

(1). QUARTZ-MINING.

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated, the value of bullion produced, and the amount of dividends paid by quartz-mining companies in each of the inspection districts during the years 1911 and 1912 :—

Inspection District.	Tons of Ore treated. (2,240 lb.)		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid. (By registered companies only.)	
	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911.
Northern	264,831	507,280	£ 781,716	£ 1,141,235	£ 299,303	£ 401,273
West Coast	55,098	128,244	116,408	228,512	15,600	50,696
Southern	15,722	10,467	8,065	5,506
Totals	335,651	645,991	906,189	1,375,253	314,903	451,969

The following is a statement of the production, working-cost, dividends declared, and the number of persons employed at the principal quartz-mines during 1912 :—

Name of Company.	During 1912.			Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.	1912.	Total to End of December, 1912.	
Northern District—	Imperial Tons.	£	£ s. d.	£	£	
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)*	131,989	316,724†	2 7 11·9	148,772	4,379,357	1,200
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	37,242	74,371	1 19 11·2	19,219	38,437	250
New Zealand Crown Mines (Ltd.) ..	22,839	40,798	1 15 8·7	..	70,000	170
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ..	42,780	246,569	5 15 3·2	125,062	685,353	320
Komata Reefs (Ltd.) ..	5,464	16,636	3 0 10·7	..	33,333	65
New Sylvia Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	10,459	15,044	1 8 9·2	55
Waihi-Paeroa Gold-extraction Company (Ltd.)	‡	33,811	0 8 0·3	6,250	6,250	67
West Coast District—						
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.) ..	11,538	26,604	2 6 1·3	..	87,496	100
Progress Mines of New Zealand (Ltd.)	8,770	12,543	1 8 7·2	..	326,562	100
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand (Ltd.)	10,936	17,509	1 12 0·2	60
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	7,666	36,657	4 15 7·6	15,600	67,200	57
112 other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	45,968	68,922	1 10 3·6	..	§	846
Totals, 1912	335,651	906,189	..	314,903	§	3,290

* The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £10,118,217. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

† In the annual report of the directors of this company for 1912 the value of the bullion-production is stated to be £332,786, but the figures given in the table above are the official returns from the company to the Inspector of Mines. The discrepancy occurs owing to the actual value of the bullion not being known until it is refined in England.

‡ 84,178 imperial tons of old tailings from Waihi and Karangahake Mines dredged from Ohinemuri River sludge-channel, crushed during former years and recorded therein, but re-treated during 1912.

§ Unknown.

Northern Inspection District.

Waihi Goldfield.—Owing to the Federation of Labour refusing to allow its members to work with the Waihi Engine-drivers' Union, who had seceded from the Federation and formed a new union (subsequently registered under the Arbitration Act), for nearly six months following the 13th May mining operations were suspended at Waihi. The result, therefore, of operations during 1912 is no criterion of the capacity of the mines.

On the 13th May, 1913, I inspected this mine, and found at the 1,151 ft. or deepest level that the Martha lode maintained its width at the western face, but pinched out to the eastward, and, with the exception of small isolated pockets of sulphide ore, the quartz had been leached of its value throughout the level, especially towards the north, or foot-wall side, from whence the impoverishment commenced in the levels immediately above. As the greater portion of the bullion won by this company has been obtained from the Martha lode this continued impoverishment is unfortunate, but it is satis-