

(2.) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING-DRILLS.

Considerable use has been made during the year of the Government prospecting-drills, which are lent to hirers free of any charge but that of maintenance. An aggregate of 6,156 ft. was drilled in thirty-one holes for five hirers upon seven properties, as follows :—

Number of Holes drilled.	Aggregate Depth drilled.	Mineral searched for.	Type of Drill used.	Cost per Foot.		Results.
				Drilling.	Transport.	
5	Ft. 1,227	Coal	Diamond	s. d. 1 4 to 4 2	s. d. 0 8½	Coal in one hole, 7 ft.
6	2,196	"	"	1 0 " 1 8	0 8½	Coal in three holes from 3 ft. 9 in. to 6 in.
2	370	Cinnabar	"	9 2 " 11 5	1 2	No payable ore found.
2	1,317	Coal	"	5 4 " 10 5	5 1	No workable coal found.
1	289	"	Cable percussive	..	..	Not determined; faulted.
9	468	Alluvial gold	Keystone placer	..	..	Gold averaging 2½d. per cubic yard.
6	289	"	Ditto	..	..	Gold averaging 11d. per cubic yard.

The following is a table giving details of operations by Government drills during 1921 :—

Type of Drill.	Name of Drill Superintendent.	Number of Holes drilled.	Total Depth, in Feet.	Diameter of Bore.	Mineral sought for.	Character of Country pierced.	Cost per Foot of Drilling.	Cost per Foot of Transport.	To whom lent.	Results.
Schram-Harker oil-driven diamond drill	A. Wick	1	236	Inches. 2½, 1½	Coal	Gravel, clays, shales, and sandstones	s. d. 2 8	s. d. 0 8½	Homebush Brick and Coal Company, Glentunnel	No workable coal.
"	"	1	280	2½, 1½	"	Ditto	3 7	..	Ditto	"
"	"	1	285	2½, 1½	"	"	4 2	..	"	"
"	"	1	140	2½, 1½	"	"	2 9	..	"	"
"	"	1	286	2½, 1½	"	"	1 4	..	"	7 ft. coal at 193 ft. (Sheath row seam).
"	"	1	306	2½, 1½	"	"	1 8	..	Bush Gully	4 ft. coal at 173 ft., 4 ft. coal at 240 ft., 4 ft. 6 in. coal at 268 ft.
"	"	1	216	2½, 1½	"	"	1 0	..	"	No workable coal.
"	"	1	320	2½, 1½	"	"	1 6	..	"	"
"	"	1	488	2½, 1½	"	"	1 5	..	"	"
"	"	1	386	2½, 1½	"	"	1 4	..	"	3 ft. 9 in. coal at 165 ft.
"	"	1	480	2½, 1½	"	"	1 4	..	"	6 ft. coal at 111 ft., 6 ft. 6 in. coal at 292 ft., 3 ft. coal at 393 ft.
Sullivan C.N. diamond drill	R. Pengelly	1	150	5, 2½	Cinnabar	Conglomerate, grits, mudstones, and clays	11 5½	1 2	N.Z. Quicksilver-mines, Puhipuhui	No payable ore.
Ditto	"	1	220	5, 2½	"	Ditto	9 2	..	"	"
"	"	1	713	6, 2½	Coal	Shingle, sandstone	10 5	5 1	North Cape Coal Company, Puponga	No workable coal.
"	"	1	604	6, 2½	"	Conglomerate and mudstones	5 4	..	"	"
Cable percussion	T. Ryan and W. H. Warburton	1	289	6, 3½	"	Mudstones and sandstones	86 6	7 0	Waimangaroa-Westport Coal-mines Syndicate, Burnett's Face	Not determined; country faulted.
Keystone No. 3 placer-drill	S. W. Ford	9	468	6	Alluvial gold	Gravel	..	..	Rimu Gold-dredging Company (Limited), Mahinapua	Gold averaging 2½d. per cubic yard.
Ditto	"	6	289	6	"	"	..	..	Rimu Gold-dredging Company (Limited), Tucker Flat, Kanieri	Gold averaging 11d. per cubic yard.