

on the Buller River. They have been working steadily during the year, with fairly successful results. The *New Mokia*, at Three Channel Flat, went into liquidation in the early part of the year. The dredge was bought by a Greymouth syndicate and dismantled, for removal to Greymouth.

SEDDONVILLE SUBDISTRICT.

Very little mining is being done in this district, but on the whole there are indications of increasing activity. It is reported that a rich reef 20 ft. wide has been struck at the Red Queen. It has been driven on for 60 ft., and shows good gold. A company is being formed to develop the find.

CHARLESTON SUBDISTRICT.

Six prospecting licenses were granted during the year over 550 acres of Crown land. Three of these have run out and three have been surrendered, and special claims over 300 acres taken up in their place. Parson Brothers and Hampton Brothers are still crushing cement on Brown's Terrace, and doing well. Powell's claim is still working three shifts, and is reported to be paying very well. During the year there was a good deal of rough weather on the coast, which caused a fair amount of gold to be cast up with the black sand on the Nine-mile Beach. The claimholders have had almost constant work, and have done better than for some years past. One of the oldest miners in the district, a man named "Barney" Shepherd, was killed by a fall of earth whilst building a dam, and his claim, which was disposed of by public auction, was bought by James Butterworth for £315.

I have, &c.,

E. RAWSON, Warden.

Mr. Warden CROOKE, Greymouth, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department, Wellington.

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Greymouth, 10th April, 1911.

I have the honour to present my annual report on the mining industry in the mining district under my charge for the year ended 31st December, 1910.

GREYMOUTH SUBDISTRICT.

The North Beach dredge, privately owned, sank about the middle of the year, but was raised again, and, except for a short time, has been continuously worked.

At Poerua twenty-one ordinary prospecting licenses, of 100 acres each, together with water-races and battery-sites, have been granted in connection with auriferous reefs in that locality. The Poerua Gold-mining Company (Limited) has been formed to work a portion of the reefs.

A stone-quarry at Dobson held under a mineral license has been worked actively during the year, a steady demand evidently being made for the output.

A belt of country embracing the Kotuku oilfields, and containing 25,500 acres, extending from No Town Creek to the Taramakau River, has been granted to Messrs. David Ziman, of London, and Felix Campbell, of Greymouth, under mineral-prospecting warrants. An expert in prospecting for petroleum-oil was introduced from Europe, who, after a careful examination of the field, made what is understood to be a satisfactory report. Geologists representing the Mines Department have also inspected and reported on the possibilities of the field.

Near Barrytown the auriferous sands are still being treated by means of a large extent of tables, under the management of Messrs. McKay and McKay and White, with, I understand, excellent results.

AHAURA SUBDISTRICT.

South Side of Snowy Creek.—There is still considerable prospecting-work being carried out here in the hope of picking up the continuation of the Blackwater reefs, but, so far, nothing permanent has been met with.

In Noble's, Duffer's, and Half-ounce Creeks about thirty-five men are working at alluvial mining, in most cases in old-worked ground.

Orwell Creek and Ahaura.—There are about thirty-five men following alluvial mining in these districts, but the results, except in the cases of one or two, are not of a very payable nature.

There is a prospect of an English syndicate bringing in a water-race of 80 heads of water from Lake Hochstetter to work rich alluvial ground behind Riverview and Sullivan's Creek. Should this eventuate, alluvial mining should receive a fresh lease of life.

Moonlight and Blackball.—In these districts, although there is considerable prospecting being done, nothing of a payable nature has so far been met with. The Moonlight Dredging Syndicate are, however, well satisfied with the results obtained from their dredge.

Nelson and Callaghan's Creeks.—These districts remain about the same. The dredges in the former are nearing the end of their ground, and probably will cease operations shortly. In No Town the population is decreasing, and consists now of about twenty-five alluvial miners. This district, like many other alluvial centres, suffers from the want of water for sluicing purposes on the higher levels, where gold is known to exist in payable quantities. The construction of races to convey water to the high terraces appears to be the only method now remaining to enable alluvial mining to be continued. It is manifest that the cost of construction of such races can be borne only by companies with considerable capital.

The No Town dredge maintains a fair average weekly return, but the ground is now nearly worked out.