

At the mines of the Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand and the Progress Mines of New Zealand operations have been unprofitable, the only interesting development being the intersection of a body of quartz in a prospecting-drive through the fault south of No. 10 or 1,269 ft. level. The value of this discovery has yet to be proved.

In the Blackwater district the Blackwater Mines (Limited) have experienced a successful year, dividends amounting to £12,500 having been distributed. There still continues, however, to be a decline in the value per ton of ore treated, such value being—For 1910, £2 6s. 7d.; for 1911, £2 1s. 10d.; for 1912, £2 6s. 1d.; and for 1913, £1 16s. 5d. The No. 6 or 915 ft. level still remains the deepest level in the mine, but preparations are being made to continue sinking the main shaft.

In the vicinity of this mine are situated the Millerton and Prohibition Mines. Upon the former shaft-sinking is in progress, and upon the latter similar work is proposed.

Other quartz-mining operations, such as the Swastika Mine, on the Mokihinui River, are being carried out, but the amount of work done is insufficient to justify either eulogy or condemnation.

Southern Inspection District.

In the southern inspection district no gold-quartz mining is in operation, although from the gold-scheelite-quartz mines of Otago some gold is obtained in conjunction with scheelite.

(2.) DREDGE MINING.

This branch of gold-mining is rapidly declining in importance, the number of productive dredges having decreased from 201 during 1902, when dredge mining was at its zenith, to seventy-four during 1913.

On the west coast of the South Island ten dredges were in commission—viz., two on Nelson Creek and one at each of the following places: Capleston, Cronadun, Antonio's Flat, Moonlight Creek, Waimea Creek, Blue Spur, Grey Valley, and North Beach, Cobden.

In Otago and Southland the fleet of sixty-four dredges in commission was distributed as follows: Waikaia Valley, 15; at or near Alexandra (River Clutha), 9; Waikaia, 6; Miller's Flat, 5; at or above Cromwell, 4; Manuherikia, 4; Nevis, 4; Glencoe, 3; Charlton Creek, 3; Cardrona, 2; and one at each of the following places—Lowburn Ferry, Kawarau River, Clutha Gorge, Roxburgh, Ettrick, Ida Valley, Kyeburn, Hogburn, and Waikaka.

Of the foregoing, the following dredges ceased operations during the year: Hessey Cameron (Capleston), totally wrecked; Stafford (Waimea Creek), North Beach (Cobden)—all on the West Coast. In Otago and Southland the following dredges ceased operations: Hartley and Riley (River Clutha), Sandy Point (Alexandra), Golden Beach No. 1 (Alexandra), Surprise (Manuherikia), Gem (Waikaia Valley), and Central Charlton (Charlton Creek).

Only one new dredge has been commissioned—viz., that of the Red Jack's Gold-dredging Company on Red Jack's Creek, West Coast. In Central Otago old dredges have been started at Hogburn and Kyeburn, and at Matura, in Southland.

The Worksop dredge operating at Antonio's Flat, near Reefton, again heads the list of productive dredges. This dredge has during the past three years produced gold to the value of £49,687, of which £29,100 was distributed as dividends. An additional area of 300 acres has been acquired by this company, and it is reported that drilling operations thereon have proved very satisfactory.

The following table shows the result of dredge-mining operations in New Zealand during the past eight years:—

Year.	Total Number of Dredges working.	Value of Production.	Average Production per Dredge.	Dividend-paying Dredges owned by Registered Companies.		Number of Persons employed.
				Number.	Dividends.	
1906	167	£ 505,199	£ 3,025	66	£ 103,722	..
1907	128	419,634	3,278	65	89,707	1,150
1908	123	373,818	3,039	47	75,800	1,013
1909	111	327,676	2,952	37	56,788	893
1910	104	315,237	3,031	35	51,918	838
1911	93	297,900	3,203	31	45,318	775
1912	87	257,333	2,958	28	38,841	694
1913	74	195,848	2,646	11	18,750	621

The dividends paid by eleven dredges the property of registered companies amounted to £18,750 during 1913; the profits of privately owned dredges are unobtainable.