

During the coming season, 1906–7, it is proposed to conduct detailed geological explorations in the Parapara Subdivision of Nelson District, in the Cromwell Subdivision of Central Otago, in the Miconui Subdivision of North Westland, and in the Coromandel Subdivision of the Hauraki Peninsula. The Parapara Subdivision contains large deposits of iron-ore and other mineral features of commercial importance; the Cromwell Subdivision contains extensive alluvial gold deposits and quartz reefs; the Coromandel Subdivision exhibits many auriferous reefs; while the Miconui Subdivision contains various features of economic interest. In addition to these detailed explorations, it is hoped to conduct a reconnaissance survey in South Westland, in order to ascertain the potentialities of that little-known area.

SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The expenditure in connection with schools of mines, including grant to the Otago University, shows an increase for the year of £502 over the previous twelve months.

The value of these institutions cannot be overestimated from a mining point of view. The course of instruction is gradually being extended, and now embraces the following:—

Mining engineering	Mathematics
Land and mine surveying	Mechanical drawing
Metallurgy of gold and silver	Practical astronomy
Practical and theoretical assaying	Petrology
and chemistry	Physics
General and mining geology	Mechanics and hydrostatics
Mineralogy and blowpipe determination	Electricity.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The annexed Table No. 1 shows the quantity and value of gold, silver, and other minerals (including kauri-gum) exported during the year ending the 31st December, 1905, and also the quantity of native coal consumed in the colony during the same period. The amount of gold entered for export was 520,485 oz., valued at £2,093,936, and of silver, 1,179,744 oz., valued at £120,542, making a total value of gold and silver amounting to £2,214,478, this being an increase of £114,102 as compared with the export returns for the previous year.

Other minerals, including coal, lignite, and kauri-gum, represent a value of £1,408,308, or an increase of £69,450 as compared with that of the previous year.

The quantities and values of the chief mineral products for the past two years are summarised for comparison as follow:—

Product.	Year ending 31st December, 1904.		Year ending 31st December, 1905.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Gold	520,323 oz.	1,987,501	520,485 oz.	2,093,936
Silver	1,094,461 "	112,875	1,179,744 "	120,542
Copper-ore ... ..	...	...	4 tons	17
Manganese-ore	196 tons	570	55 "	165
Mixed minerals	1,404 "	10,168	632 "	8,136
Colonial coal exported, including that used by Home steamers	165,220 "	139,898	122,817 "	107,062
Hæmatite... ..	7 "	96	...	...
Colonial coal consumed in New Zealand	1,372,618 "	686,309	1,462,939 "	731,469
Kauri-gum	9,203 "	501,817	10,883 "	561,444
Coke ... ..	...	...	15 "	15
Total value of production for 1905 ... ..		...	...	£3,622,786
" " 1904 ... ..		...	...	3,439,234
Total increase ... ..		...	...	£183,552

The total value of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals (including kauri-gum) produced up to the 31st December, 1905, was £92,875,260.