

1901.
NEW ZEALAND.

MINES STATEMENT.

BY THE HON. JAMES MCGOWAN, MINISTER OF MINES.

MR. SPEAKER,—

It is again my duty to submit my annual Statement to Parliament. In doing so, it gives me much pleasure to remark on the continued and growing importance of the mining industry, which, taken as a whole, and judged from a productive standpoint, may be said to be generally satisfactory, and no small factor in the advancement of the colony.

From causes which will be referred to further on, it will be seen that the output of gold and silver for the year 1900 was rather less than that of the preceding year, but as against this there was a decided increase in the production of other minerals, and, notwithstanding the decrease in the output of precious metals for the time being, the actual value of the mineral production for 1900 was in excess of that of the year 1899. The several branches of mining will be referred to under their respective headings.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The annexed Table No. 1 shows the quantity of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals, including kauri-gum, produced during the year ending 31st December, 1900. The total production of gold and silver was 700,073 oz., valued at £1,478,481, and shows a decrease in value of £75,530 as compared with the unusually large production of the preceding year.

The output of other minerals, including coal and lignite, has been 1,106,484 tons, representing a value of £1,224,666, or 118,672 tons, value £122,123, in excess of the previous year. Kauri-gum to the amount of 10,159 tons, valued at £622,293, was obtained. Compared with the production of the previous year this shows a decrease of 957 tons, but an increased value of £14,374.

The quantities and values of the chief mineral productions for the past two years are summarised for comparison as follow:—

Product.	Year ending 31st December, 1900.		Year ending 31st December, 1899.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Gold	373,616 oz.	1,439,602	389,558 oz.	1,513,173
Silver	326,457 "	38,879	349,338 "	40,838
Copper-ore	12 tons.	45	...	...
Antimony	3 "	101	...	...
Manganese-ore	166 "	588	135 tons.	407
Mixed minerals	2,126 "	12,751	1,309 "	6,591
Chrome-ore	28 "	110	...	...
Colonial coal exported, including that used by Home steamers	112,707 "	98,136	89,480 "	83,085
Coke exported ... ..	...	...	18 "	9
Colonial coal consumed in New Zealand	981,283 "	490,642	885,754 "	404,532
Kauri-gum	10,159 "	622,293	11,116 "	607,919
Total value of production for 1900 ... ..	...	2,703,147	...	2,656,554
" " " 1899 ... ..	...	2,656,554	...	...
Total increase ... ..	...	£46,593	...	...

The total value of gold, silver, coal, and other minerals, including kauri-gum, produced up to end of 1900 was £76,104,981.

As the value of gold and silver produced in 1899 was £440,213 in excess of that of 1898, it will be seen that the decreased production for 1900 (representing a value of £75,530) is not serious, and is accounted for by the cessation of operations at a few quartz-mines, and temporary suspension—due to development-work and alterations to plant, &c.—at others; also to the conditions (due principally to the recent dredging boom) which prevailed during the year in regard to alluvial mining.

The latest returns from the Customs (as set out in the following table of comparisons) go to show that the yield of precious metals is again increasing, the export value of gold and silver for the first six months of the present year being largely in excess not only of the corresponding period of last year, but actually of that of the first six months of the year 1899 to the extent of £99,787 (gold, £94,389; silver, £5,398).

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of GOLD and SILVER entered for EXPORT during the first half of the Years 1900 and 1901.

	Half-year ending 30th June, 1900.		Half-year ending 30th June, 1901.		Increase for first half of 1901.	
	Amount.	Value.	Amount.	Value.	Amount.	Value.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Gold	179,303	694,859	217,478	844,888	38,775	150,029
Silver	144,782	15,907	226,267	24,725	81,485	8,818

The amended Regulations made under "The Mining Act, 1898," now make provision for the gold returns being furnished to the department up to the 31st day of December in each year, and it is intended that in the future the Table No. 2 shall show the export quantities and values for the calendar year instead of the financial year. This year the table has been compiled as hitherto, but an additional Table (No. 3) shows the exports of gold for the nine months ending the 31st December, 1900.

GOLD EXPORT.

The quantity of gold entered for exportation through the Customs for the past financial year was 392,976 oz., valued at £1,516,482, the respective districts contributing as follows:—Auckland, 166,049 oz.; Marlborough, 247 oz.; Nelson, 5,126 oz.; West Coast, 85,779 oz.; Canterbury, 22 oz.; Otago and Southland, 135,753 oz.

GOLD-MINING.

QUARTZ.

This method of gold-mining is the only form carried on in the North Island, all gold of a payable character—so far as is yet known—being associated with quartz *in situ*. During the year a considerable amount of development-work has been done at several of the principal mines in the Upper Thames District, and it is confidently expected that, as a result of the liberal and apparently judicious manner in which capital has been expended, the returns from this portion of the goldfield will show a decided advance within the next year or two. There is an aspect of permanence in the works undertaken at Waihi, Waitekauri, and Karangahake, which augurs well for the future of these places, and on the completion of the branch railway now being constructed from Paeroa to Waihi the mining industry will be materially benefited, and especially so in regard to the supply of fuel for the requirements of the mines.

At the Lower Thames there is, unfortunately, nothing to report in the direction of the actual development of the deeper levels. Owing to financial reasons the sinking of the Thames-Hauraki shaft was suspended at the latter end of last year, and so far no satisfactory understanding has been arrived at

with a view to its being further deepened. It is most desirable, in the interests of the industry and of the district, that the existence or otherwise of payable reefs below what is regarded as an unproductive belt should be definitely proved. With the object of ascertaining the potentialities of the hitherto unproved ground below the foreshore and estuary, the Victoria Gold-mining Company are now engaged in boring operations, and, in view of the importance of this work, assistance is being given to the company by the Government by the loan of its diamond-boring plant, and a subsidy of £1,000, at the rate of 10s. for every pound sterling expended by the company in these pioneer explorations.

Operations at some mines at and near Coromandel have been suspended; but development-works are in progress at the Hauraki Freeholds Mine, the Royal Oak of Hauraki, and the Kauri Freehold Gold Estates Company's Mines at Opitonui. An amalgamation of the Mariposa and Kapai-Vermont Mines at Kuaotunu has been effected and operations resumed. The reefs at Guntown (Mercury Bay), which were discovered a couple of years ago, look promising, and the mine on Great Barrier Island has now reached the productive stage.

In Marlborough quartz-mining on a small scale has been commenced at Top Valley Creek, and the indications met with there appear such as to offer inducement for further prospecting in the mountain range.

On the West Coast, the district adjacent to Reefton may be looked upon as likely to be a steady producer of gold from quartz-mining operations for some years to come. Much capital and labour have been expended in developing several properties in a systematic manner and in the erection of modern battery and cyanide extraction plants to deal with the ore.

