

of considerable advantage to the district, and would have benefited the settlers on the banks of the river instead of injuring them, as they would have found a market for their produce, timber, and firewood.

In conclusion, I may say that there has been a marked increase in the number of men employed in mining in several parts of the large district over which I have jurisdiction. There has been a large increase in the number of applications for special claims, and some energy has been displayed in prospecting. Large areas have also been applied for in the neighbourhood of Matakītiki and Maruia under the Act of last session. This improved state of things is, no doubt, to some extent due to the fact that the attention of English capitalists has been drawn to the West Coast goldfields.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED GREENFIELD, Warden.

No. 6.

Mr. Warden STRATFORD to the UNDER-SECRETARY for MINES, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's office, Reefton, 1st June, 1896.

I have the honour to forward you herewith statistical returns for the year ended the 31st March last, and submit the following report on the Inangahua district for the same period.

The result of the year's operations compare very favourably with the previous year, there being an all-round improvement. The calls are less by £1,735, being, I believe, smaller than in any previous year in the history of the district; the dividends are greater by £14,913; the quantity of stone crushed is greater by 3,053 tons, with an increase of 3,178oz. of gold. The yield of alluvial gold is greater by 871oz.

From the opening of the district to the 31st March last 670,749 tons of quartz have been crushed, from which 476,027oz. of gold have been obtained, representing a value of £1,860,968, out of which sum £588,518 has been distributed in dividends. The total amount of alluvial gold raised for the same period is approximately estimated at 127,542oz., representing a value of £471,882. The total gold production of the district amounts to 603,569oz., of the value of £2,332,850.

The following table will show the calls made, dividends declared, &c., by the various companies in the district during the year:—

LIST of DIVIDENDS declared, CALLS made, &c., by various Companies.

Name of Company.	Calls made.			Dividends declared.			Quartz crushed.	Yield of Gold.		Value.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Tons.	Oz.	£	s.	d.	
Wealth of Nations ...	...	...	...	1,625	0	0	3,347	1,190	4,734	0	9
Hercules... ..	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	1,646	823	3,254	14	7	
Golden Lead ...	600	0	0	...	...	...	42	39	157	0	9
New Low-level Tunnel ...	318	0	0	...	...	...	...	3	11	6	0
Sir Charles Russell ...	1,500	0	0	...	...	...	383	258	1,025	6	1
Exchange ...	300	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Globe ...	...	...	...	900	0	0	3,750	1,502	6,026	15	0
Keep-It-Dark ...	...	...	...	5,250	0	0	4,169	2,389	9,584	17	0
No. 2 South Keep-It-Dark ...	600	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Big River ...	...	...	...	10,800	0	0	3,736	4,026	16,292	0	8
Welcome United ...	1,600	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lord Edward ...	400	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden Treasure ...	200	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Progress ...	...	...	...	6,000	0	0	8,640	3,914	15,830	4	6
Cumberland ...	1,200	0	0	...	...	...	523	572	2,341	14	2
Success ...	100	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dillon ...	100	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal ...	100	0	0	...	...	...	172	126	500	0	0
Inglewood ...	200	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Coys. and Tributers—												
A1 ...	...	...	...	150	0	0	59	464	1,878	16	6
Golden Fleece ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,050	401	1,627	0	0
Caledonian ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*900	97	383	3	0
Sir F. Drake Syndicate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,045	315	1,260	0	0
Just in Time ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	26	104	0	0
Victoria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169	155	620	0	0
Boatman's Tailings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154	590	6	9
Fiery Cross ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†160	150	572	4	9
Alluvial gold ...	8,418	0	0	25,925	0	0	29,816	16,604	66,793	10	6	
Totals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,421	21,142	7	10
								22,025	87,935	18	4	

* Mullock.

† Approximate only.