

The total value of the bullion produced in 1930 was greater by £23,638 than that produced in 1929. Bullion from quartz-mining increased by £35,554, while the returns from alluvial mining and dredge mining decreased by £2,755 and £9,161 respectively.

(1) QUARTZ-MINING.

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only).	
	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.
Northern	201,770	194,401	£ 386,611	£ 356,359	£ 100,908	£ 100,906
West Coast	46,663	47,806	86,205	80,854	..	..
Southern	12	135	25	74	..	..
Totals	248,445	242,342	472,841	437,287	100,908	100,906

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1930 amounted to £1 18s. 1d., as compared with £1 16s. 1d. during 1929.

At the Waihi Mine 180,749 long tons of ore were mined during the year without encroaching but slightly on the ore reserves. The amount of gold recovered was 69,825 oz., valued at £293,263, and of silver 363,403 oz., valued at £36,340, a total of £329,603, which is £8,571 over that of the previous year. The company during the year paid out £99,181 in dividends, making the total dividends paid to date £5,842,283.

The Waihi Grand Junction property, worked by the Waihi Gold-mining Co., produced 8,712 oz. of gold, valued at £36,591, and 117,161 oz. of silver, valued at £11,716, from 16,558 tons of ore.

At the Blackwater Mine 41,112 tons of ore were mined, an increase of 3,368 tons over the previous year, and the gold produced was 17,781 oz., valued at £70,094, compared with 16,201 oz., valued at £64,394, during 1929.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1930. (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 1930.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1930.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Golden Terrace Extended..	Shotover River ..	8	18	305	E	Ft. 23	£ 1,714	£ ..	£ ..
Upper Nevis	Nevis River ..	7	10	205	E	20	1,149	..	..
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Rimu	Rimu Flat ..	10	19	450	E	40	40,207	..	24,622
Totals, 1930 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,070	..	Unknown
Totals, 1929 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52,231	1,641	Unknown

During the year the Rimu dredge worked for 89 per cent. of the possible dredging time, and turned over 2,055,096 cubic yards of gravel from an average depth of 40 ft. The gold recovered amounted to 9,840 oz., valued at £40,207, a decrease in value of £6,763 compared with the previous year. In 1930 the average value of the ground dredged was 4·67d. per cubic yard, in 1929 it was 5·46d., and in 1928 it was 7·37d.; the dredge is at present working in rather poor ground, but is heading towards an area proved by drilling to contain considerably higher values. The present pontoon is of timber, but in 1931 it will be replaced by a steel one, and when the change is being made the opportunity will be taken of renewing other parts of the dredge.

The Golden Terrace dredge on the Shotover River started towards the end of the year. It did not operate satisfactorily, and since then several alterations and adjustments have been made, and the operation is now better.