Quartz-mining in the Southern District has not shown any tendency to advance. In two instances—viz., the O.P.Q. Mines at Waipori and the Shot-over Mine near Skipper's Point—active developments have been conspicuous; but, generally speaking, quartz-mining appears to be at present declining in this part of the colony. After the expenditure of large sums of money during the last few years, operations have unfortunately been suspended at the Achilles Mine, Bullendale, and it is also to be regretted that no active steps have been taken to develop the mine of the Cromwell Proprietary (Limited) at deeper levels than have hitherto been worked. No doubt the attractions of the dredging industry as a field for speculation have militated against much attention being paid to reefing during the past few years; but it is only reasonable to suppose that, if the reefs in parts of this goldfield were to be developed on comprehensive and scientific lines, similar results to those obtained in the Reefton District might be attained.

ALLUVIAL AND HYDRAULIC MINING.

This branch of mining work has not been developed to any appreciable extent of late owing to the attention which has been devoted to dredging. It is quite safe to say that in several instances hydraulic mining has been neglected in favour of dredging, and this, too, at places where the former method is better suited to local conditions.

In the Marlborough portion of the West Coast Inspection District there are no claims worked on an extensive scale, the largest being those of the King Solomon Mine at Mahakipawa (where an alluvial gutter is worked by underground mining) and the Gorge and Yukon claims at Wakamarina.

The locality of Golden Bay affords employment to quite a number of alluvial miners, the principal undertakings being those of the Parapara Hydraulic Sluicing Company and the Collingwood Goldfields (Limited). The development-works of the latter company (costing some £15,000) have extended over a period of about four years, active sluicing operations being commenced in November last. It is understood that hydraulic mining is about to be adopted at the Bubu River, near Takaka.

In the district around Westport a considerable number of persons are employed in the working of alluvial deposits, but beyond the resumption of operations by a local syndicate at the claim formerly held by the General Exploration Company at Fairdown, and the practical completion of the preliminary

works of the Virgin Flat Gold-mining Company (Limited), no developments of importance have been reported. Hydraulic and alluvial mining operations in the Grey Valley, also at Barrytown, Kumara, and in the locality of Hokitika continue to afford employment to a large number of persons; upwards of fifty men are also employed at and in the vicinity of Ross.

The Southern goldfield—which includes the Otago, Southland, and Fiord Districts—is almost entirely dependent for its gold output on the operations of alluvial and hydraulic mining in conjunction with dredging; and although new installations of hydraulic plant of any magnitude have been few in number during the past year, the industry has been very steadily carried on at the various centres, and fairly good returns obtained. This form of mining appears in every way likely to support a considerable percentage of the population for many years to come.

As the shallow diggings of the West Coast and Southern Goldfields are becoming exhausted, it is found that the number of Chinese diggers is gradually decreasing.

DREDGE MINING.

During the past year a large number of dredges have been under construction both in the West Coast and Southern Districts. Of these, several have got to work; others are not yet completed. The numbers on the 31st March last were as follows: Working, 145; standing, 11; undergoing removal, 4; building, 122: total, 282.

In the South, the practicability of dredge-mining has been amply proved, but the working of river-beds and flats on the West Coast by dredges is not yet so fully developed owing to difficulties of an engineering character. No doubt these difficulties will be got over as further experience is gained, and when this has been accomplished there appears every reason to believe that dredging on the West Coast will become a steady industry. Even with the dredges now at work, evidences have not been wanting to show that gold exists in payable quantities in several parts of the West Coast District where other methods of working are, under existing conditions, largely out of the question.

It is quite apparent that where the gold is fine, there is ample room for improvement in the methods adopted on dredges for saving the gold, and this applies specially to the beach deposits. During the last two or three years there has been a decided tendency to increase the lifting-capacity of dredges, but it is possible this may be overdone, inasmuch as the improvements in, or extensions to, appliances for saving the gold have not kept pace with the increased capabilities for the raising of the gravels. It is to be regretted also that old and somewhat obsolete river dredges have, in some instances, been adopted for dredging on flats where the conditions are very different from river-dredging. Such unsuitable machines cannot be expected to be unqualified successes, and the opinion that dredges ought to be designed to efficiently work their ground, and to save the gold which the ground contains, cannot be too strongly emphasized.

The wild excitement and rash speculation which characterised this branch of mining from one to two years ago has, happily, been checked. Liquidations of companies floated during the boom are steadily in progress, and when the worthless claims which were foisted on an excited and easily gullible public have been weeded out the industry is in every way likely to settle down again to a steady, legitimate, and profitable branch of mining operations.

During the early part of this year the output of working river dredges was seriously curtailed in consequence of the phenomenally high state of the rivers both in the West Coast and Southern Districts.

The question of working the auriferous black-sand deposits is one to which attention is being directed, and, as the successful extraction of the gold is a matter of very great importance to the mining industry, it has been decided by the Government to offer a bonus of £2,000 for the introduction of a machine or appliance which will satisfactorily treat these sands on a large scale.

THE CYANIDE PROCESS OF GOLD EXTRACTION.

Since the patent rights were acquired four years ago the amount of royalty paid to the Government has amounted to £4,253, or, say, 42½ per cent. of the initial cost incurred. By recent legislation the term to which the patent rights remain in force in New Zealand has been extended until such time as the revenue derived in royalties has equalled the expenditure which was necessary to make the cyanide process available to the gold-mining industry in this colony.

PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1901, the sum of £1,266 11s. 7d. was expended in subsidies to parties of miners and prospecting associations actually engaged in prospecting for minerals.

WATERCOURSES FOR TAILINGS, Etc.

In consequence of the applications for the proclamation of several rivers and streams in the Middle Island as watercourses into which waste water, &c., from mining operations may be discharged, His Excellency the Governor appointed Commissioners to inquire into the question. Their reports have been received and proclamations issued in respect to six rivers and streams in the Middle Island, and the sum of £5,800 has been paid as compensation. The question of the proclamation of other rivers and streams reported on by the Commissioners is under consideration.

SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The Schools of Mines at Coromandel, Thames, Waihi, Reefton, and that at Dunedin in connection with the University of Otago have been carried on steadily throughout the year, and the number of students has been well maintained. At Nelson instruction is given to senior boys in analysis and assaying. A School of Mines was opened in February last at Karangahake to meet the needs of the increasing mining population.

Including grants to the school attached to the Otago University, the total expenditure on Schools of Mines in the colony has been £31,493 3s. 7d., and extends over a period of sixteen years.

COAL-MINING.

For the first time in the history of the colony the year's output of coal and lignite exceeds a million tons. The gross output for twelve months ending 31st December last was 1,093,990 tons, made up as follows: Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal, 673,862 tons; pitch coal, 37,804 tons; brown coal, 339,786 tons; and lignite, 42,538 tons. Compared with the gross output for 1899, the production for last year showed an increase of 118,756 tons. Of this increase, the West Coast District contributed 72,236 tons, the Southern District 27,345 tons, and the Northern District 19,175 tons.

In the North Island the Taupiri Mines are the chief producers, the output being 77,191 tons, the Hikurangi Coal-mine coming second with an output of 38,572 tons; Ngunguru Coal-mine produced 14,592 tons, and the Kiripaka Mine and Hikurangi Colliery 11,276 tons and 11,119 tons respectively. A few other small mines have been at work, principally for local requirements. Some attention is being directed towards the Mokau coalfield, and it is probable that such may be more extensively opened up in the near future. The same remark also applies to the Collingwood coalfield in the Middle Island.

