(1) Quartz-mining.

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only).	
	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.	1927.	1926.
			£	£	£	£
Northern	208,372	190,638	366,021	349,196	49,591	49,591
West Coast	46,168	47,395	83,243	93,062	..	6,250
Southern	28	135	17	416	..	..
Totals	254,568	238,168	449,281	442,674	49,591	55,841

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1927 amounted to £1 15s. 3d., as compared with £1 17s. 2d. during 1926.

From the Waihi Mine 179,643 long tons of quartz was obtained and crushed for a return of 420,571 oz. of bullion, valued at £320,993, a decrease compared with the previous year of 6,144 tons of quartz, 77,530 oz. of bullion, and in value of £16,003. A very large amount of development work was done, but without disclosing any important body of ore; the total footage for the year amounted to 9,315 ft., and in addition a total of 3,402 ft. was bored by diamond drill. The results obtained at the bottom level, No. 15, are particularly disappointing, and further development work at this level has been stopped.

Work in the Waihi Grand Junction area has been carried out by the Waihi Gold-mining Co. in pursuance of an agreement made between the two companies in 1926. During the past year 28,334 long tons were mined for a return of 38,098 oz. of bullion, valued at £43,425. The total footage for the year in the Grand Junction area was 2,012 ft.

At Muir's Gold-reef Mine during the year a new electric shaft-pump was installed capable of lifting 1,200 gallons per minute from a depth of 500 ft. The pump started operating in November, and, after some preliminary troubles were overcome, the mine was unwatered early in the present year.

The Blackwater Mine produced and crushed 41,362 tons of quartz for a return of 17,557 oz. of gold, valued at £68,645, compared with 40,044 tons of quartz and 18,032 oz. of bullion, valued at £70,232, for the previous year. The company owning this mine acquired during the year the property previously owned by the North Blackwater Mines, Ltd. Most of the development work has been with a view to extending the levels in the Blackwater Mine into the North Blackwater area. The total footage for the year amounted to 1,757 ft.

The New Big River Mine ceased to produce at the middle of the year. For the period under review 1,024 tons of quartz were crushed and yielded 1,039 oz. of bullion, valued at £3,253.

(2) Dredge Mining.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1927. (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 1927.	Dividends declared. During 1927.	Dividends declared. Total.
Otago and Southland.						Ft.	£	£	£
Molyneux Electric ..	Molyneux River ..	5	11	115	E	40	1,152	..	..
Nevis Crossing	Nevis River ..	3½	10	12	S	10	1,413	200	200
West Coast.									
Rimu	Rimu Flat ..	10	19	325	E	55	53,128	6,566	19,698
New River	Dunganville ..	7	18	155	E	35	5,038	..	..
Totals, 1927 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,731	6,766	Unknown.
Totals, 1926 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52,969	..	Unknown.

The Rimu Flat dredge turned over 1,761,461 cubic yards for a return of 13,070 oz. of gold, valued at £53,128, an increase in quantity of 1,270 oz. and £5,228 in value, compared with the preceding year. The company owning this dredge has continued to prospect for and drill other likely dredging-areas in the district and elsewhere.

The New River dredge turned over 180,000 cubic yards of gravel for a return of 1,305 oz. of gold, valued at £5,038. A very considerable amount of dredging-time was lost through breakdowns of the dredge. Alterations to the dredge are contemplated, the principal being the provision of a stronger ladder and a new bucket-line.