

In the following table is shown the quantity of quartz crushed, and scheelite (tungstic trioxide) concentrates obtained by the seventeen companies and parties of miners engaged in this industry, together with the value, during the year 1914 :—

Name of Mine or Company.	Locality	Quartz crushed.	Scheelite (Tungstic Trioxide) Concentrate obtained.	Value.
		Tons.	Tons cwt.	£ s. d.
Dominion Consolidated Development Company	Wakamarina Valley, Marlborough	15,814	83 15	9,300 0 0
Glenorchy Scheelite Syndicate and seven parties of miners	Glenorchy, Lake County	554	79 12	6,815 13 6
Buckland and Ewart	Barewood, Taieri County	50	5 0	500 0 0
Fraser and party (Morning Star) ..	Waihemo County ..	97	16 10	1,720 10 0
Deep Dell Gold and Silver Company		1,650	21 12	2,080 0 0
Golden Point Gold-mining Company		1,377	1 0	80 0 0
Mitchell and Dowie		21	1 5	97 15 0
Stoneburn Gold and Silver Company		1,115	8 3	735 0 0
Mareburn Gold and Silver Company	Hyde, Maniototo County	955	4 1	396 0 0
Alta Mining Syndicate	Bendigo, Vincent County	112	1 0	100 0 0
Totals		21,745	221 18	21,824 18 6

In addition certain of the above mines produced gold as follows :—

	£
Dominion Consolidated	7,833
Fraser and party	12
Deep Dell	220
Golden Point	867
Stoneburn	23
Mareburn	280
Alta Syndicate	234

The principal market for scheelite concentrate being Germany, the demand ceased after the outbreak of the present war.

KAURI-GUM.

The value of kauri-gum exported during 1914 amounted to £497,444, or £51,662 less than that exported during the previous year. The decline is due to the war, much of the gum exported being formerly used in Europe by the belligerents. Since the outbreak of hostilities the quantity of gum shipped weekly from the Northern Wairoa, it is estimated, does not exceed 3 tons, whereas prior thereto 30 tons were so handled. The average weekly quantity dug now approximates 8 tons, but owing to the depressed state of the market country buyers are chary of purchasing more than is necessary to liquidate the indebtedness of diggers for food-supplies. At the same time the regular diggers, amongst whom are some three hundred Croatians, do not appear over anxious to sell, and are storing their gum on the fields, being satisfied that at the cessation of the war all grades of the material will command higher rates than those which have ruled hitherto.

Prior to the war about six thousand persons were more or less intermittently employed at gum-digging, but owing to the decline in the demand for gum this number has been greatly reduced.

To afford a measure of relief to unemployed gum-diggers the Government, in terms of the Kauri-gum Act, 1914, has recently purchased from such diggers gum to the value of £5,000 on the base of prices ruling on the 1st July, 1914. The gum thus purchased is being stored in Auckland.

IRON.

The Parapara iron-ore leases continue to remain unworked, the Cadman lease having now been under protection for the past two years and a half, and under partial exemption from the labour conditions of the lease the previous two years and a half. These leases have been obviously held for sale for many years, and *bona fide* mining operations are apparently not intended by the holders.

At Moturoa Messrs. Hesketh and Son have during the year produced 3 tons of pig iron from Taranaki ironsand, by a special process described in my last annual report. The furnace employed is of large cupola type, the ironsand being first briquetted with 40 per cent. of non-sulphurous coal. Two sintering-furnaces were at the time of my inspection, in March, 1915, being constructed.