The West Coast of the Middle Island continues to be the chief coal-producing district, the output of the Westport Coal Company's Mines alone amounting to 369,486 tons, or rather more than one-third of the entire output of the colony. The Brunner Mines produced 125,403 tons, and the Blackball Mine 82,516 tons, but the output of the latter was somewhat curtailed owing to the mine being closed down for a time in consequence of a fire in the workings, which was discovered at an early stage and suppressed. The old Mokihinui Mine (which was let to a party of working miners) yielded 10,092 tons from the Big Face section, but recent operations cannot be considered as representing a permanent output from this property unless further discoveries of coal are made.

In the Southern Inspection District there are a number of small mines scattered throughout Canterbury, North Otago, Central Otago, and Southland, which are purely of local importance, but supply the general requirements of the various localities. Their production consists of brown coal and lignite, no anhydrous coals of a marketable character being yet discovered with the exception of some anthracite coal in Canterbury, which is too remote from existing railway-lines to become as yet a commercial article. In Central Otago numerous applications for coal licenses or leases have been made. These have all received the careful attention of the department, and it has been found that in many instances these applications have been made for purely speculative purposes, and not with any *bona fide* intention of the applicants actually working the coal themselves. Where it has been satisfactorily shown that additional leases or licenses were actually required, grants have been made, and, speaking generally, the areas now held under license or lease are ample for the requirements of the district for some time to come. The principal collieries north of Dunedin are near Shag Point. The Shag Point Mine has worked for thirty-seven years for a total production of 386,859 tons, the output for last year being 21,209 tons. The Allandale Colliery (adjoining) had an output of 16,595 tons for the year. At the Kaitangata Collieries (which are the principal mines in the South) the output was 112,455 tons for the year, and Nightcaps Colliery (Southland) had an output of 27,840 tons.

Including some mines on private lands, and worked solely for the requirements of the owners, the number of mines worked during the year is 167, giving employment to 2,460 persons.

In consequence of a recommendation from the Goldfields and Mines Committee, a Royal Commission was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to inquire into the various matters connected with the coal-mining industry, and the report of the Commission has already been submitted to Parliament.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

The following statement shows the number of fatal accidents which have occurred for the period covered by the reports of the Inspectors of Mines:—

Class of Mining.	Number of Persons employed.	Fatal Accidents.	Rate per 1,000.
Quartz-mines	4,267	4	0.93
Alluvial and hydraulic mines and dredges	9,235	8*	0.86
Coal-mines	2,460	4	1.62
	15,962	16	1.00

* Includes one fatality in connection with dredging.

Investigation of these fatal accidents showed that in one instance, where the Manager was killed along with two of his men, reasonable precautions had not been observed. In the case of the dredge employé who was drowned, it was found that the regulations made for the safety of persons employed had been disregarded. A prosecution for breach of regulations followed, but the charge was dismissed on technical grounds.

The decreased percentage of fatalities in proportion to the number of persons employed, and, especially in relation to dredging, is a very pleasing and satisfactory feature.

SULPHUR.

The output of sulphur exported during 1900 was 1,692 tons, this being an increase of 465 tons as compared with the production of the previous year.

KAURI-GUM.

For the year 1900 the quantity exported was 10,159 tons, valued at £622,293. Although the tonnage was less than that of the previous year by 957 tons, the smaller production represents an increase in value of £14,374. The industry continues to afford employment to a considerable number of Natives and Europeans.

SCHEELITE.

Messrs. Donaldson Brothers, of Macrae's (Otago), continue to separate sheelite from the quartz, and as yet are the only people in the colony who prepare this ore as a marketable product. Other parties in the district are reported to have given some attention to the subject, but nothing of importance has so far been done by them to place sheelite on the market.

HEMATITE PAINT.

This is still being produced at the Thames by the New Zealand Paint-manufacturing Company, and at Parapara by Messrs. Washbourne Brothers. The latter firm also manufacture knife-polish from a felspathic rock found in the locality.

CINNABAR.

The prospecting which has been carried on between Waitahuna and Waipori (Otago) is said to have been very satisfactory, the discovery of a lode of considerable extent being reported. Some other prospecting has also been undertaken in the Thames District at Kauaeranga Valley.

ANTIMONY.

A lode is being exploited at Alexandra South, but can hardly be said to have yet reached a commercial stage.

CHROME-ORE.

Some work is being done on the deposit near Croixelles Harbour. The shipment last year amounted to 28 tons.

COPPER-ORE.

The attention of prospectors is being directed to the lodes at Moke Creek, Lake Wakatipu.

SHALE-OIL.

At Orepuki, a mine has been opened out for the supply of shale, and extensive works erected to treat the mineral for the extraction of oils, parafin wax, ammonia, &c. The manufacture of oil and other products was commenced in the early part of this year, and it is understood that the productions of the works are being readily sought after. This is a new industry so far as New Zealand is concerned, and it is to be hoped that the venture, upon which a large capital has been expended, will be eminently successful.

ROADS AND TRACKS.

As compared with the previous year, the expenditure on roads and tracks shows a decrease of £5,797 15s. 8d. The amount paid as subsidies to local bodies was £3,264 13s. 1d., and the sum of £45,152 14s. 2d. has been expended in direct grants on roads and tracks for the development of mining districts. The total sums for the past nineteen years are £373,904 18s. 2d. and £98,446 14s. 2d. respectively.

GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS.

Examinations have been made in several parts of the colony with a view to the determination of the character and extent of mineral country hitherto unworked, and naturally the coal-bearing areas have received a fair share of attention. The Government Geologist (Mr. McKay) is of opinion that the coal areas at Pakawau and Puponga, in the Collingwood District, are likely to prove satisfactory.

The question of the probability of a payable coal-field at Waimangaroa has been under investigation. The measures here lie at a very steep angle, and it is estimated that to reach the coal at a site convenient to the railway at Waimangaroa Station shafts not less than 1,500 ft. deep would be required, but coal may be reached at a more moderate depth near the mouth of Ngakawau River.

In regard to the alleged possibilities of an important coal-field further west than that already exploited by the mines in the Grey Valley, Mr. McKay is not over sanguine, but he recommended that proof should be obtained by boring. Accordingly the Greymouth Harbour Board, with assistance from the Govern-

ment, put down a bore at a site selected by that Board to a depth of about 350 ft. without reaching coal, and the bore has been discontinued. Mr. McKay further expresses the opinion that prospecting for coal in the Kaiata Ranges cannot lead to any satisfactory results.

Examinations were made of the coal deposits in the localities of Kokotahi and Ross. At these places the measures show signs of disturbance, the coal seams are thin, somewhat crushed, and very highly inclined. From these features the probable value of the coal deposits appears to be inconsiderable.

In the neighbourhood of Deep Creek, Kotuku, in the Grey Valley, indications of the existence of petroleum are such as to warrant vigorous prospecting. Petroleum has also been found in the Poverty Bay District, but further investigation of an operative character is required before any definite opinion can be formed as to the possibilities of this being in sufficient quantity for producing commercially.

