

being subsequently located was found to be about 6 ft. in thickness, containing average values. This development is of importance. The maintenance of the Blackwater lode in course, average thickness, and values is probably unique as regards New Zealand lodes, frequent faulting or pinching out of the lode being the rule at most of the quartz-mines of the Dominion. The prospectors who discovered the Blackwater lode were assisted by a Government subsidy.

Murray Creek Gold-mining Company.—The only development was carried out at No. 4 level, where a small quantity of ore was proved. The value of the bullion obtained per ton of ore treated declined 6s. 6d.

New Big River Gold-mining Company.—Development was confined to No. 11 (1,775 ft.) level. During the year there was a decline in the quantity of ore produced, and of 5s. 10d. per ton in its value.

North Blackwater Development Syndicate.—Little development was carried out owing to the installation of winding plant. Chambers have been excavated for proposed levels. Crosscuts were driven at the 1,000 ft. and 1,200 ft. levels. This syndicate was assisted by a Government subsidy of £10,000.

Wealth of Nations and Progress Mines of New Zealand.—The production was small owing to the destruction by fire in April, 1918, of the shaft head-gear and nearly all the surface buildings, together with much machinery.

Southern Inspection District.

In Otago and Southland gold-quartz mining operations were unimportant. The Otago Central Gold-mining Company, operating near Bannockburn, received a Government subsidy for driving, but no discovery of value resulted.

(2.) DREDGE MINING.

On the West Coast seven dredges produced gold.

In Otago and Southland twenty-one dredges produced gold.

The number of persons employed upon gold-dredges in the Dominion was 187.

During the year a considerable amount of prospecting was carried out by Government Keystone drills under the superintendence of Mr. G. E. D. Seale on claims in the Arahura Valley and at Rimu Flat, Westland. The results are reported to be satisfactory. A dredge formerly known as "Work-sop No. 2" has been removed to the Arahura Valley and has during the current year been put into commission. The results so far attained have been moderate.

The following is a statement showing the capacity and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1918. (NOTE.—The profits made by privately owned dredges are not obtainable for publication.)

Name of Dredge.	Locality.	Capacity of Dredge-buckets, in Cubic Feet.	Number of Buckets discharged per Minute.	Nominal Horse-power of Engines.	S = Steam. H = Hydraulic. E = Electrical. SG = Suction Gas.	Average Depth of Ground dredged.	Dividends declared.	
							During 1918.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>								
Rise-and-Shine No. 1	Cromwell	5½	10	20	S	Ft. 40	£	£
Rise-and-Shine No. 2	"	5½	10	20	S	40	..	53,100
Rising Sun	"	7	10	25	S	45	..	24,000
Ferry (private)	"	4½	11½	16	S	40	..	..
Earnsclough No. 3	Alexandra	7	12	150	E	50	..	30,250
Earnsclough No. 5	"	6	13	150	E	35	..	..
Ngapara	"	5	10½	16	S	30	525	4,950
New Alexandra (private)	"	6	10	25	S	35	..	..
Gorge (late Manuherikia)	"	5	11	16	S	40	..	..
Olig	"	5	10	16	H	15	..	300
Lower Nevis	Nevis	4	11	12	S	10	..	2,970
Nevis Crossing (private)	"	3½	10	12	S	10	..	..
Crewe No. 2	"	3½	12	12	S	30	..	..
Otakau	Kyeburn	4½	12	70*	SG	16	300	2,925
Rosedale (private)	Waikaka	4½	10	16	S	16	..	..
Star (private)	Waikaka Valley	4	11	12	S	9	..	..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 2 (private)	"	6½	9	16	S	14	..	..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 3 (private)	"	6½	9	20	S	35	..	..
Charlton Valley (private)	Charlton Creek	3¾	11	16	S	18	..	..
Koputai (private)	Waikaia	6	11	16	S	20	..	..
Kura (private)	"	3½	9	16	S	30	2,600	4,527
<i>West Coast.</i>								
Success	Near Hokitika	6	12	25	S	30	500	5,500
Kapitea	Near Kumara	5	10	16	S	..	1,000	1,500
Ahaura	Ahaura River	7	11	20	S	35	..	..
Rimu No. 1	Rimu	7	10	16	S	20	..	..
Worksop No. 2	Antonio's Creek	8	14	16	S	21	..	43,350
Slab Hut Creek	Tawhai (near Reefton)	5	11	12	S	16	..	..
Hessey, Cameron, and Tacon	Capleston	6	11	20	S	30	..	6,480

* Brake horse-power.