

IV. GOLD-MINING.

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

	Production of Bullion, 1926.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1926. (By Registered Companies only.)†	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines.	Number of Productive Quartz- mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges. 1926.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining ..	530,087	442,674	55,840	1,139	21
Dredge mining ..	13,104	52,969	..	93	5
Alluvial mining‡ ..	11,338	43,659	3,725	472	288
Totals, 1926 ..	554,529	539,302	59,565	1,704	314
Totals, 1925 ..	625,626	546,026	67,623	1,666	275

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 288 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

The value of gold produced during 1926 was less by £6,724 than during 1925. Gold from quartz-mining decreased by £17,368, from alluvial mining the decreased value was £1,331, but the increased value of gold from dredging was £11,975.

(1) QUARTZ-MINING.

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only).	
	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.
			£	£	£	£
Northern ..	190,638	193,907	349,196	348,703	49,591	49,591
West Coast ..	47,395	53,254	93,062	111,210	6,250	12,799
Southern ..	135	40	416	129	..	..
Totals ..	238,168	247,201	442,674	460,042	55,841	62,390

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1926 amounted to £1 17s. 2d., as compared with £1 17s. 3d. during 1925.

At the Waihi Mine 185,787 tons of ore were crushed for a return of 498,101 oz. of bullion, a decrease of 6,550 tons of ore and a decrease of 67,996 oz. of bullion. The total development and deadwork footage for the year amounted to 15,939 ft., and in addition 1,770 ft. was bored by diamond drill. No large body of ore was disclosed, the result of the development work in the lower levels being particularly disappointing.

The Waihi Grand Junction Mine has been leased to the Waihi Gold-mining Co., Ltd., for a period of ten years on a profit-sharing basis. During the year under review 3,079 tons of ore were mined, and gave a return of 4,188 oz. of bullion.

At Muir's Gold-reefs Mine no work, other than repair work and work in connection with the installation of the new pumping plant, was done during the year.

At the Blackwater Mine 40,044 tons of quartz were mined, and gave a return of 18,032 oz. of bullion, valued at £70,232. The total footage for the year amounted to 2,115 ft. against 1,037 ft. for the previous year. Most of the development work was in the direction of the North Blackwater Mine, which was recently purchased by the Blackwater Mines, Ltd.

At the New Big River Mine 1,799 tons of ore were mined, and yielded 1,727 oz. of bullion, valued at £6,608, against 3,976 tons of ore and 3,432 oz. of bullion, valued at £13,479, for the previous year. Comparatively little development work was carried out during the year, and what was done gave disappointing results.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1926. (NOTE.—The profits made by privately owned dredges are not obtainable for publication.)

Name of Dredge.	Locality.	Capacity of Dredge- buckets, in Cubic Feet.	Number of Buckets discharged per Minute.	Nominal Horse- power of Engines.	S = Steam. E = Electrical.	Average Depth of Ground dredged.	Value of Bullion obtained during 1926.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1926.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Nevis Crossing	Nevis River	3½	10	12	S	Ft. 10	£ 2,072	£ ..	£ ..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 2	Waikaka Valley	6½	9	20	S	35	728	..	..
Shotover*	Maori Point .. ..	..	..	300	E	20	40	..	..
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Rimu	Rimu	10	19	325	E	55	47,900	..	13,132
New River	Dunganville	7	18	155	E	35	2,229	..	..
Totals, 1926 .. ..	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	52,969	..	Unknown.
Totals, 1925 .. ..	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	40,994	3,283	Unknown.

* Suction cutter dredge.