In respect to copper-ore, examinations made in the localities of Maharahara, near Woodville (Hawke's Bay), and in the Ruahine Range, west of Norsewood, go to show that, although the ore exists to some extent, nothing of a commercial character has, so far, been discovered. Examinations have also been made in the Kaimanawa, Kaweka, Rimutaka, and Ruahine Ranges, but no minerals were met with in sufficient quantity to pay for working.

THE MINING BUREAU.

The publication of the *New Zealand Mines Record*, which was commenced in August, 1897, by the Mining Bureau, has been continued monthly since that date. Information relating to improved mining processes and machinery is compiled from various sources for the benefit of those engaged in the industry in this colony; while the statistics and information obtained by the department from its officers must tend to afford guidance to investors both inside and outside the colony. Some of the special articles which appear in the *Record* are printed as leaflets and judiciously distributed.

CONCLUSION.

Generally speaking, it may be said that the mining industry is in a satisfactory condition, and although the output of precious metals was lower for the year 1900 than was the case in the previous year, the output of other minerals more than balanced the value, and showed an advance of £46,593 on the value of the mineral production for 1899. The causes for the decreased yield of gold and silver have already been referred to, as also has the increased returns for the first half of the year 1901. There is every indication that the mineral production of this year will show an increase over that of the year 1900.

The experience of previous gambling in mining shares has been repeated in the late dredging boom, and the reaction which has set in will, I think, tend to the consolidation of a really good and profitable branch of the gold-mining industry.

DIAGRAM showing TOTAL QUANTITY & VALUE of GOLD exported from NEW ZEALAND for the years 1857 to 1900.

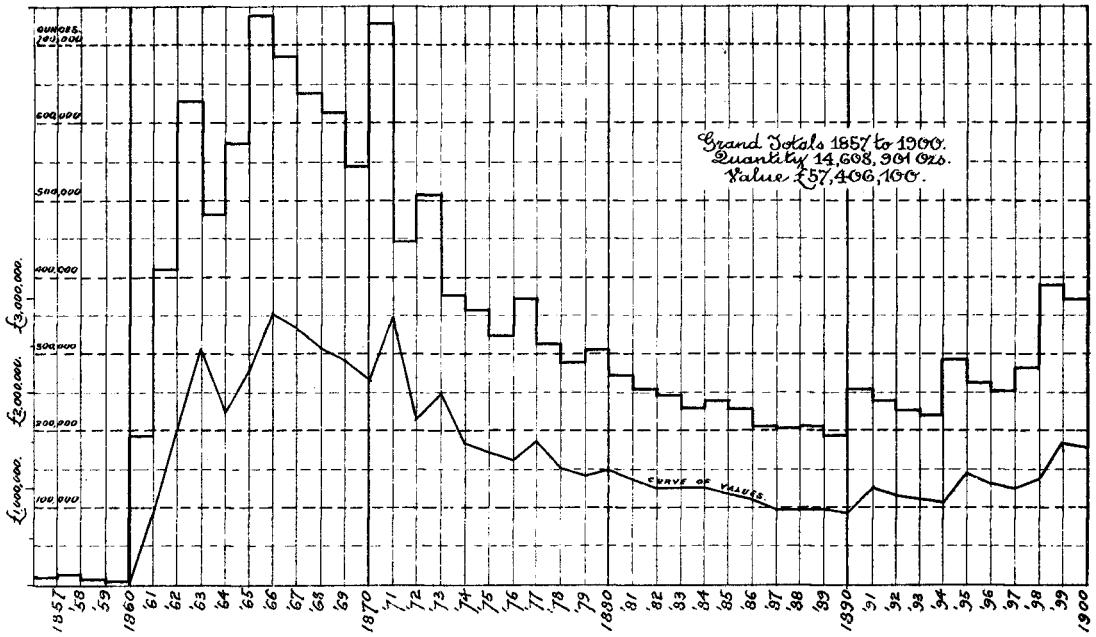


DIAGRAM showing TOTAL QUANTITY & VALUE of KAURI GUM exported from N. Z. for the years 1853 to 1900.

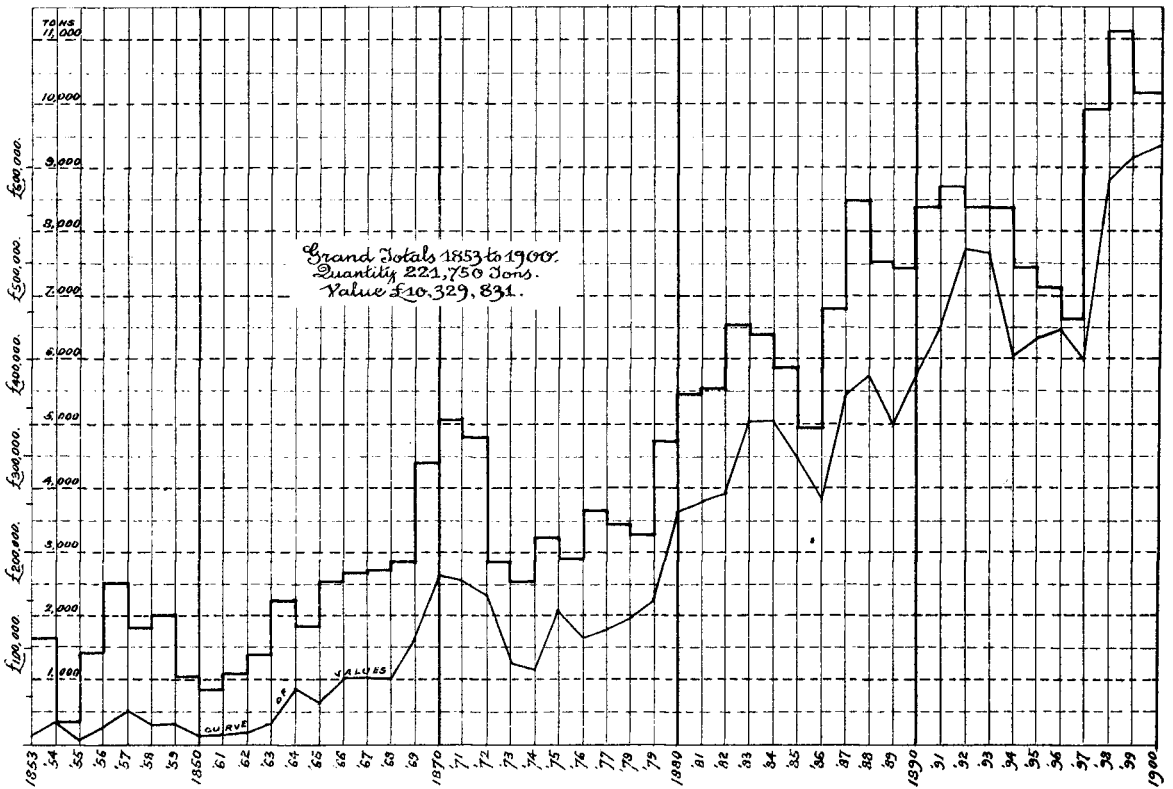
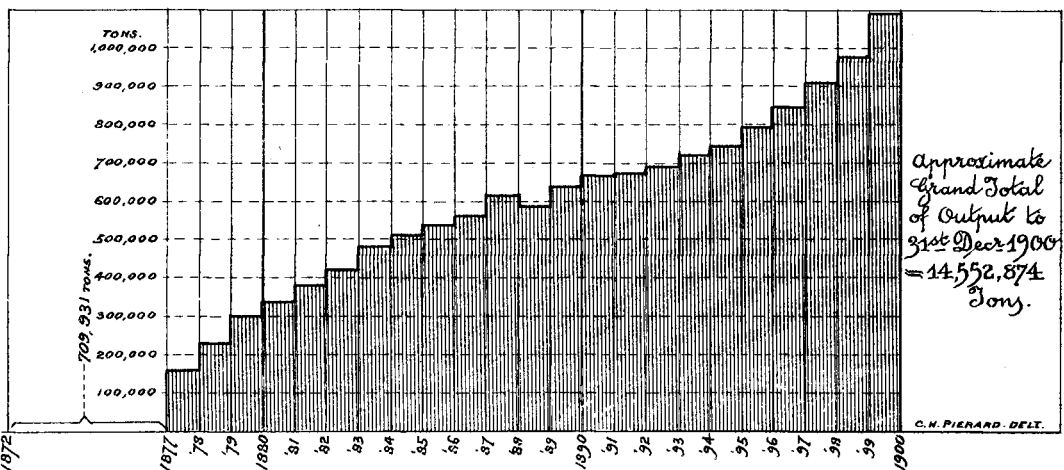


