

The following is a statement of the quantity of quartz treated, dividends declared, and the number of persons employed by the principal gold-quartz mining companies during 1917 and 1918 :—

Name of Company.	Quantity of Quartz treated, 1918.	Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed during 1918.	Quantity of Quartz treated, 1917.
		1918.	Total to End of December, 1918.		
Northern District—	Statute Tons.	£	£		Statute Tons.
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited)*	168,748	99,181	5,238,876	553	171,198
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Limited)	71,616	38,438	267,064	325	103,687
Talisman Consolidated (Limited)	13,865	34,500	1,133,722	131	16,007
Waihi-Paeroa Gold-extraction Company .. .. .	..	6,250	25,000	60	..
West Coast District—					
Wealth of Nations	3,720	..	..	24	17,133
Blackwater Mines (Limited)	31,728	12,500	174,994	108	34,417
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Limited)	4,163	2,400	100,800	36	5,201
Progress Mines of New Zealand (Limited)	16,320	..	326,562	75	19,840
Murray Creek Gold-mining Company	9,749	..	21,727	51	9,728
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	27,379	250	..	..	32,105
Totals	347,288	193,519	7,288,745	1,751	409,316

The following is a brief summary of the operations at the principal mines during the year ; more detailed references are contained in the Reports of the Inspectors of Mines appearing in Annexure A accompanying this report :—

Northern Inspection District.

Waihi Gold-mining Company.—At the lowest or No. 12 (1,448 ft.) level no development was carried out, this level being under water. At No. 11 (1,301 ft.) level quartz of low value was proved in the Empire and Royal lodes. At No. 10 (1,151 ft.) level the Empire lode was proved to contain payable values. A small decrease occurred during the year in the production of ore and bullion, but the average value per ton was maintained.

Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company.—Development was confined to No. 8 (1,320 ft.) level owing to suspension of pumping from the lowest level of the adjoining Waihi Mine. At No. 8 level the Empire and Royal lodes where exposed contained low values. There was a decline in the production of ore and of bullion, also in the value per ton treated.

Talisman Consolidated.—Operations at the lowest or No. 16 level ceased during the year and pumps were withdrawn. The ore treated was obtained principally from stopes in the Bonanza section immediately below No. 13 level ; little of this rich ore now remains to be stoped. Prospecting by means of a Government diamond drill is now being carried out to prove the Woodstock lode under the crosscut driven 70 ft. below No. 13 level ; also the Bonanza lode from holes to be drilled at the bottom of winzes Nos. 6 and 12 respectively, being approximately from the horizon of No. 15 level. The annual production has slightly declined, but the value per ton increased from £8 12s. 5d. to £9 0s. 5d.

Waihi-Paeroa Gold-extraction Company.—This company, which since March, 1912, has recovered and re-treated tailings from various mines deposited in the Ohinemuri River, a proclaimed sludge-channel, during the year went into liquidation and offered its extensive treatment plant for sale. Since the commencement of operations 907,138 statute tons of tailings were treated for a return of £276,211, being an average value of 6s. 1d. per ton. The total expenditure by the company was about £320,000. Dividends amounting to £25,000 were declared. The reason for the failure of this undertaking is obvious, values obtained being too low to cover costs.

Muir's Gold Reefs.—This recently formed company, the mine of which is situated on freehold land near Te Puke, having developed from adits a moderate reserve of ore, has installed a ten-stamp mill and small cyanide plant, which will be in operation at an early date. This company received a Government subsidy during the year for driving a level on its proved lode.

West Coast Inspection District.

Boatman's Consolidated Mine.—The old Fiery Cross shaft having been retimbered and continued to a depth of 1,025 ft., a crosscut was projected eastward to intersect the supposed course of the Fiery Cross lode, profitably worked in the upper levels many years ago before the shoot of ore disappeared. The results so far attained have been negative, only a series of parallel fissures or faults having been encountered in the vicinity of the supposed lode course. The operations of this company were subsidized by the Government to the extent of £10,000.

Blackwater Mines.—Development at No. 7 (1,065 ft.) level at a distance of about 750 ft. southward from the shaft proved the lode to be faulted and horizontally displaced about 95 ft. The lode