

IV. GOLD-MINES.

The following statement shows the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and number of gold-mines and dredges :—

	Dividends paid, 1917. (By Registered Com- panies only.)	Number of Persons ordinarily em- ployed.	Number of Working Quartz and Alluvial Mines and Dredges.
	£		
Quartz-mining	203,069	2,030	82
Dredge mining	4,800	260	35
Alluvial mining	5,710	618	198
Totals, 1917	213,579	2,908	315
Totals, 1916	208,089	3,614	368

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated, and the amount of dividends paid by quartz-mining companies in each of the inspection districts during the years 1916 and 1917 :—

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Dividends paid. (By R-gis- tered Companies only.)	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
			£	£
Northern	298,396	318,456	195,619	158,566
West Coast	105,539	121,066	7,450	26,499
Southern	5,381	2,840
Totals	409,316	442,362	203,069	185,065

The following is a statement of the quartz treated, dividends declared, and the number of persons employed by the principal gold-quartz mining companies during 1917 :—

Name of Company.	Quantity of Quartz treated during 1917.	Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
		1917.	Total to End of De- cember, 1917.	
	Statute Tons.	£	£	
Northern District—				
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited)	171,198	99,181	5,139,695	601
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Limited) ..	103,687	38,438	228,626	353
Talisman Consolidated (Limited)	16,007	51,750	1,099,222	150
Waihi-Paeroa Gold-extraction Company*	6,250	18,750	62
West Coast District—				
Wealth of Nations	17,133	79
Blackwater Mines (Limited)	34,417	..	162,494	120
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Limited)	5,201	7,200	98,400	43
Progress Mines of New Zealand	19,840	..	326,562	95
Murray Creek Gold-mining Company	9,728	..	21,727	75
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	32,105	250	..	452
Totals, 1917	409,316	203,069	..	2,030

* 147,700 tons of re-treated tailings not included in total, having been included when the ore was previously crushed and treated at the mines.

During the year the most interesting developments in connection with the quartz-mining industry were carried out by the North Blackwater Development Syndicate under the direction of Mr. David Ziman, and at Te Puke by Muir's Gold-reefs (Limited), a new company.

At North Blackwater, in the winding-shaft at a depth of 1,350 ft., a crosscut was projected to the main lode operated successfully by the adjoining Blackwater Mines (Limited), which up to the end of 1917 had obtained, from 358,678 statute tons of ore treated, bullion to the value of £732,600, and had distributed in dividends £162,494.