

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING.

There has to be recorded a decline of £67,560 in the value of the production from the auriferous-quartz mines, and £67,033 in the dividends paid by them during the past year. This decline, however, is entirely confined to the Thames, Reefton, and Coromandel districts; the more recently discovered goldfields at Waihi, Karangahake, and Big River having largely increased their gold-production and value of dividends paid.

With the proposed reconstruction of the treatment plants at the Reefton mines, and the deep-level developments on that and the Thames goldfields, there is reason to believe that the present slight decline in production from the quartz-mines of the Dominion will be arrested.

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated, the value of bullion produced, and the amount of dividends paid in each of the inspection districts during the years 1907 and 1908:—

Inspection District.	Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid. (By registered companies only).	
	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Northern	546,905	520,061	£ 1,302,665	£ 1,375,035	£ 545,233	£ 589,691
West Coast	95,156	98,027	160,156	160,533	16,600	39,175
Southern	12,246	8,190	14,191	9,004	...	...
Totals	654,307	626,278	1,477,012	1,544,572	56,833	628,866

The following is a statement of the production, working-cost, dividends declared, and number of persons employed at the principal quartz-mines during 1908:—

Name of Mine.	Tons of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.*	Total Cost per Ton.*	Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
					1908.	Total to End of December, 1908.	
Northern District—		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£	
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)†	393,214*	896,743‡	2 5 7	0 16 7.12	446,316	3,139,560	1,500
Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	48,477*	73,123	1 10 2	§	...	...	364
Waiotahi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	3,497*	14,717	4 4 2	2 5 0	6,000	397,800	44
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ...	46,417	218,975	4 14 4	1 15 9	86,250	251,250	300
Komata Reefs (Ltd.) ...	28,170*	44,260	1 4 4	§	6,667	33,333	170
New Zealand Crown Mines (Ltd.)	14,921*	25,260	1 13 10	§	...	70,000	131
May Queen (Ltd.) ...	429*	3,261	7 10 2	§	...	...	38
West Coast District—							
Keep-it-Dark Quartz-mining Company (Ltd.)	13,170	14,059	1 1 4	0 18 8.75	1,000	158,667	60
Progress Mines of New Zealand (Ltd.)	48,500	58,297	1 4 0	1 1 9.42	...	295,625	300
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand (Ltd.)	15,347	29,854	1 18 11	0 18 9	...	...	95
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	4,851	31,241	6 8 9½	1 16 10.52	15,600	629,667	40
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.) ...	9,169	17,647	1 18 5¾	0 17 0	...	...	180
Southern District—							
Barewood Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	4,793	7,230	1 10 10¾	1 1 4¾	...	2,800	21
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	23,352	42,345	...	§	...	...	875
Totals, 1908	654,307	1,477,012	...	...	561,833	...	4,118

* Short tons of 2,000 lb. dry weight.

† The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £7,186,856. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

‡ In the annual report of the directors of this company for 1908 the value of the bullion production is stated to be £930,511, being an average value of £2 7s. 5d. per short ton. The ore reserves at the end of 1908 are estimated to be 1,329,872 short tons, as compared with 1,299,979 tons at the end of 1907.

§ Unknown.