

IV. GOLD-MINING.

The following statement shows the value of the bullion-production, also the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and the number of gold-mines and dredges:—

	Production of Bullion, 1928.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1928. (By Registered Companies only.)†	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines.	Number of Productive Quartz- mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1928.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining ..	506,473	446,014	99,181	961	22
Dredge mining ..	15,848	64,711	3,283	90	5
Alluvial mining‡ ..	10,593	40,517	1,660	407	333
Totals, 1928 ..	532,914	551,242	104,124	1,458	360
Totals, 1927 ..	506,420	550,166	58,512	1,661	372

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The profits of privately-owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 333 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only obtainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

The total value of the gold produced in 1928 was greater by £1,076 than that produced in 1927. The return from quartz-mining decreased by £3,267, while the returns from alluvial mining and gold-dredging increased by £363 and £3,980 respectively.

(1) QUARTZ-MINING.

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only).	
	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.
			£	£	£	£
Northern ..	205,271	208,372	366,937	366,021	99,181	49,591
West Coast ..	46,717	46,168	79,044	83,243	..	..
Southern ..	120	28	33	17	..	..
Totals ..	252,108	254,568	446,014	449,281	99,181	49,591

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1928 amounted to £1 15s. 5d., as compared with £1 15s. 3d. during 1927.

From the Waihi Mine 181,479 tons of ore were extracted and treated, an increase of 1,836 tons over the quantity of the previous year. The bullion won consisted of 67,322 oz. of gold, valued at £282,752, and 350,669 oz. of silver, valued at £35,067, the total value being £317,819, which is less by £3,174 than the value of bullion won from this mine in the previous year. A considerable amount of development work and diamond drilling was done during the year, but no large body of payable ore was found.

The Waihi Gold-mining Co. has also carried on work in the Waihi Grand Junction property. 22,762 tons of ore were mined, and yielded 67,929 oz. of bullion, valued at £45,762.

Muir's Gold-reefs Mine was unwatered early in the year, and a small amount of crosscutting and driving was done with a view to locating the Muir's reef at the 500 ft. level. The reef was got, but the values were quite unpayable. Two bore-holes were then put down from the surface, but these also failed to strike payable reef, and all work on this property was stopped in May.

The Blackwater Mine produced and milled 39,907 tons of ore for a return of 16,609 oz. of gold, valued at £70,525, being a decrease of 1,455 tons of ore, a decrease of 948 oz. in the amount of gold won but an increase in value of £1,880 over the figures for the previous year.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1928. (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. H = Hydraulic.	Average Depth of Ground dredged.	Value of Bullion obtained during 1928.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1928.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Upper Nevis	Nevis River ..	7	10	205	E	Ft. 50	£ 4,984	£ ..	£ ..
Nevis Crossing	" ..	3½	10	12	S	10	1,028	..	..
Undaunted	Little Kyeburn ..	4½	10	60	H	20	87	..	..
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Rimu	Rimu Flat ..	10	19	325	E	55	57,725	3,283	22,981
New River	Dunganville ..	7	18	155	E	35	887	..	..
Totals, 1928	..	..	..	..	..	..	64,711	3,283	Unknown.
Totals, 1927	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,731	6,766	Unknown.