

The dividends paid by thirty-five dredges, the property of registered companies, amounted to £51,918 during 1910; the profits of privately owned dredges are unobtainable.

The following is a statement regarding the most productive dredges during the year :—

Name of Dredge.	Production during 1910 of all Dredges.	Dividends paid by Thirty-five Dredges owned by Registered Companies.	
		During 1910.	To 31st December, 1910.
West Coast District—	£	£	£
Stafford ... ..	3,738	708	2,883
Hessy, Cameron, and Tacon (Limited) ...	4,042	750	3,225
Worksop ... ..	6,565	1,800	6,600
No Town Creek ... ..	5,222	1,800	28,800
Pactolus ... ..	5,187	2,500	60,625
Blackwater River ... ..	5,100	947	9,000
New Trafalgar ... ..	4,143	650	4,550
Southern District—			
Crewe (2) ... ..	7,146	2,875	6,125
Waikaka Syndicate (2) ... ..	7,659	3,500	20,300
Koputai ... ..	4,972	2,100	11,302
Earnsclough (3) ... ..	12,755	1,100	24,200
Masterton ... ..	5,062	1,750	30,250
Mystery Flat ... ..	3,221	807	26,595
Golden Bed ... ..	8,000	3,821	13,347
Rise and Shine (2) ... ..	20,112	11,100	33,900
Rising Sun ... ..	9,074	3,800	13,800
Magnum Bonum ... ..	4,414	2,062	7,063
Muddy Creek ... ..	2,808	830	9,962
Waikaka United (2) ... ..	8,769	1,680	39,760
Otago (2) ... ..	6,145	500	17,125
Manuherikia ... ..	4,640	1,800	32,387
Dredge No. 909 ... ..	4,887	1,500	1,500
Jutland Hydraulic ... ..	1,762	249	3,250
Waikaia ... ..	5,599	2,275	13,475
Other working dredges ... ..	164,127	1,014	...
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>315,149</b>	<b>51,918</b>	...

During 1910 two West Coast dredges were dismantled—viz., “Pactolus I” and “New Mokoia.” In Otago and Southland there were also dismantled the “Excelsior,” “Glenore,” “Clutha River,” “Roxburgh Jubilee,” and “Electric III.” The “Antonio’s Flat” dredge was removed to Cronadun.

A new dredge, the “Success,” has been launched at Brennan’s Creek, Westland; it is in length 96½ ft., and although smaller than several of the Otago dredges, is one of the largest and most powerful on the West Coast.

### (3.) ALLUVIAL MINING.

The prosperity of this branch of mining depends upon the adequacy of the water-supply available for sluicing purposes. Owing, therefore, to an exceptionally dry year—it is reported to have been the greatest drought ever experienced in Southland—the value of the gold-production from alluvial claims during 1910 has declined to £188,464, being £144,771 below the production of the previous year.

#### *West Coast Inspection District.*

The Mahinapua Gold-mining Company (Limited) are the holders of a claim of about 87 acres, situated on the Aylmer auriferous black-sand lead, between Lake Mahinapua and the Hokitika-Ross Railway. The claims cover the course of the lead for about two miles and a half. The width of the lead may average about 60 ft., the depth being about 20 ft. The lead has been worked intermittently in isolated patches during a number of years by more primitive and costly methods than those now generally adopted in this country. No great quantity of gold has been obtained, but at times some rich patches have been found. The difficulty here, as on many other of the unexhausted alluvial goldfields of the Dominion, has been the influx of water, which prevented the extraction of the deepest wash by former methods of mining. The present company have installed a complete hydraulic sluicing and elevating outfit of about 30 cubic yards per hour capacity. The source of water-supply is Granite Creek and Ogilvie’s Lagoon, which are connected to the claim by ditching and iron piping in length 6 miles 1½ chains constructed by the company, and capable of delivering about