

amounts to develop mining-areas and provide plants for the treatment of the gold the areas should be thoroughly, systematically, efficiently, and reliably tested. From a perusal of several of the prospectuses issued during recent months it is manifest that practically no testing at all was carried out.

In view of the widely increased interest which has been taken in prospecting for gold throughout the Dominion, my Department has issued two leaflets recently, one describing in detail what should be done in fossicking and prospecting for gold, and the other what areas are worthy of prospecting.

In addition, two other leaflets are in type, one describing briefly the procedure to be followed in obtaining mining privileges under the provisions of the Mining Act, 1926, and the other leaflet containing comments on the taking of samples of mineral deposits and the valuation of mining prospects.

The publication of these leaflets will, it is believed, be of value to many men who are unaccustomed to mining or fossicking for gold.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of the production of metalliferous mines, stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, and of coal-mines during 1931 and 1930 :—

Mineral.	1931.		1930.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold and silver*	564,871 oz.	£ 657,189	639,795 oz.	£ 550,978
Platinum	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	5	$2\frac{1}{2}$ „	16
Tungsten-ore	..	..	$23\frac{1}{2}$ tons	1,207
Sulphur	..	..	849 „	13,261
Iron	3,460 tons	17,300	8,075 „	40,375
Stone	..	316,366	..	413,291
Pumice	2,321 tons	7,589	2,559 tons	8,472
Coal	2,157,756 „	2,157,756	2,542,092 „	2,542,092
Silica-sand	$35\frac{1}{2}$ „	18	$53\frac{1}{2}$ „	27
Quicksilver	$15\frac{5}{8}$ „	7,296	$1\frac{9}{16}$ „	1,080
Totals	..	£3,163,519	..	£3,570,799

*The gold-silver bullion is generally exported unseparated.

The value of minerals, including kauri-gum, exported and of the coal used in the Dominion, which is shown in Table No. 1 accompanying this Statement, amounted to £2,913,798, as compared with £3,339,285 during 1930. The total value of such minerals exported to the end of 1931 amounted to £179,056,349.

GOLD AND SILVER MINING.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of bullion-production, the dividends paid by registered companies, and the number of productive claims and gold-dredges during 1931 and 1930 :—

Class of Gold-mining.	Production of Bullion.				Dividends paid by Registered Companies.		Number of Productive Claims and Dredges.	
	1931.		1930.		1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	£	£		
Quartz ..	538,070	532,152	620,303	472,841	106,087	100,908	32	26
Alluvial ..	15,306	70,110	8,954	35,067	470	805	726	306
Dredging ..	11,495	54,927	10,538	43,070	..	..	5	3
Totals ..	564,871	657,189	639,795	550,978	106,557	101,713	763	335