DIAGRAM showing TOTAL OUTPUT of COAL from NEW ZEALAND MINES for the years 1872 to 1900.



No. 1.

TABLE showing the COMPARISON in QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for EXPORTATION, and also the QUANTITY and VALUE of other MINERALS produced, for the Years ended the 31st December, 1899 and 1900, as well as the TOTAL VALUE since January, 1853.

Name of Metal or Mineral.	For Year ending the 31st December, 1899.		For Year ending the 31st December, 1900.		Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Precious metals—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	£
Gold	389,558	1,513,173	373,616	1,439,602	14,608,901	57,406,100
Silver	349,338	40,838	326,457	38,879	2,054,808	315,548
Total gold and silver	738,896	1,554,011	700,073	1,478,481	16,663,709	57,721,648
Mineral produce, including kauri-gum—	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Copper-ore .. .. .	..	..	12	45	1,408½	17,983
Chrome-ore .. .. .	..	..	28	110	5,694	37,477
Antimony-ore .. .. .	..	..	3	101	3,613	52,462
Manganese-ore	135	407	166	588	18,803½	60,232
Hæmatite-ore .. .. .	..	..	..	..	52½	226
Mixed minerals	1,309	6,591	2,126	12,751	21,137	102,916
Coal (New Zealand) exported	89,480	83,085	112,707	98,136	1,233,518	1,189,843
Coke exported	18	9	..	..	16,370	24,804
Coal, output of mines in colony (less exports)	885,754	404,532	981,283	490,642	13,319,352	6,567,559
Kauri-gum	11,116	607,919	10,159	622,293	221,751	10,329,831
Total quantity and value of minerals	987,812	1,102,543	1,106,484	1,224,666	14,841,699½	18,333,333
Value of gold and silver, as above .. .. .	..	1,554,011	..	1,478,481	..	57,721,648
Total value of minerals produced, including gold and silver .. .. .	..	2,656,554	..	2,703,147	..	76,104,981

No. 2

TABLE showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for EXPORTATION from NEW ZEALAND for the Years ended the 31st March, 1900 and 1901, and the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE from 1857 to the 31st March, 1901.

District and County or Borough.	Year ending 31st March, 1900.		Year ending 31st March, 1901.		Increase or Decrease for Year ending 31st March, 1901.		Total Quantity and Value from January, 1857, to 31st March, 1901.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.		
AUCKLAND—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	£
County of Coromandel ..	14,559	60,978	12,900	54,401	..	1,659	..	..
County of Thames ..	12,815	52,175	11,773	48,934	..	1,042	..	..
County of Ohinemuri ..	135,952	489,054	130,849	458,316	..	5,103	..	..
County of Piako ..	250	1,057	1,020	4,306	770	..	..	..
County of Manukau ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
County of Marsden ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
County of Whangarei ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Borough of Thames ..	5,260	21,943	7,223	29,485	1,963	..	..	..
Te Aroha Town District ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Barrier Island ..	..	..	2,284	8,576	2,284	..	..	..
	168,836	625,207	166,049	604,018	..	2,787	2,650,443	9,944,954
WELLINGTON ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188	706
MARLBOROUGH—								
County of Marlborough ..	344	1,382	247	970	..	97	..	..
	344	1,382	247	970	..	97	86,976	338,767
NELSON—								
County of Waimea ..	89	356	95	351	6	..	..	..
County of Collingwood ..	2,500	9,895	5,031	18,887	2,531	..	..	..
	2,589	10,251	5,126	19,238	2,537	..	1,682,574	6,669,534
WEST COAST—								
County of Buller ..	12,521	50,082	8,855	35,497	..	3,666	..	..
County of Inangahua ..	34,614	138,406	40,197	161,334	5,583	..	..	..
County of Grey ..	23,644	94,528	18,255	73,309	..	5,389	..	..
County of Westland ..	19,848	79,241	16,310	64,893	..	3,538	..	..
Kumara Borough ..	161	644	..	..	..	161	..	..
Hokitika Borough ..	611	2,449	668	2,669	57	..	..	..
Ross Borough ..	2,682	10,726	1,494	5,976	..	1,188	..	..
	94,081	376,076	85,779	343,728	..	8,302	4,579,457	18,218,062
CANTERBURY ..	22	87	22	84	..	..	80	316
OTAGO—								
County of Taieri ..	1,878	7,435	984	3,993	..	894	..	..
County of Tuapeka ..	30,267	122,688	34,799	140,936	4,532	..	..	..
County of Vincent ..	51,471	208,423	58,460	235,492	6,989	..	..	..
County of Maniototo ..	10,988	44,884	5,813	36,099	..	2,175	..	..
County of Waihemo ..	2,615	10,512	1,800	7,192	..	815	..	..
County of Waikouaiti ..	313	1,242	2	6	..	311	..	..
County of Waitaki ..	2,341	9,695	1,859	7,601	..	482	..	..
County of Bruce ..	3,026	12,047	2,373	9,476	..	653	..	..
County of Lake ..	8,759	35,499	6,060	24,548	..	2,699	..	..
County of Wallace ..	9,011	36,247	10,072	40,489	1,061	..	..	..
County of Fiord ..	586	2,355	624	2,501	38	..	..	..
County of Southland ..	5,451	21,974	9,898	40,025	4,447	..	..	..
County of Clutha ..	..	..	9	36	9	..	..	..
Borough of Alexandra ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	126,706	513,001	135,753	548,444	9,047	..	5,724,259	22,683,037
Unknown ..	85	340	..	..	..	85	207	824
Totals ..	392,663	1,526,344	392,976	1,516,482	313	..	14,724,184	57,856,200

No. 3.

