

In the following table the present position of our quartz-mining is summarized :—

Name of Company.	Tons of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.	Total Cost per Ton.	Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
					1909.	Total to End of December, 1909.	
Northern District—							
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)*	416,813†	924,146‡	£ s. d. 2 4 4‡	£ s. d. 0 16 2.14	£	£	1,500
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	59,669	99,839	1 13 4‡	0 19 2	424
Waiohahi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	1,495	10,116	6 16 0	4 12 5	3,000	400,800	28
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ...	46,456	208,886	4 10 0	2 0 4	105,000	356,250	325
Komata Reefs (Ltd.) ...	13,390	24,417	1 16 5‡	§	...	33,333	70
May Queen (Ltd.) ...	1,315	3,520	2 13 6‡	§	32
West Coast District—							
Keep-it-Dark Quartz-mining Company (Ltd.)	11,163	11,313	1 0 3	1 0 3‡	...	158,667	45
Progress Mines of New Zealand (Ltd.)	35,414	52,080	1 9 4‡	1 4 9.08	13,750	309,375	335
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand (Ltd.)	15,577	28,359	1 16 5	0 15 11.177	105
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	5,434	26,270	4 16 8	1 18 5	15,600	82,689	55
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.) ...	29,955	73,281	2 8 11	0 16 10.07	12,500	12,500	190
Golden Blocks Taitapu Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	1,299	4,957	3 16 4	§	2,105	§	25
Southern District—							
Barewood Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	5,477	6,518	1 3 9‡	1 0 8.7	...	2,000	22
Other quartz mines throughout New Zealand	49,549	53,209	1 1 5‡	§	§	§	571
Totals, 1909 ...	693,006	1,526,861	2 4 0‡	§	598,271	§	3,727

* The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £8,180,218. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

† Short tons of 2,000 lb. dry weight.

‡ In the annual report of the directors of this company for 1909 the value of the bullion production is stated to be £959,954, being an average value of £2 13s. 1d. per short ton; but the figures given in the table above are the official returns from the company to the Inspector of Mines. The ore reserves at the end of 1909 are estimated to be 1,335,586 short tons, as compared with 1,329,872 tons at the end of 1908.

§ Unknown.

COAL-MINING.

This branch of our mining industry has had an exceedingly prosperous period during the last year. The most remarkable feature connected with the operations of our coal-mines has been the very large increase in the production of bituminous, semibituminous, and brown coal, and the decrease in the production of pitch-coal and lignite. Doubtless owing to the unfortunate and prolonged strike in the coal trade in New South Wales, there was an abnormal increase in the coal exported from this Dominion, the quantity exported, including that used by Home steamers, having increased from 100,502 tons in 1908 to 201,685 tons in 1909, and the value from £85,846 to £183,961, being an increase of 101,183 tons and an increased value of £98,115. The total coal-production during the year was 1,911,247 tons, which was a record for the Dominion, and exceeds the output of the previous year by 50,272 tons.

The output of bituminous and semi-bituminous coal increased by 52,021 tons, and brown coal by 20,368 tons, whereas the output of pitch-coal and lignite decreased by 22,117 tons. It is very satisfactory to note that the coal-production of this Dominion has doubled during the last decade. This would, in a modest way, indicate a repetition of the history of the coal industry of the United States. Mr. H. St. Clair Putnam, one of America's most eminent engineers, dealing with this and kindred questions relating to motive power, fuel, and light, before a Conference of the Governors of all the States of the Union, says, "The coal-production of the