

## AURIFEROUS-QUARTZ MINING.

The value of bullion obtained from our quartz-mines during 1915 amounted to £1,030,524, as a result of treating 484,629 statute tons of ore, in addition to which scheelite concentrate, value £29,989, was also obtained from such ore.

The dividends distributed by gold-quartz mining companies amounted to £237,165.

The following is a statement of the quantity of quartz treated, the value of bullion obtained, and the amount of dividends paid by the more important quartz-mining companies during 1915 :—

Name of Company.	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Dividends paid.	
			1915.	Total to End of December. 1915.
	Statute Tons.	£	£	£
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited) .. ..	171,725	327,394	99,181	4,676,902
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Limited) .. ..	112,321	200,270	46,047	151,750
Talisman Consolidated (Limited) .. ..	26,230	188,620	64,688	1,030,222
Blackwater Mines (Limited) .. ..	54,643	109,285	24,999	137,495
Other quartz-mines .. ..	119,710	204,955	2,250	*
Totals .. ..	484,629	1,030,524	237,165	*

\* Unknown.

The average value per ton of ore treated amounted to £2 2s. 6d.

## ALLUVIAL AND DREDGE MINING.

The value of the production from alluvial claims amounted to £153,360, as compared with £157,323 during the previous year. This branch of the gold-mining industry remains stationary, but the return for last year would have been greater but for the prolonged periods of dry weather experienced in parts of Otago and Southland, where the principal claims are situated.

During the year a small rush took place to the valley of the Howard River, a tributary of the Buller River near Tophouse. About 150 miners were employed during November working in the beds of the streams, but the few returns available do not indicate any sensational finds but rather that it is a poor man's field.

A steady decline continues in the dredge-mining industry, and the number of gold-dredges in commission, of which during 1906 there were 167, at the beginning of 1916 were reduced to 52, the production from which amounted in value to £164,605 during the year, as against £191,112 during 1914.

The most productive dredge was the "Success," operating at Brennan's Creek, near Hokitika, which obtained gold to the value of £7,126, and distributed in dividends £2,000.

## COAL-MINING.

The output of coal during 1915 amounted to 2,208,624 tons, as compared with 2,275,593 tons during 1914, being a decrease of 66,969 tons.

The principal activity in the coal-mining industry occurred in the Westport, Greymouth, and Huntly districts.

The following is a comparative statement of the coal and lignite raised during the years 1912, 1914, and 1915 :—

Inspection District.	Output for 1914.	Output for 1915.	Increase or Decrease, 1915.	Output for 1913.	Increase, between Years 1914 and 1913.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Northern (North Island) ..	440,453	460,415	Inc. 19,962	349,586	90,867
West Coast (South Island) ..	1,351,182	1,278,994	Dec. 72,188	1,057,564	293,618
Southern (Canterbury, Otago, and Southland) ..	483,958	469,215	„ 14,743	480,855	3,103
Totals .. ..	2,275,593	2,208,624	Dec. 66,969	1,888,005	387,588