TABLE showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of GOLD entered for EXPORTATION from NEW ZEALAND for the Nine Months ended the 31st December, 1899 and 1900, and the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE from 1857 to the 31st December, 1900.

District and County or Borough.	Nine Months ending 31st December, 1900.		Nine Months ending 31st March, 1899.		Increase or Decrease for Nine Months ending 31st December, 1900.		Total Quantity and Value from January, 1857, to 31st December, 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.		
AUCKLAND—	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	£
County of Coromandel ..	12,119	51,127	10,756	45,040	1,363	..	..	..
County of Thames ..	9,572	39,799	9,884	40,567	..	312	..	..
County of Ohinemuri ..	102,136	355,876	108,792	393,341	..	6,656	..	..
County of Piako ..	912	3,849	187	796	725	..	..	..
Borough of Thames ..	6,277	25,537	3,945	16,444	2,332	..	..	..
Great Barrier Island ..	54	191	..	..	54	..	..	..
	131,070	476,379	133,564	496,188	..	2,494	2,615,464	9,817,315
WELLINGTON .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188	706
MARLBOROUGH—								
County of Marlborough ..	191	765	..	..	191	..	..	..
	191	765	..	..	191	..	86,920	338,562
NELSON—								
County of Collingwood ..	1,548	5,925	419	1,571	1,129	..	..	..
	1,548	5,925	419	1,571	1,129	..	1,678,996	6,656,221
WEST COAST—								
County of Buller ..	5,748	23,043	9,020	36,076	..	3,272	..	..
County of Inangahua ..	22,594	90,636	26,826	107,301	..	4,232	..	..
County of Grey ..	9,873	39,652	17,365	69,459	..	7,492	..	..
County of Westland ..	10,355	41,236	14,605	58,421	..	4,250	..	..
Kumara Borough ..	..	..	161	644	..	161	..	..
Kokitika Borough ..	401	1,602	323	1,317	73	..	..	..
Ross Borough ..	943	3,773	1,767	7,067	..	824	..	..
	49,914	199,942	70,072	280,285	..	20,158	4,543,592	18,074,276
CANTERBURY	17	65	16	62	1	..	75	297
OTAGO—								
County of Taieri ..	549	2,228	1,517	6,040	..	968	..	..
County of Tuapeka ..	23,933	97,085	21,123	85,633	2,860	..	..	..
County of Vincent ..	45,252	182,290	40,035	161,919	5,217	..	..	..
County of Maniototo ..	3,601	14,710	7,256	29,631	..	3,655	..	..
County of Waihemo ..	1,050	4,214	1,623	6,503	..	573	..	..
County of Waikouaiti ..	2	6	298	1,182	..	296	..	..
County of Waitaki ..	988	4,030	1,830	7,606	..	842	..	..
County of Bruce ..	1,881	7,504	2,262	9,031	..	381	..	..
County of Lake ..	4,208	17,053	6,622	26,834	..	2,414	..	..
County of Wallace ..	7,425	29,863	6,141	24,633	1,284	..	..	..
County of Fiord ..	281	1,126	512	2,057	..	231	..	..
County of Southland ..	5,733	23,197	3,865	13,559	2,868	..	..	..
	94,953	383,306	92,584	374,678	2,369	..	5,683,459	22,517,899
Unknown .. ..	..	..	85	340	..	85	207	824
Totals	277,693	1,066,382	296,740	1,153,124	..	19,047	14,608,901	57,406,100

No. 4.

TABLE showing the Total Quantity and Value of Gold entered for Duty for Exportation from the 1st January, 1857, to the 31st December, 1900. (This Return shows the Produce of the various Goldfields. Gold entered at Nelson from Hokitika, Greymouth, and Westport is put under the head of "West Coast," and Gold from Invercargill and Riverton under the head of "Otago.")

Year.	Auckland.		Nelson.		Marlborough.		West Coast.		Otago.		Wellington.		Canterbury.		Grand Totals.	
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.
1857	10,437	40,422	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,437	40,422
1858	..	1,192	7,326	51,272	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,534	52,464
1859	7,336	28,427	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,336	28,427
1860	4,538	17,585	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,538	17,585
1861	6,335	24,552	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	194,031	751,873
1862	10,422	40,386	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410,862	1,591,389
1863	..	4,098	9,580	37,120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	628,450	2,431,728
1864	..	3,448	14,410	55,841	24,838	95,231	289,897	1,127,370	1,546,905	..	..	..	..	..	1,639,653	6,143,728
1865	..	5,449	17,096	47,030	7,952	30,814	552,572	2,140,946	2,380,750	..	..	..	..	..	480,171	1,856,837
1866	..	5,814	17,463	29,643	469	1,818	511,974	1,608,844	1,004,163	..	..	..	..	..	574,574	2,226,474
1867	..	6,637	18,277	29,643	501	1,978	1,608,844	1,269,664	654,647	..	..	..	..	..	735,376	2,814,517
1868	..	53,660	168,874	38,396	404	1,616	1,608,844	1,269,664	654,647	..	..	..	..	..	686,905	2,638,862
1869	..	132,451	434,687	42,524	666	2,664	1,269,664	1,269,664	654,647	..	..	..	..	..	637,474	2,504,326
1870	..	85,534	319,146	48,692	1,857	7,408	280,068	1,121,525	613,456	..	..	..	..	..	614,281	2,362,995
1871	..	330,326	1,188,708	10,014	1,862	7,408	280,068	931,528	619,760	130	..	..	..	..	544,880	2,157,585
1872	..	104,890	369,341	8,175	2,057	8,228	172,574	690,296	680,696	..	..	..	..	..	730,029	2,787,520
1873	..	119,449	437,123	13,697	1,274	5,050	188,501	756,442	734,024	..	..	..	..	..	445,370	1,731,261
1874	..	76,910	305,068	5,642	1,198	4,748	157,531	531,274	542,154	..	..	..	..	..	505,337	1,987,425
1875	..	69,485	262,156	4,577	1,159	4,636	158,878	635,480	487,632	..	..	..	..	..	376,388	1,505,331
1876	..	56,057	221,905	14,018	450	1,796	133,014	531,274	487,632	..	..	..	..	..	322,016	1,284,328
1877	..	99,081	403,627	5,367	870	3,197	153,198	612,823	455,341	..	..	..	..	..	371,685	1,496,080
1878	..	55,982	220,454	4,463	404	1,617	144,634	578,508	422,277	..	..	..	..	..	310,486	1,240,079
1879	..	37,901	154,295	2,993	879	3,460	142,822	571,061	422,277	..	..	..	..	..	287,464	1,148,108
1880	..	42,720	176,416	3,223	1,550	5,650	144,090	575,258	457,705	..	..	..	..	..	305,248	1,227,252
1881	..	35,516	141,326	3,453	1,378	4,531	137,544	509,971	411,923	..	..	..	..	..	270,561	1,080,790
1882	..	33,059	131,007	3,289	1,352	5,400	130,048	519,978	333,804	..	..	..	..	..	251,204	1,002,720
1883	..	41,291	163,618	2,064	7,724	2,524	116,905	467,152	352,334	..	..	..	..	..	248,374	993,352
1884	..	36,087	143,564	2,159	1,079	4,306	111,686	446,517	318,932	..	..	..	..	..	239,946	921,797
1885	..	42,989	170,416	2,798	540	2,160	117,861	471,325	294,378	..	..	..	..	..	237,371	948,615
1886	..	32,271	128,140	2,582	404	1,451	112,671	446,287	271,548	..	..	..	..	..	227,079	903,569
1887	..	30,697	121,564	2,914	1,041	3,759	98,774	395,430	317,518	..	..	..	..	..	203,869	811,100
1888	..	35,223	139,556	3,027	699	2,547	100,139	400,405	247,142	..	..	..	..	..	201,219	801,066
1889	..	28,655	113,191	3,252	5,189	20,167	101,636	406,451	256,430	..	..	..	..	..	203,211	808,549
1890	..	31,745	125,760	2,856	6,073	24,285	89,096	356,368	255,976	..	..	..	..	..	193,193	773,438
1891	..	45,392	181,185	4,445	5,849	22,576	109,268	437,126	349,573	..	..	..	..	..	251,996	1,007,488
1892	..	45,555	183,655	2,535	3,898	15,429	103,106	412,383	333,467	..	..	..	..	..	238,079	954,744
1893	..	45,714	186,553	2,145	2,165	8,644	99,127	396,516	349,573	..	..	..	..	..	238,079	954,744
1894	..	52,916	211,974	2,860	2,536	10,123	86,553	347,464	307,644	..	..	..	..	..	221,615	887,839
1895	..	111,213	430,862	2,460	2,695	10,771	89,429	357,719	353,796	..	..	..	..	..	239,491	1,162,164
1896	..	92,346	350,355	2,753	3,588	13,817	81,161	317,161	263,991	..	..	..	..	..	263,694	1,041,428
1897	..	105,477	392,837	1,892	810	3,195	78,817	235,430	187,842	..	..	..	..	..	251,645	980,204
1898	..	142,383	527,786	1,720	781	3,003	79,948	319,789	233,231	..	..	..	..	..	280,175	1,080,691
1899	..	168,769	624,737	419	..	..	90,031	360,149	526,605	..	..	..	..	..	389,558	1,513,173
1900	..	166,342	605,898	3,718	535	2,147	73,923	295,733	521,629	..	..	..	..	..	873,616	1,439,602
Totals	..	2,615,464	9,817,315	259,577	1,025,064	387,985	5,963,165	23,706,010	22,518,289	5,683,557	273	1,044	99	893	14,608,901	57,406,100

