

AURIFEROUS-QUARTZ MINING.

The value of bullion obtained from our quartz-mines during 1916 amounted to £944,188, as a result of treating 442,362 statute tons of quartz.

The dividends distributed by gold-quartz mining companies amounted to £185,065.

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 1916 :—

Name of Company.	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Dividends paid.	
			1916.	Total to End of December, 1916.
	Statute Tons.	£	£	£.
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited)	173,420	363,612	99,181	4,776,083
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Limited)	112,203	211,108	38,438	190,188
Talisman Consolidated (Limited)	16,935	81,454	17,250	1,047,472
Blackwater Mines (Limited)	40,247	78,590	24,999	162,445
Other quartz-mines	99,557	209,424	5,197	*
Totals	442,362	944,188	185,065	*

* Unknown.

The average value per ton of ore treated amounted to £2 2s. 8d.

ALLUVIAL AND DREDGE MINING.

The value of the production from alluvial claims amounted to £123,492, as compared with £153,360 during the previous year, a decline of £29,868, which was chiefly confined to West Coast claims. During 1916 there was a revival of interest in West Coast alluvial mining, the result of payable prospects being obtained by Government Keystone drills operated at Rimu Flat, near Hokitika, by an Australian company. A number of dredging and sluicing claims have been taken up by strong companies, and a dredge and a sluicing plant have been installed thereon. The gold-production from alluvial claims for the current year may therefore show an improvement over that of 1916.

The Howard goldfield, which was discovered early in 1915, and is situated on a tributary of the upper Buller River, has not proved extensive or rich, and the number of miners thereon has declined during the past year.

The gold-dredging industry continues to decline, the number of bucket-dredges in commission having decreased from fifty-two during 1915 to forty-five during 1916, and the gold-production from £164,605 to £125,317.

COAL-MINING.

The output of coal during 1916 amounted to 2,257,135 tons, as compared with 2,208,624 tons during 1915, being an increase of 48,511 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 1914, 1915, and 1916 :—

Inspection District.	Output for 1915.	Output for 1916.	Increase 1916.	Output for 1914.	Increase or Decrease, between Years 1915 and 1914.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Northern (North Island) ..	460,415	486,114	25,699	440,453	Inc. 19,962
West Coast (South Island) ..	1,278,994	1,295,635	16,641	1,351,182	Dec. 72,188
Southern (Canterbury, Otago, and Southland)	469,215	475,386	6,171	483,958	.. 14,743
Totals	2,208,624	2,257,135	48,511	2,275,593	Dec. 66,969