

1888.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE MINING INDUSTRY
(GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The SECRETARY of MINES to the Hon. the MINISTER of MINES.
Mines Department, Wellington, 10th July, 1888.
SIR,— I have the honour to forward the general annual report on the mining industry of New Zealand for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1888, together with the reports of the Inspecting Engineer, Inspectors of Mines, Wardens, and Water-race Managers for the same period, which enter into the details of the mines and works in connection therewith for the several districts.
I have, &c.,
JAMES MCKERROW,
Secretary of Mines.
The Hon. G. F. Richardson, Minister of Mines.

MINES REPORT.

ALTHOUGH New Zealand contains ores of nearly all the principal metals, yet mining operations on an extensive scale have been confined to gold and coal.

The surface-deposits in both cases naturally received attention in the first instance; but that stage has long been passed and attention given to winning the deeper-seated deposits and to the parent-rock of the gold and other metals found in association with it. Nature guards her treasures so well that mining enterprise is always confronted with some problem requiring the exercise of the highest skill and science for its solution. In the North Island the problem at present is how best to separate the gold, silver, and other metals found in combination in certain lodes in the Thames District. In the Middle Island the difficulty is in treating stone containing arsenic, antimony, and sulphur, associated with gold. In the alluvial workings the problem is how best to work the river-beds and sea-beaches by dredges. Several plans are about to be tried, and, as there are hundreds of miles of coast-line and river-beds in the Middle Island auriferous, much interest is centred on the numerous companies that have taken up frontages of beach to be worked on the dredging process, which may be termed wholesale relatively to the process of saving the gold at present adopted by the individual miner, by means of matting or blanketing and the copper plate on the washing-tables.

Before remarking on the various divisions of the mining industry it will be well to show the results for the year 1887, and their relation to those of the former year; also the total values of New Zealand mineral products from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1887.

Name of Metal or Mineral.	For Year ending 31st December, 1886.		For Year ending 31st December, 1887.		Total from 1st Jan., 1853, to 31st Dec., 1887.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Silver	227,079	903,569	203,869	811,100	11,220,598	44,042,576
	12,108	2,946	20,809	3,453	497,465	124,721
Total gold and silver ..	239,187	906,515	224,678	814,553	11,718,063	44,167,297
Mineral Produce, including Kauri-gum—	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copper-ore	20	390	..	..	1,392	17,787
Chrome-ore .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5,666	37,367
Antimony-ore	62	1,784	134	3,989	989	13,504
Manganese-ore	328½	1,316	305	895	12,656½	45,314
Hæmatite-ore .. .. .	..	..	..	..	51	220
Mixed minerals	445	1,846	144	4,142	13,686	55,822
Coal exported	46,136	52,133	43,719	44,143	194,184	198,957
Coke exported	497	715	183½	266	3,639	5,854
Coal consumed in colony	488,217	244,108	514,901	257,451	4,266,610	2,133,305
Kauri-gum	4,920½	257,653	6,791	362,449	111,191½	4,305,601
Total quantity and value of minerals ..	540,626½	559,945	566,177½	673,335	4,610,065	6,813,731
Value of gold and silver as above ..	..	906,515	..	814,553	..	44,167,297
Total value of minerals produced, including gold and silver .. .. .	..	1,466,460	..	1,487,888	..	50,981,028