No. 5.

TABLE showing the TOTAL QUANTITY and VALUE of MINERAL ORES other than Gold (the Product of New Zealand Mines), COAL, COKE, and KAURI-GUM, EXPORTED from the Colony up to the 31st December, 1900.

Year.	Silver.		Copper-ore.		Chrome-ore.		Antimony-ore.		Manganese-ore.		Haematite-ore.		Mixed Mineral Ore.		Coal.		Coke.		Kauri-gum.		Total.		
	Oz.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Oz.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
1853	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	830	15,972	15,972
1854	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,661	28,864	28,864
1855	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	355	4,514	4,514
1856	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,440	18,591	18,591
1857	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,522	35,251	35,251
1858	..	5,000	351	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,010	20,087	25,066
1859	..	2,605	245	8	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1860	..	1,590	137	116	1,440	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1861	..	1,300	110	52	520	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1862	..	1,024	51	3,843	24,719	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1863	..	..	..	595	4,318	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1864	..	..	..	768	4,910	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1865	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1866	..	2,700	246	281	1,315	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1867	..	977	84	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1868	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1869	11,063	2,993	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1870	37,123	11,380	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1871	80,272	23,145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1872	37,064	9,910	1872	9,850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1873	36,187	9,850	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1874	40,566	10,380	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1875	29,085	7,569	1875	7,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1876	12,683	3,171	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1877	33,898	7,556	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1878	23,019	5,755	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1879	20,645	4,512	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1880	20,005	4,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1881	18,885	4,286	5	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1882	16,826	3,785	46	678	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1883	24,914	5,125	20	106	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1884	16,624	3,169	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1885	12,108	2,946	20	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1886	20,809	3,453	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1887	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1888	24,105	4,043	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1889	32,637	6,162	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1890	28,023	5,151	04	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1891	23,053	3,996	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1892	63,076	9,743	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1893	54,177	6,697	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1894	95,224	10,679	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1895	84,307	10,589	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1896	183,892	20,872	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1897	233,851	33,107	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1898	349,338	40,838	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1899	336,457	38,879	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
1900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,046	20,776	23,501
Totals	2,054,808	315,548	1,4084	17,983	5,694	37,477	3,613	52,462	18,8034	60,232	226	21,137	102,916	1,233,518	1,189,843	16,370	24,804	221,751	10,329,831	2,054,808	1,522,3474	12,131,322	

* Including 1,765 tons of sulphur, value £4,097.

† Including 1,227 tons of sulphur; quartz, 5 tons; scheelite, 32 tons.

‡ Silver-ore, 464 tons, £1,497.

No. 6.

RETURN showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of COALS IMPORTED into NEW ZEALAND during the Quarter ended the 31st March, 1901.

Country whence imported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
New South Wales	35,669	35,249
Tasmania	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	35,669	35,249

No. 7.

TABLE showing the INCREASE or DECREASE in the PRODUCTION of COAL in the Colony, and Imported, Year by Year, during the last Twenty-three Years.

Year.	Coal raised in the Colony.		Coal imported.		
	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.	Tons.	Plus or Minus.	Increase and Decrease.
1878	162,218	..	174,148	..	..
1879	231,218	69,000	158,076	-	16,072
1880	299,923	68,705	123,298	-	33,778
1881	337,262	37,339	129,962	+	6,664
1882	378,272	41,010	129,582	-	380
1883	421,764	43,492	123,540	-	6,042
1884	480,831	59,069	148,444	+	24,904
1885	511,063	30,232	130,202	-	18,242
1886	534,353	23,290	119,873	-	10,329
1887	558,620	24,267	107,230	-	12,643
1888	613,895	55,275	101,341	-	5,889
1889	586,445	27,450	128,063	+	26,722
1890	637,397	50,952	110,939	-	17,124
1891	668,794	31,397	125,318	+	14,379
1892	673,315	4,521	125,453	+	135
1893	691,548	18,233	117,444	-	8,009
1894	719,546	27,998	112,961	-	4,483
1895	726,654	7,108	108,198	-	4,763
1896	792,851	66,197	101,756	-	6,442
1897	840,713	47,862	110,907	+	9,151
1898	907,033	66,320	115,427	+	4,520
1899	975,234	68,201	99,655	-	15,772
1900	1,093,990	118,756	124,033	+	24,378

No. 8.

TABLE showing the OUTPUT of COAL from the various Mining Districts, and the Comparative INCREASE and DECREASE, for the Years 1899 and 1900, together with the TOTAL APPROXIMATE QUANTITY of COAL produced since the Mines were opened.

