

V. MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

TUNGSTEN-ORE.

There has been a considerable collapse in the tungsten-ore (scheelite) mining industry owing to the great decline in price, there being little or no demand for tungsten-ore at the Home market owing to accumulated stocks, due to greatly increased production during the war. For several years prior to the war the price of concentrates per unit (on a 65-per-cent. WO_3 basis per ton) did not exceed £1 10s., but during the war the Empire's production was commandeered for Imperial requirements, the price being eventually increased to £3 8s. per unit. After the armistice, upon the commandeer being removed, the price declined until at the time of writing it is nominally 14s. per unit.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of ore exported:—

Year.			Quantity.	Value.	Year.			Quantity.	Value.
			Tons.	£				Tons.	£
1899	..	..	32	2,788	1911	..	..	138	11,853
1900	..	..	54	2,635	1912	..	..	135	13,347
1901	..	..	2	83	1913	..	..	221	22,933
1902	..	..	39	1,200	1914	..	..	204	21,498
1903	..	..	42	1,439	1915	..	..	194	27,784
1904	..	..	17	791	1916	..	..	266	49,070
1905	..	..	28	1,848	1917	..	..	161	28,972
1906	..	..	55	3,407	1918	..	..	169½	37,922
1907	..	..	137	15,486	1919	..	..	131	29,489
1908	..	..	68	6,055	1920	..	..	10½	1,378
1909	..	..	58	4,263	Totals			2,304½	299,311
1910	..	..	143	15,070					

The following is a table showing the quantity of quartz crushed and scheelite concentrates obtained during 1920:—

Name of Mine or Company.			Locality.	Quartz crushed.	Scheelite Concentrates obtained.	Value.
				Tons.	T. cwt. qr. lb.	£ s. d.
Callery and Bickerton	..	..	Macrae's, Waihemo County	35	6 17 0 0	Still held.
A. C. Buckland	..	..	The Reefs, Taieri County	4	0 17 0 0	125 0 0
Sutherland and Hodd	..	..	Glenorchy, Lake County	15	2 10 0 0	130 0 0
Black and McPherson	..	..	" "	30	4 0 0 0	684 0 0
Glenorchy Scheelite Company	..	..	" "	150	4 6 0 0	Still held.
Dominion Consolidated Mining and Development Company	..	..	Wakamarina, Marlborough	1,649	12 2 0 0	" "
Totals			..	1,883	8 10 0 0	850 0 0

In addition to scheelite, gold was also obtained from the quartz crushed as follows: Callery and Bickerton, £41; Dominion Consolidated, £2,291 3s. 2d.

CINNABAR.

Three parties were employed at cinnabar-mining operations near Puhipuhi, North Auckland. One of these, the New Zealand Quicksilver-mines (Limited), produced 3,675 lb. of quicksilver, valued at £1,378. The other two parties are employed upon prospecting or development work, and have not yet attained the productive stage.

ASBESTOS.

Messrs. H. F. Chaffey and party from their mine in Takaka County produced 1½ tons of asbestos, valued at £105. The mine is not now worked, being, it is understood, under option for sale.

PETROLEUM.

No developments of commercial value occurred at any of five oil-boring operations in the Dominion.

The Blenheim bore at Moturoa attained a depth of 5,726 ft., being the deepest borehole in Australasia. The bottom of the hole was in claystone. Gas-emanation occurs.

During the year the Taranaki Oil-wells (Limited) went into liquidation.

The borehole of the Canterbury Petroleum Company at Chertsey reached a depth of 2,170 ft. Emanations of gas and traces of oil were given off below 1,368 ft.