

## SUBSIDIZED MINING AND SMALL-SCALE SLUICING OPERATIONS.

In June all subsidized mining operations ceased. This decision resulted in the abandonment of a considerable number of small claims, from Collingwood in the north to Bruce Bay in the South.

## MISCELLANEOUS MINERALS.

*Asbestos*.—The Hume Pipe Co. (Australia), Ltd., from a mineral license situated in Block I, Flora Survey District, Takaka, crushed 534 cubic yards of serpentine rock for a yield of 42 tons 13 cwt. of asbestos fibre. Of this quantity, 39 tons 9 cwt. were sold, and 1 ton 1 cwt. used for experimental purposes and samples. The total value of the product was £1,035.

*Mica*.—Further attention was paid to outcrops of mica on the Mataketake Range, South Westland, and the work of the prospectors disclosed some promising outcrops. A 2 cwt. sample of rough mineral was brought out, and after examination by experts the quality of part of the sample was considered to be suitable for factory use, consequently further investigation of the deposits will be undertaken.

*Petroleum*.—New Zealand Exploration, Ltd., completed 793 ft. of structural drilling by rotary rig carried out on license No. 27 in addition to extensive geological survey work on their area. For New Zealand Oil Concessions, Ltd., holding license No. 20 in Kumara district, the Superior Oil Co. carried out extensive structural drilling operations before deciding on the site of the hole. The bridging of Greenstone River, road construction to the site, and erection of plant were completed in time to allow of No. 1 hole being spudded in on 22nd September. The well was abandoned on 10th December, and preparations were made to drill No. 2 hole on a site chosen in the Marsden district.

*Tungsten*.—Operations were confined to prospecting at the Golden Bar Mine, Wakamarina. No treatment plant has yet been installed.

*Pottery Clay*.—K. A. Polglase, of Kaka, produced from underground workings 690 tons of clay, which realized £914 5s. The demand for this material is increasing, and manufacturers have placed orders that will enable the clay-pit proprietor to double his output.

E. Cobblestick, Tadmor Saddle, produced 50 tons of clay, valued at £37 10s. This material was used in the manufacture of fire-bricks.

*Iron-ore*.—In the Takaka district 408 tons were quarried and reduced by ball mill in readiness for use by gas companies, the value of the product being £714.

In addition to the foregoing, 24 tons of feldspar and 15 tons of tale were obtained by Lime and Marble Co. from the Takaka Valley for experimental purposes, and subsequent reports indicate that the material was found satisfactory after being reduced to the necessary fineness at the company's plant at Mapua, Motueka.

## GENERAL REMARKS: MINING AND PROSPECTING.

With the exception of the search for oil in this district, prospecting has diminished to a negligible quantity. Only seventy holes were bored in alluvial areas. The only prospecting of lodes was small-scale operations on the mica outcrop.

Gold returns from all branches of the industry have seriously diminished, dredges being affected to the greatest extent. The amount of gravel treated during the year was considerably less than when new buckets, pans, and other wearing parts were readily obtainable. The shortage of skilled and unskilled labour had a detrimental effect on the gold yield, and it can be reasonably claimed that the year under review has been one of the most difficult that all branches of the gold-mining industry have ever experienced in New Zealand.

## FATAL ACCIDENTS.

No fatal accidents occurred in the district during the year.

## SERIOUS NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

On 6th March, 1942, David White, miner, Blackwater Mine, while cleaning out a sump was hit by a sharp piece of mullock which fell off the wall and severed the first finger of the left hand between the first and second joint. Later the finger was amputated.

On 8th April, 1942, Luigi Iada, at Deep Creek, when engaged dismantling an old crushing battery broke his leg while using chain tongs to unscrew a pipe. The tongs slipped off the pipe and struck his leg.

On 3rd July, 1942, R. Smith, miner, Blackwater Mine, lost the little finger of the left hand, which was severed by an axe when he was engaged on timbering.

On 22nd July, 1942, J. H. Wearne, greaser, Barrytown Dredge, received concussion when a handle of a hand-winch struck his head during an attempt to operate a trap-door in the tailings chute.

## PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINING ACT.

Nil.

## SOUTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (T. McMILLAN, INSPECTOR OF MINES).

## QUARTZ AND ALLUVIAL MINING.

*Waitaki County.*

Sluicing operations have been carried out in the Livingston and Maerewhenua Minefield in the Waitaki County.

*Waihemo County.*

*Macrae's Flat Gold and Scheelite Mining Co., Ltd., Golden Point, Deep Dell Mine*.—Six men were employed on prospecting work in the 80 ft. section of the Home reef, but nothing of importance was located, and the company ceased to operate in September. A co-operative party then took over the mine and carried out some further work in the 20 ft. dip reef section, but results were poor, and operations underground ceased altogether at the end of October. Since then surface prospecting and driving in alluvial material has been carried out.

*Callery Party, Deep Dell, Macrae's*.—Driving, rising, and stoping operations have been carried out on both sides of Round Hill, and 138 tons of ore have been treated at the Deep Dell battery during the year.

The *Innes Freehold Mine* has also operated steadily, and sinking, driving, rising, and stoping operations have been carried out near the Golden Point Road gate.

*Macrae's Flat Gold-mining Co.*—The No. 2 plant has continued to operate steadily during the year, and the depth of the alluvials elevated by the electrically-operated gravel-pump was from 8 ft. to 20 ft. A total of 75,200 cubic yards of previously hand-worked alluvial gravels were elevated.

*Maniototo County.*

The alluvial mines at Naseby, Kyebrun, St. Bathans, Cambrians, Vinegar Hill, and Patearoa operated steadily whenever sluicing-water was available. Very little work was done at Earl's quartz-mine, Ophir.

*Tuapeka County.*

Mining operations were carried on steadily when sluicing-water was available in the Sailor's Gully tribute mine, also at Blue Spur, near the head of Gabriel's Gully, and at Tuapeka Mouth.

In the Southland and Wallace Counties the Nokomai, Waikata, Round Hill, and Orepuki alluvial mines have operated steadily.