Name of District.	Output of Coal.		Plus or Minus.	Increase or Decrease.	Approximate, Total Output of Coal up to 31st December, 1900.
	1900.	1899.			
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Kawakawa and Hikurangi	53,340	51,661	+	1,679	1,136,520
Whangarei, Kamo, Ngunguru, and Whau-whau	26,339	15,662	+	10,677	433,862
Waikato	77,191	68,929	+	8,262	1,167,168
Mokau	3,433	4,876	-	1,443	26,021
Pelorus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	711
West Wanganui	1,739	240	+	1,499	52,975
Westport	380,146	363,043	+	17,103	3,726,493
Reefton	4,379	4,017	+	362	84,144
Greymouth	207,919	154,647	+	53,272	2,877,120
Malvern	14,162	14,192	-	30	383,386
Timaru .. .. .	..	..	..	..	10,657
Otago	266,213	249,824	+	16,389	4,073,337
Southland	59,129	48,143	+	10,986	580,476
Totals	1,093,990	975,234	+	118,756	14,552,870

No. 9.

TABLE showing the DIFFERENT CLASSES of COAL from the MINES in the COLONY.

Name of Coal.	Output of Coal.		Increase or Decrease.	Approximate Total Output of Coal up to the 31st December, 1900.
	1899.	1900.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous	588,036	673,862	+ 85,826	7,946,824
Pitch	37,835	37,804	- 31	1,798,127
Brown	314,542	339,786	+ 25,244	4,318,947
Lignite	34,821	42,538	+ 7,717	488,972
Totals	975,234	1,093,990	+118,756	14,552,870

No. 10.

TABLE showing the NUMBER of COAL-MINES in OPERATION, the NUMBER of MEN EMPLOYED, and the OUTPUT of COAL per MAN.

Number of Mines working.	Number of Persons employed at each Mine.	Total Number of Persons employed.	Output of Coal during 1900.	Average Output per Person.
			Tons.	Tons.
114	1 to 4 men in each	189	49,299½	260·84
23	5 to 10 "	161	62,003½	385·11
12	11 to 20 "	185	77,188	417·23
18	21 men and upwards	1,925	905,499	470·38
167		2,460	1,093,990	444·71

No. 11.

RETURN showing the QUANTITY and VALUE of COAL IMPORTED INTO and EXPORTED FROM NEW ZEALAND during the Year ended the 31st December, 1900.

Imported.			Exported.		
Countries whence imported.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£		Tons.	£
United Kingdom	2	7	United Kingdom	75,448	68,460
New South Wales	124,011	120,379	Victoria	431	432
Tasmania	20	20	New South Wales	6,552	5,289
			Cape Colony	2,604	2,604
			Natal	2,313	2,265
			United States of America—		
			On the West Coast	1,826	1,818
			Fiji Islands	5,724	4,075
			South Sea Islands	9,882	8,885
			Hongkong	9,578	5,746
Totals	124,033	120,406	Totals	114,358	99,574

No. 12.

NUMBER of MINERS EMPLOYED during the Years ended 31st March, 1900 and 1901.

Mining District.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz-miners.		Totals.		Grand Totals.	
	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	European.	Chinese.	1901.	1900.
AUCKLAND—								
North Hauraki and Coromandel ..	..	..	400	..	400	..	400	667
Thames	2	..	570	..	572	..	572	838
Ohinemuri .. .. .	..	..	2,235	..	2,235	..	2,235	1,891
Te Aroha .. .. .	..	..	16	..	16	..	16	15
Puhipuhi .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tauranga	5	..	5	..	10	..	10	1
Great Barrier .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
	7	..	3,226	..	3,233	..	3,233	3,458
MARLBOROUGH—								
Pelorus, Queen Charlotte Sound ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wairau, North Bank	50	..	20	..	70	..	70	60
Cullen's Creek	19	..	..	..	19	..	19	19
Waikakaho	3	..	..	..	3	..	3	3
Wakamarina	61	..	2	..	63	..	63	61
	133	..	22	..	155	..	155	143
NELSON—								
Wangapeka, Baton, and Sherry ..	11	..	..	..	11	..	11	19
Takaka	24	..	..	..	24	..	24	23
Collingwood	140	..	25	..	165	..	165	151
Motueka	6	..	..	..	6	..	6	20
Inangahua	207	160	598	..	805	160	965	952
Ahaura	992	106	25	..	1,017	106	1,123	459
Charleston	140	..	..	..	140	..	140	130
Westport, including Addison's, Northern Terraces, Waimangaroa, North Beach, Mokihinui, Karamea, and Lower Buller Valley	240	..	9	..	249	..	249	280
Lyell	35	35	10	..	45	35	80	130
Murchison	120	30	..	..	120	30	150	260
Owen .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1,915	331	667	..	2,582	331	2,913	2,424
WESTLAND—								
Ross	90	2	..	..	90	2	92	107
Stafford and Goldsborough	300	100	..	..	300	100	400	400
Hokitika and Kanieri	262	51	..	..	262	51	313	480
Kumara	300	45	..	..	300	45	345	450
Greymouth	750	195	3	..	753	195	948	943
Arnold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Okarito	85	1	..	..	85	1	86	79
	1,787	394	3	..	1,790	394	2,184	2,459
OTAGO—								
Hindon	25	..	11	..	36	..	36	47
Tuapeka	420	200	80	..	500	200	700	700
Clyde, Roxburgh, Black's, and Alexandra	893	130	19	..	912	130	1,042	1,079
Cromwell	498	140	6	..	504	140	644	580
Tapanui	10	5	..	..	10	5	15	16
Waikaia	200	50	..	..	200	50	250	280
Wyndham	15	..	..	..	15	..	15	25
Waiau	20	..	..	..	20	..	..	..
Orepuki	600	65	..	..	600	65	845	675
Roundhill and Wilson's River ..	90	70	..	..	90	70	..	..
Wakatipu Goldfields—Arrow, Macetown, Cardrona, Kawarau, Bracken's, and Motatapu	200	20	30	..	230	20	250	320
Queenstown	300	25	100	..	400	25	425	425
Naseby	150	70	..	..	150	70	220	218
St. Bathans	75	4	..	..	75	4	79	86
Hyde	12	10	11	..	23	10	33	34
Macrae's	26	30	42	..	68	30	98	97
Maerewhenua and Kurow	90	..	..	..	90	..	90	90
Pembroke	30	12	..	..	30	12	42	42
Gore	133	20	..	..	133	20	153	93
Preservation	30	..	50	..	80	..	80	..
	3,817	851	349	..	4,166	851	5,017	4,807
SUMMARY.								
AUCKLAND	7	..	3,226	..	3,233	..	3,233	3,458
MARLBOROUGH	133	..	22	..	155	..	155	143
NELSON	1,915	331	667	..	2,582	331	2,913	2,424
WESTLAND	1,787	394	3	..	1,790	394	2,184	2,459
OTAGO	3,817	851	349	..	4,166	851	5,017	4,807
Totals	7,659	1,576	4,267	..	11,926	1,576	13,502	13,291

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (2,500 copies), £14 15s. 0d.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1901.