

(2.) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING-DRILLS.
The following is a statement showing the result of operations by Government prospecting-drills hired by various parties during 1917:—

Type of Drill hired.	Name of Drill Superintendent	Number of Holes drilled.	By whom hired.	Mineral sought for.	Total Depth drilled.	Character of Country pierced.	Average Cost per Foot drilled, including Transport.	Remarks and Results.
Diamond drill (oil-driven)	W. H. Warburton	1	Point Elizabeth State Colliery	Coal	625	Conglomerate, sandstones, clays, and shaly mudstone	s. 5 1	No coal found.
Ditto	"	1	Waikaia Oil-shale Development Company	Oil-shale	85	Gravels, carbonaceous sand, and clay beds	7 4	2 ft. 3 in. oil-shale at 46 ft. 9 in.; 4 ft. oil-shale at 52 ft. 3 in.
"	"	1	Ditto	"	135	Ditto	9 7	No oil-shale found.
"	"	1	"	"	146	"	9 3	"
"	"	1	"	"	121	"	3 8	"
"	"	1	"	"	89	"	4 0	"
Keystone placer drills	G. E. D. Scale	26	Hokitika Syndicate (Limited)	Alluvial gold	1,144	Tight river-bed gravel	10 0	9 in. oil-shale at 70 ft.; 6 ft. oil-shale at 78 ft.
(3) Ditto	"	70	Westland Gold-prospecting Company (Limited)	"	1,840	Fairly tight river-bed gravel	3 4 (approx.)	Fairly satisfactory.