

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, 1929.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1929. (By Registered Companies only.)†	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines.	Number of Productive Quartz- mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1929.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining ..	548,689	437,287	100,906	1,025	26
Alluvial mining‡ ..	9,807	37,822	490	361	252
Dredge mining ..	12,824	52,231	1,641	89	5
Totals, 1929 ..	571,320	527,340	103,037	1,475	283
Totals, 1928 ..	532,914	551,242	104,124	1,458	360

\* 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 252 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only obtainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

The total value of the gold produced in 1929 was less by £23,902 than that produced in 1928. This decrease is made up of a decrease of £8,727 from quartz-mining, a decrease of £12,480 from dredging, and a decrease of £2,695 from alluvial mining.

(1) QUARTZ-MINING.

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only).	
	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.
			£	£	£	£
Northern .. ..	194,401	205,271	356,359	366,937	100,906	99,181
West Coast .. ..	47,806	46,717	80,854	79,044	..	..
Southern .. ..	135	120	74	33	..	..
Totals .. ..	242,342	252,108	437,287	446,014	100,906	99,181

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1929 amounted to £1 16s. 1d., as compared with £1 15s. 5d. during 1928.

From the Waihi Mine 181,086 tons of ore were mined, against 181,479 tons for the previous year. The gold recovered amounted to 67,616 oz. and the silver to 370,455 oz., compared with 67,322 oz. of gold and 350,669 oz. of silver for the previous year; the total value of the bullion obtained was £321,032, an increase of £3,213 over that obtained during 1928. A large amount of development work was done and various ore-bodies located, with the result that the ore reserves are practically the same as at the beginning of the year; the new ore-bodies were located from No. 10 level upwards.

Work on the Waihi Grand Junction property is being carried on by the Waihi Gold-mining Co.; 9,878 tons of ore were mined and 79,127 oz. of bullion recovered, of a value of £30,753.

From the Blackwater Mine 37,744 tons of quartz were mined and yielded on treatment 16,201 oz. of gold, valued at £64,394. Compared with the previous year these figures show decreases of 2,163 tons of stone, 408 oz. of gold, and £6,131 in value. Less development work was done than in 1928.

(2) DREDGE MINING.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1929. (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. H = Hydraulic.	Average Depth of Ground dredged.	Value of Bullion obtained during 1929.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1929.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Nevis Crossing .. ..	Nevis River ..	3½	10	12	S	Ft. 10	£ 123	£ ..	£ ..
Upper Nevis .. ..	" ..	7	10	205	E	25	2,653	..	..
Undaunted .. ..	Little Kyeburn ..	4½	10	60	H	15	38	..	..
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Rimu .. ..	Rimu Flat ..	10	19	450	E	38	46,970	1,641	24,622
New River .. ..	Dunganville ..	7	18	210	E	35	2,447	..	..
Totals, 1929 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52,231	1,641	Unknown
Totals, 1928 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64,711	3,283	Unknown