

Most of the ore mined in 1938 at the Alexander Mine was from stopes above the No. 5 level. Development was continued in No. 6 level crosscut and in an intermediate level 77 ft. below No. 5 level. Production from this intermediate level will soon commence. During 1938, 2,163 tons of ore was crushed and treated, yielding 1,665 oz. of gold, valued at £13,593.

At the Big River Mine the restoration of the main shaft was continued from No. 5 level to No. 6 level, and the chamber at No. 6 was restored also. A little driving was done at both the north and south ends of No. 5 level, and from the south end a winze was sunk 65 ft. The No. 6 level was extended to the south and a rise put up to connect with a winze below No. 5 level. Above No. 5 level stoping was continued from the central and north stopes, the former being exhausted by the end of the year. During 1938, 2,289 tons of ore was treated at the Big River battery and yielded 1,560 oz. of gold, valued at £13,020.

The prospecting parties organized by the Labour and Mines Departments which were engaged in investigating mining areas in South Westland completed their task early in 1938, but nothing of much value was located.

In the Reefton field the Oriental No. 1 level was extended another 12 ft., but, the lode proving unpayable, the drive was abandoned. The Oriental No. 2 level was extended 250 ft. on the wide reef and many samples were taken and assayed. The results proved unsatisfactory, and this drive was abandoned. The General Gordon level was driven 655 ft., crosscuts driven to east and west, and a winze sunk 64 ft. The results of many assays of this reef were disappointing, the ore going about 3 dwt. per ton, so work ceased there also. The crosscut from the Perseverance lower level to the Golden Treasure shaft was extended a further 957 ft., and at the end of 1938 was within 200 ft. of the shaft. From a spot 635 ft. in from the portal the lode channel was driven on for 245 ft.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity and production of bucket gold dredges and dividends declared by dredging companies during 1938. (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 1938.		Dividends declared.	
									During 1938.	Total to End of 1938.
<i>West Coast.</i>							Oz.	£	£	£
Mataki	Murchison ..	7	10	120	S	17	1,745	13,191	1,406	8,436
Mataki Junction ..	„ ..	6	21	370	D E	19	2,756	23,138	2,500	5,000
Workshop	Antonios ..	4	12	140	D	12	1,733	13,079	4,800	20,800
Mossy Creek ..	Hukarere ..	4	26	225	E	12	1,300	10,724	1,250	15,000
Grey River ..	Ikamatua ..	16	28	1,266	E	27	438	3,627	..	..
Argo	Blackball ..	4½	18	210	E	20	3,502	27,884	10,000	31,200
Blackball Creek ..	„ ..	5	20	383	E	33	1,427	12,484	..	..
Maori Gully ..	Maori Gully ..	4	20	225	E	20	1,330	9,888	..	6,000
New River ..	Dunganville ..	4	15	140	D	16	1,697	12,946	1,409	1,409
Nemona ..	Marsden ..	4½	23	255	E	20	2,379	20,767	9,000	21,000
Bundi ..	Camerons ..	10	18	500	S	24	957	7,309	..	..
White's Electric ..	Barrytown ..	4	10	226	E	16	1,540	11,634	..	..
Barrytown ..	„ ..	12	21	879	E	30	6,801	52,300	..	..
Stafford ..	Stafford ..	8	12	320	E	32	177	1,431	..	3,750
Rimu ..	Rimu ..	12	23	922	E	53	12,148	104,911	37,501	157,051
Kanieri ..	Kanieri ..	18	21	1,487	E	28	374	2,905	..	..
Five Mile Beach ..	Okarito ..	5	10	..	H	20	1,280	9,632	4,667	38,500
Gillespies Beach ..	Gillespies Beach ..	5	13	225	E	28	1,951	16,023	2,917	21,000
<i>Otago and Southland</i>										
Molyneux	Molyneux River ..	9	12	580	E	30	1,097	8,087	..	..
Nevis Crossing ..	Nevis ..	3½	10	12	S	10	247	1,833	..	..
Rainbow ..	Maitland ..	2½	12	38	D	7	131	1,070	..	173
Aitkens ..	„ ..	6	10	32	S	14	994	7,651	..	..
Goldfields ..	Big Beach ..	8	18	305	E	23	494	3,325	..	..
Clutha River ..	Clutha River ..	12	12	570	E	65	7,626	66,293	23,438	23,438
Totals, 1938 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*54,124	442,132	98,888	Unknown.
Totals, 1937 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,902	409,298	55,533	Unknown.

* Includes 802 oz. of silver, valued at £76.

The fifteen dredges which were working in the West Coast district in 1937 were augmented by three others in 1938, one at Ikamatua, one at Kanieri, and the third at Blackball Creek. The one at Ikamatua, called the "Grey River dredge," and the one at Kanieri have all-steel pontoons, the hull of the Grey River dredge weighing 550 tons and that of the Kanieri dredge 650 tons.

The Blackball Creek dredge, like the other two new dredges, is electrically driven, but is of a much smaller type, being fitted with 5-cubic-feet buckets, compared with the other's 16-cubic-feet and 18-cubic-feet buckets.