

REPORT ON THE

	1861-2.		1862-3.	
	ozs. dwts.	ozs. dwts.	ozs. dwts.	ozs. dwts.
SPRING—				
August	5,056	0	14,986	0
September	19,039	15	12,618	6
October	46,613	5	38,777	14
		70,709 0		66,382 0
SUMMER—				
November	73,904	0	37,664	18
December	58,870	0	37,260	1
January	47,391	0	48,567	5
		180,165 0		123,492 4
AUTUMN—				
February	42,473	0	72,311	14
March	32,202	5	46,691	12
April	22,862	10	70,010	12
		97,537 15		189,013 18
WINTER—				
May	22,945	10	47,631	5
June	12,876	10	43,613	8
July	10,375	18	30,398	9
		46,197 18		121,643 2
Total		394,609 13		500,531 4

Permanent produc-
tiveness.

48. It is noticeable that, whereas in the winter of 1862 the returns fell to a minimum, which excited general and serious apprehensions as to the permanent productiveness of the Gold Fields, the yield in the corresponding season of 1863 was nearly as large as in the summer; whilst in the autumn months of that year the Escort attained to an amount greater than that of any previous quarter.

Escort does not show
total produce.

49. But the Record Returns by no means represent the total produce of the Gold Mines of Otago. The quantity exported to 31st July, 1862, amounted to 458,448 ozs. 18 dwts., and there remained in the hands of the Treasurer at that date, 4,787 ozs. 6 dwts., in all 463,236 ozs. 4 dwts. In the year ending 31st July, 1863, 514,385 ozs. 17 dwts. were exported from the port of Dunedin; and 9,240 ozs., the produce of Otago, from other ports in New Zealand. To these amounts must be added 23,657 ozs. 3 dwts., which at the above date was lodged in the Dunedin Treasury, in excess of the balance on hand on 31st July, 1862. The ascertained total produce of the last year is, therefore, 547,283 ounces. By adding this amount to the produce of 1861-2, we arrive at a grand total for the two years of 1,010,519 ounces. Calculating 24,000 ounces as a ton of gold, this gives 42 tons 210 lbs. troy of the estimated value of four millions forty-two thousand and eighty pounds sterling.

Additional quantity
in the hands of the
Banks and Private
individuals.

50. Even this does not fully represent the produce of the Otago mines. By the courtesy of the managers of the various Banks in Dunedin, I have been enabled to ascertain that on the 31st July, 1863, 10,000 ounces were held by those establishments, besides a considerable quantity in the hands of country branches and gold buyers. The miners themselves are known to retain a large amount of gold in their possession; and on the whole, I feel assured that I am rather under than over the mark in assuming that 30,000 ounces have been obtained in addition to the quantity officially reported.

Relative yield and
population.

51. When it is borne in mind that the whole of this treasure has been raised in the space of twenty-four months, by a mining population whose average number for the entire period is computed at about 12,000 souls, it is impossible to avoid recognizing the fact as one of the most splendid results ever attained in any gold producing country of ancient or modern times.

Otago Gold Fields
little noticed by Bri-
tish public and press.

52. It is a subject of general remark, that little, if any, notice is taken of the Otago Gold Fields, by the British public and Press. This is to be accounted for by the fact that to the great bulk of the inhabitants of the mother country the Province of Otago is almost unknown, and New Zealand itself is merely regarded as one of the Australian Colonies. This error is not confined to the illiterate, but is shared in, to a surprising degree, by the educated classes, including many prominent writers, and guides of popular opinion, who appear to be only slightly acquainted with the geography and progress of these settlements. This darkness time alone can dispel. Meantime the practice of exporting a very large proportion of the precious metal *via* Melbourne, is admirably calculated to foster delusion. From returns furnished by the Collector of Customs, I find that during the two years ending 31st July, 1863, only 215,583 ounces were forwarded direct to Great Britain, whilst 747,535 ounces, or four fifths of the total amount exported, were sent to Victoria and other Australian colonies.

Consequence of Otago
gold being sent home
by indirect routes.

53. The consequence is that the latter reaching Britain by indirect route, is regarded as Australian produce, and the Otago Gold Fields are not deemed of sufficient importance to warrant a special reference thereto even in official documents.