

Gold	...	...	...	...	...	£	43,488,735
Silver,	to 31st December last	...	...	...	...		121,268
Copper	"	...	...	...	...		17,787
Chrome-ore	"	...	...	...	...		37,367
Antimony-ore	"	...	...	...	...		9,515
Manganese-ore	"	...	...	...	...		44,419
Hæmatite-ore	"	...	...	...	...		220
Mixed minerals	"	...	...	...	...		51,680
							<hr/>
							43,770,991
Coal exported	"	...	...	...	£154,814		
Coke exported	"	...	...	...	5,588		
							<hr/>
							160,402
Kauri-gum	"	...	...	...	...		3,943,152
New Zealand coal consumed within the colony		...	...	...	...		1,875,963
							<hr/>
							£49,750,508

The value of last year's productions, as shown by the same tables, is as follows :—

Gold	...	...	...	...	...	£	922,600
Silver	...	...	...	...	...		2,946
Copper-ore	...	...	...	...	...		390
Antimony-ore	...	...	...	...	...		1,784
Manganese-ore	...	...	...	...	...		1,316
Mixed minerals	...	...	...	...	...		1,846
							<hr/>
							930,882
Coal exported	...	...	...	...	£52,133		
Coke exported	...	...	...	...	715		
							<hr/>
							52,848
Kauri-gum	...	...	...	...	...		257,653
New Zealand coal consumed within the colony		...	...	...	...		244,108
							<hr/>
							£1,485,491

These figures and facts, I trust, will serve to show that our mining industry is not a languishing one, nor has it suffered injuriously, compared with every other industry in the colony, during the many years of depression that have clouded all enterprise in this and other parts of the world. I think I may take upon myself to say that the present outlook of our mines has justified to a great extent the expenditure on works already constructed, besides such other works as may in the future become necessary to be undertaken for their further development.

I have been unable to ascertain the total amount of capital invested in New Zealand mining ventures, for the reason that no returns are to hand showing the outlay by companies not engaged in mining for gold and silver. The returns relating to the latter class of work have been furnished by the Wardens of the several districts up to the 31st March last, and point to the fact that at that date the aggregate nominal capital of four hundred and forty-one companies engaged in gold- and silver-mining in the colony amounted to £6,830,348, of which £1,458,815 are paid up. Thirty-five companies are registered under the Limited Liability Act, and amended Acts, 1865, and their total nominal capital is £612,150, of which £219,717 are paid up. Two companies are registered under the Joint-stock Companies Act, with a total nominal capital of £28,480, of which £21,980 are paid up. Four hundred and four companies are registered under the Mining Companies Act, having a total nominal capital of £6,189,718, of which £1,217,118 are paid up. These companies are severally engaged in quartz or alluvial mining, and the number, I feel no doubt, will be greatly increased, together with the capital, at an early period, as the great mineral resources of the colony become more fully developed, and mining is carried on under more systematic and scientific plans, and to which before concluding I will take this occasion to again refer.