

At the Blackwater Mine 38,140 tons of quartz were crushed for a return of 18,550 oz., valued at £79,310, compared with 39,730 tons yielding 19,296 oz., valued at £75,438 during the previous year. A considerable amount of driving and development work was done, and the extent of reef and values disclosed were very satisfactory. A plant is being erected to treat concentrates, which in former years were sent to Australia for treatment.

At the New Big River Mine the tonnage crushed was about the same as during the previous year, but the gold won showed an increase in amount of 1,010 oz., and in value of £4,430. Comparatively little development work was done, and no payable ore was disclosed in No. 12 level, but in two rises put up from this level good stone was got.

(2.) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1924. (NOTE.—The profits made by privately owned dredges are not obtainable for publication.)

Name of Dredge.	Locality.	Capacity of Dredge-buckets, in Cubic Feet.	Number of Buckets discharged per Minute.	Nominal Horse-power of Engines.	S = Steam. E = Electrical.	Average Depth of ground dredged.	Value of Bullion obtained during 1924.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1924.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Rise and Shine No. 1 ..	Clutha River ..	5½	10	20	S	Ft 40	£ 146	£ ..	£ 53,700
Nevis Crossing ..	Nevis River ..	3¾	10	12	S	10	1,455	..	..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 3	Waikaka Valley ..	6½	9	20	S	35	4,956	..	..
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Rimu ..	Rimu ..	10	19	525	E	55	47,256	6,566	9,849
Awatuna ..	Awatuna Beach ..	8	15	20	S	25	4,727	..	..
Totals, 1924 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58,540	6,566	Unknown.
Totals, 1923 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68,003	3,283	Unknown.

The Rimu Flat dredge has worked continuously throughout the year, and the operations of the company have been very successful. The gold won by this dredge, 10,606 oz., is 79½ per cent. of the gold got by dredging throughout the Dominion for the year. Besides operating the dredge the Rimu Gold-dredging Company has prospected other areas in Westland in order to locate another dredging-area which along with another dredge on Rimu Flat might be worked from a larger generating plant than that at Lake Kanieri.

(3.) ALLUVIAL MINING.

The following is a statement showing the value of production and dividends declared from alluvial gold-mines during 1924 :—

Name of Company.	Estimated Value of Gold produced.	Dividends declared.	
		During 1924.	Total to End of 1924.
Vinegar Hill Sluicing Company ..	£ 1,162	£ ..	£ 1,050
Scandinavian Water-race Company ..	2,430	..	..
Gabriel's Gully Sluicing Company ..	3,783	2,000	17,615
Lawrence Sluicing Company ..	710	1,000	2,000
W. R. Smyth ..	1,060	..	..
Golden Crescent Sluicing Company ..	1,028	..	12,862
Sailor's Gully Sluicing Company ..	2,933	1,680	7,520
R. J. Cotton ..	1,230	..	..
Graham and Party ..	2,848	1,500	2,900
Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company ..	5,160	..	54,684
D. McLister ..	1,214	..	..
Round Hill Gold-mining Company ..	3,906	..	..
Hohou Gold Sluicing Company ..	1,348	..	..
Stubbs and Steel ..	1,236	..	..
Havill Bros. ..	1,422	..	..
All other claims ..	26,393	..	..
Totals ..	57,863	6,180	Unknown.