

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my annual statement I am pleased to be able to state that arrangements are now progressing satisfactorily for the working of the deep quartz levels at the Thames and the deep alluvial leads at Ross, in Westland. During the past twenty years the importance of working these deep levels and leads has been discussed by the mining community, and various schemes have from time to time been outlined for their development. I think it may be confidently stated that definite action will shortly be taken for testing these deep levels at the Thames and Westland. Increased attention is now directed in different parts of the colony to the development of cupriferous ores, and the recent discovery at Mount Radiant is a hopeful indication of what may be anticipated from the opening-up of the mountainous country on the West Coast by roads and tracks. Never in the history of New Zealand has quartz-mining been in a more healthy condition; coal-mining is attracting capital for large operations; efforts are being made for testing our petroleum-deposits; and shale-mining is likely to be shortly resumed. Taking a general review of the mining industry as a whole, it may be said to be in a very satisfactory condition.