

MINERAL-PRODUCTION.

The following table shows the quantity and value of gold, silver, and other minerals, including kauri-gum, exported during the years 1910 and 1911, also the quantity of native coal consumed in the Dominion during the same periods:—

Product.	Year ending			
	31st December, 1910.		31st December, 1911.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Gold	478,288 oz.	1,896,328	455,226 oz.	1,816,782
Silver	1,711,235 "	171,562	1,311,043 "	131,587
Manganese-ore	5 tons	15	...	4
Mixed minerals	2,088 "	22,202	3,470 tons	22,104
Colonial coal exported, including that used by Home steamers	277,011 "	259,562	223,918 "	205,008
Colonial coal used in New Zealand ...	1,920,351 "	960,175	1,842,155 "	921,078
Kauri-gum	8,693 "	465,044	7,587 "	395,707
Coke	6 "	10	...	...
Antimony... ..	...	...	20 tons	92
Total value of production for 1911 ... ..	...	...	...	£3,492,362
" " 1910 ... ..	...	...	...	3,774,898
Total decrease ... ..	...	...	...	<u>£282,536</u>

AURIFEROUS-QUARTZ MINING.

This still remains the most important branch of the mining industry in the Dominion. The value of the bullion obtained from our quartz-mines during 1911 amounted to £1,375,253, as a result of treating 645,991 tons, the dividends obtained thereby amounting to £451,969.

The following is a statement of the quantity of quartz treated, the value of bullion obtained, and the amount of dividends paid by the most important quartz-mines during 1911:—

Name of Company.	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Dividends paid.	
			1911.	Total to end of December, 1911.
	Tons.	£	£	£
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Limited)	316,349	670,179	272,748	4,230,585
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Limited)	94,603	150,729	19,218	19,218
Talisman Consolidated (Limited)	47,550	222,058	109,307	560,291
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Limited) ..	6,913	28,062	13,200	51,600
Blackwater Mines (Limited)	44,038	92,062	37,496	87,496
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand ...	136,538	212,163	*	*
Totals	645,991	1,375,253	451,969	*

* Unknown.

There has been a serious decline in the production from the Waihi Mine, owing to impoverishment of the lodes at the lower levels. Operations are being energetically carried out for the development of the lodes at greater depth, and it is hoped that the impoverished zone will eventually be passed through. It is impossible, however, to forecast what the developments will disclose.

It is satisfactory to report substantial increases in the value of the production from the Waihi Grand Junction, Talisman, New Big River, and Blackwater Mines, and that some promising new mines are being opened up in other parts of the Dominion.