

The production and dividends paid during 1914 was practically the same as during the previous year.

Early in 1914 the company's extensive hydro-electric power-installation from the Horahora Falls, distant about fifty miles, was brought into commission, and the whole of the power required for the reduction-works, air-compressors, winding, and three-throw pumps was thus provided.

The Waihi Grand Junction Mine has experienced a record year in every respect, the output, yield, average value, and dividends all being higher than during any previous year. Development at the No. 7 (or 1,200 ft.) level has proved a considerable quantity of ore in the Empire lode. The water problem at this mine referred to in former reports is still considerably in evidence, the electrical high-lift turbo-installation proving unequal to the influx of water; in consequence another unit has been ordered.

Karangahake Goldfield.—The Talisman Consolidated Mine has produced an increased tonnage with a higher value per ton treated during 1914, but development has not been entirely satisfactory in the Bonanza section, although ore of good value has been proved in winzes Nos. 2, 6, and 8, between Nos. 14 and 15 levels. In the Woodstock section, south of the Woodstock shaft, the Maria lode at the three points where it has been intersected from the connecting crosscut appears better than at the same points in the level 250 ft. overhead, and the value, although not high-grade, is payable. The country at the bottom of the mine is also favourable, although in the Bonanza section it is not so open for drainage.

The Talisman shaft has been sunk to a sump past the random of the 15th level, and a drive is being put out therefrom to enable ore to be stoped below No. 14 level. A considerable amount of work will be necessary in the Woodstock section, south of the Woodstock shaft, before the amount of ore available may be proved and prepared for stoping at a depth between 250 ft. and 500 ft. from the Woodstock shaft. Connection has quite recently been made between a point about 40 ft. below the No. 14 level from the Talisman shaft and the crosscut from the bottom of the Woodstock shaft, by a stairway of 73 ft., which will be of great advantage to mining operations.

At the New Zealand Crown Mine operations at the reduction-works have been discontinued, and at the mine the number of men has been greatly reduced, owing to shortage of funds.

The Waihi-Paeroa Gold-extraction Company, who operate upon the tailing deposited by the Waihi and Karangahake mines in the Ohinemuri River (sludge-channel) near Paeroa, has during 1914 treated 144,300 tons of tailing for a return of £42,950, being an average of 6s. per ton. It is stated that there has been an increase in working-cost, owing to timber and other river-debris. To remove this a modern Priestman dredger is being obtained.