

At the Talisman Dubbo Mine, at Karangahake, driving has been done on the No. 2, the Dubbo, the intermediate above the mouth of No. 1, the No. 4, and the Hauraki (No. 7) levels, and stoping was done in the Dubbo and No. 2 levels as well as the crosscut above the No. 1 level. A new battery is being erected near Karangahake for this company. At the Talisman Dubbo Mine 2,239 tons of ore was mined. It was treated at the Golden Dawn battery and yielded 1,895 oz. of gold, valued at £16,669, and 8,753 oz. of silver, valued at £988.

From about 280 tons of ore from three small mines in the Karangahake district 184 oz. of gold, valued at £1,144, and 778 oz. of silver, worth £54, was recovered.

From two small mines at Tapu 410 oz. of gold was won, worth £2,366.

Sinking was continued in the main north shaft of the Blackwater Mine, and at the end of the year it had reached a depth of 2,478 ft. from the surface, or 128 ft. below the No. 13 level. In the No. 12 level and near the Blackwater shaft a 35-in.-diameter "Sirocco" fan has been installed and the mine ventilating system consequently reversed, so the north shaft, which formerly was the upcast, is now supplied with fresh air. Nearly all the development-work done during the year was in the No. 13 level. To the north it was extended 192 ft. and to the south 509 ft., and the greater portion of the 443 ft. of rising was from that level. A large flotation plant is now being erected near the North Blackwater shaft, and ball and tube mills will replace the forty-head stamp battery. For some years, however, a portion of that battery will be kept in commission. During 1937, 41,333 tons of ore from the Blackwater Mine was crushed, from which 18,304 oz. of gold, valued at £148,735, was recovered.

At the Alexander Mine the No. 6 crosscut was driven 1,046 ft., or approximately to within 600 ft. of where they expect to intersect the lode. From the north end of No. 5 level a winze was sunk 29 ft., and the year's stoping was on the ore-body between Nos. 4 and 5 levels. During 1937, 4,360 tons of ore was crushed and treated, yielding 3,205 oz. of gold, valued at £25,896.

In the No. 5 north level of the Big River Mine a block of ore about 60 ft. long has been reached, and in the south block a winze was sunk 20 ft. The main shaft is to be retimbered between the Nos. 5 and 6 levels, a depth of 150 ft., and when that work is completed the No. 6 level will then be developed. Stoping has been continued between Nos. 4 and 5 levels, most of the ore being obtained from blocks which had been proved by winzes sunk from No. 4 and connected to rises from No. 5 level. During the year 2,348 tons of ore was treated at the Big River battery for a yield of 2,189 oz. of gold, valued at £16,173.

The Labour and Mines Departments organized prospecting parties to investigate selected areas in South Westland and the Reefton district.

In South Westland one of the parties explored the country between the sea-coast and the high ranges south of the Paringa River down to the Moeraki River. Another party investigated the Waikakapa-Cook Rivers area and then the country to the north of the Haast River.

In the Reefton field nearly 1,000 ft. of driving has been done in the Oriental Nos. 1 and 2 drives and about 350 ft. in the General Gordon drive. The Perseverance crosscut has been extended 183 ft. and has intersected a lode which will be driven on to the north. Testing of bulk samples has also been done at a small experimental plant in Reefton.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity and production of bucket gold dredges and dividends declared by dredging companies during 1937. (NOTE.—The dividends declared 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.	D = Diesel, S = Steam, E = Electrical, H = Hydraulic.	Average Depth of Ground dredged	Quantity and Value of Bullion obtained during 1937.		Dividends declared.	
							oz.	£	During 1937.	Total to End of 1937.
<i>West Coast.</i>										
Mataki ..	Murchison ..	7	20	120	S	Ft. 11	1,307	9,628	..	7,030
Mataki Junction ..	..	6	21	370	DE	22	3,085	24,637	2,500	2,500
Worksop ..	Antonio's ..	4	12	140	D	14	1,457	11,699	3,200	16,000
Mossy Creek ..	Hukarere ..	4	26	225	E	12	1,466	12,007	2,500	13,750
Argo ..	Blackball ..	4½	18	210	E	26	3,178	23,920	10,000	21,200
Maori Gully ..	Maori Gully ..	4	20	225	E	25	1,797	13,305	..	6,000
New River ..	Dunganville ..	4	15	140	D	10	1,726	12,486	..	..
Nemona ..	Marsden ..	4½	28	255	E	25	2,691	20,225	7,500	10,500
Bundi ..	Camerons ..	10	18	500	S	20	857	6,001	..	..
White's Electric ..	Barrytown ..	4	10	226	E	29	804	5,833	..	..
Barrytown ..	..	12	21	879	E	29	2,985	21,969	..	..
Stafford ..	Stafford ..	8	12	320	E	33	2,185	16,660	..	3,750
Rimu ..	Rimu ..	12	23	922	E	51	13,419	116,745	20,834	119,550
Five-mile Beach ..	Okarito ..	5	10	..	H	21	1,239	9,098	2,333	33,833
Gillespie's Beach ..	Gillespie's Beach ..	5	13	225	E	27	2,464	20,759	5,833	18,083
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>										
Aitken's ..	Maitland ..	6	10	32	S	14	989	7,733	..	..
Nevis Crossing ..	Nevis ..	3½	10	12	S	10	183	1,331	..	..
Goldfield's ..	Big Beach ..	8	18	305	E	23	659	5,076	..	..
Rainbow ..	Waimumu ..	2½	12	38	D	7	101	986	..	173
Waipapa Beach ..	Otara ..	2½	14	70	D	18	689	5,125	833	1,667
Clutha River ..	Clutha River ..	12	12	570	E	65	*6,192	53,664	..	..
Molyneux ..	Molyneux River..	9	12	580	E	30	1,429	10,411	..	..
Totals, 1937 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,902	409,298	55,533	Unknown
Totals, 1936 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,269	295,078	62,335	Unknown

* Includes 205 oz. of silver valued at £20.