

## (3.) ALLUVIAL MINING.

On the West Coast two new sluicing companies, having almost completed their water-races and surface works, propose to commence sluicing during the current year—viz., the Hochstetter Goldfields (Limited), which has expended about £100,000 upon a water-race from Lake Hochstetter to its claims on the terraces at Riverview, on the Arahura River, and the Westland Prospecting Syndicate, the recipient of a Government subsidy for prospecting-shafts, whose claims are situated near Lake Kanieri. It will be seen, therefore, that alluvial mining either by sluicing or dredging on the West Coast still attracts a considerable amount of capital where the ground has been properly tested by drilling and sinking preparatory to the installation of plant and construction of water-races.

## V. MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

## TUNGSTEN-ORE.

The quantity of tungsten-ore exported during the year amounted to 169½ tons, valued at £37,922, as compared with 161 tons, valued at £28,972, in 1917. The following statement shows the quantity and value of ore exported:—

Year.			Quantity.	Value.	Year.			Quantity.	Value.
			Tons.	£			Tons.	£	
1899	..	..	32	2,788	1910	..	143	15,070	
1900	..	..	54	2,635	1911	..	138	11,853	
1901	..	..	2	83	1912	..	135	13,347	
1902	..	..	39	1,200	1913	..	221	22,933	
1903	..	..	42	1,439	1914	..	204	21,498	
1904	..	..	17	791	1915	..	194	27,784	
1905	..	..	28	1,848	1916	..	266	49,070	
1906	..	..	55	3,407	1917	..	161	28,972	
1907	..	..	137	15,486	1918	..	169½	37,922	
1908	..	..	68	6,055					
1909	..	..	58	4,263	Totals	..	2,163½	268,444	

The quantity of tungsten concentrate obtained during the year was 143 $\frac{6}{10}$  tons, as compared with 199½ tons for the previous year, and 258 tons during 1916. The increased quantity exported during 1918, as shown in the above table, is due to the liberation of concentrate which had been held back in anticipation of an increased price being offered by the Imperial Government.

During the war period the price was raised from £2 15s. per unit (per ton of tungstic acid) to £3 8s. Prior to 1914 the market price was about half the latter amount. The decline in production may be attributed to depletion of known deposits and neglect of development underground. The number of persons employed at scheelite-mines has been maintained. During 1919 the Imperial Government has discontinued buying the whole of the output of tungsten-ore produced in the Empire, which will probably affect the current price as previously fixed by war requirements.