

claims are situated at Riverview, on the southern bank of the Ahaura River, between Fox's Creek and German Gully. The ground to be sluiced consists of fine terrace-gravel, the terrace rising abruptly from the river-flat for about 200 ft. The gravel has not been prospected by boring, but from the many faces exposed experts reporting for the company have estimated that an average return of from 3d to 4d. per cubic yard will be obtained. The system of working to be adopted is hydraulic sluicing and tail-race tunnels.

Towards the end of 1914 a discovery of alluvial gold was made at Louie Creek on the Howard River, a tributary of the Buller River, near Tophouse. At the time of writing about fifty men were engaged at this new rush, many claims having been pegged out. The greater part of the gold won has been obtained by "fossicking" among the boulders on the creek-bed, and it is reported that the average earnings are about £8 per man per week; but the returns from the authorized gold-buyers do not corroborate this estimate. The locality is approached by the road from Glenhope to Lake Rototiti.

That the independent life of the alluvial miner is attractive is proved by the low average earnings. During 1914 the average value of gold obtained per European miner on the West Coast, where 424 persons were thus employed, was £138, and in Otago and Southland £170 for each of 580 persons there employed; but from these amounts must be deducted all working-expenses, together with depreciation of plant and interest on capital. It is probable that if these men had been employed at coal-mines during a similar period their earnings would have been very much greater.

The following is a statement showing the value of production and dividends paid by the principal sluicing companies during 1914:—

Name of Company or Party.	Value of Gold produced.	Dividends declared.	
		During 1914.	Totals to End of 1914.
	£	£	£
Mont d'Or (Westland)	3,630	1,800	57,000
Naseby Hydraulic Sluicing Company	909	375	4,500
Deep Stream Gold-mining Company	1,098	250	1,812
Gabriel's Gully Sluicing Company	7,425	258	1,863
Golden Crescent Sluicing Company	2,502	875	10,500
Havelock Sluicing Company	3,212	900	5,500
Ladysmith Gold-mining Company	2,958	992	11,413
Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company	11,659	3,000	43,283
Round Hill Gold-mining Company	6,800	2,542	11,015
249 other claims	117,130	Unknown	Unknown
Totals	157,323	10,992	Unknown

V. MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

Scheelite.

The quantity of scheelite exported during the year amounted to 204 tons, valued at £21,498, as compared with 221 tons, valued at £22,933, in 1913. The following statement shows the quantity and value of scheelite exported since the year 1899:—

Year.		Quantity.	Value.	Year.		Quantity.	Value.
		Tons.	£			Tons.	£
1899		32	2,788	1908		68	6,055
1900		54	2,635	1909		58	4,263
1901		2	83	1910		143	15,070
1902		39	1,200	1911		138	11,853
1903		42	1,439	1912		135	13,347
1904		17	791	1913		221	22,933
1905		28	1,848	1914		204	21,498
1906		55	3,407				
1907		137	15,486	Totals		1,373	124,696