

The following are particulars regarding the deep boreholes in the Dominion :—

Name of Company.	Name or Number of Well.	Locality.	Total Depth in Feet.	Result of Drilling and Present Operations, if any.
Taranaki Oil-wells .. ..	1	Moturoa .. ..	3,030	Suspended.
" .. ..	2	" .. ..	3,045	Feebly productive; 8 in. casing.
" .. ..	3	" .. ..	4,040	Feebly productive, intermittently; 4 in. casing.
" .. ..	4	" .. ..	850	Unproductive; casing withdrawn.
" .. ..	5	" .. ..	2,950	Productive; relining with 8 in. casing.
" .. ..	6 (rotary)	" .. ..	2,885	Casing withdrawn.
" .. ..	1	Bell Block, Waitara ..	3,821	Unproductive; abandoned.
" .. ..	2	" .. ..	2,970	" .. ..
Blenheim Oil Company ..	Blenheim	Moturoa .. ..	5,329	Feebly productive at 2,200 ft.; very small flow; 5 in. casing to 5274 ft., thence 3½ in. casing.
Phoenix Oil .. ..	..	" .. ..	2,300	Abandoned or suspended.
Consolidated Oilfields of Taranaki ..	..	Huiroa .. ..	4,921	Drilling stopped; hole blocked.
Bonithorn Freehold Oil .. ..	..	Near New Plymouth ..	2,505	Drilling stopped.
United Oil .. ..	..	Tikorangi, Waitara River ..	695	Abandoned or suspended.
Kotuku Oilfields Syndicate .. ..	..	Near Lake Brunner ..	952	Abandoned (in primary rock).
" .. ..	Kaimata bore	" .. ..	1,335	Stopped; strata unfavourable.
" .. ..	1	Near Waipatiki, Hawke's Bay ..	3,466	Drilling; strong gas emissions.
" .. ..	2	Ditto .. ..	2,000	Drilling stopped.
New Zealand Oilfields .. ..	1	Totangi, Gisborne ..	511	Abandoned or suspended.
" .. ..	2	Waihirore .. ..	1,375	" .. ..
Mangaone Oilfields .. ..	1	Mangaone Valley, near Eketahuna ..	3,000	" .. ..
" .. ..	2	Near Eketahuna ..	114	" .. ..
Canterbury Petroleum Prospecting Company ..	1	Near Chertsey ..	1,896	Still drilling; 1,500 ft. of gravel and conglomerate; 5 in. casing; traces of oil-gas.

#### CINNABAR.

The Whangarei Cinnabar-mining Company, whose operations are carried on at Puhipuhi, North Auckland, has been renamed the "New Zealand Quicksilver-mines (Limited)." During 1918 the company mined and retorted about 582 tons of ore for a return of 11,296 lb. of quicksilver, valued at £2,824. The Customs returns show that during the same period there was entered for exportation 4½ tons (10,080 lb.) of quicksilver, valued at £2,122.

The Inspector of Mines reports that during the year mining development has not been carried out, the reserve of ore being drawn upon to supply the retorts.

#### KAURI-GUM.

The kauri-gum industry being under the administration of a separate Department controlled by a Superintendent, and reported on in an official annual report by that officer, reference to such industry in this report is confined to the publication of the quantity and value of this mineral which has been exported, and to new processes which have and are being adopted for the recovery or treatment of kauri-gum prior to shipment, and to the extraction of oil therefrom.

During 1918 2,419 tons of kauri-gum, valued at £157,313, was exported, the total quantity and value of gum exported to the end of 1918 being respectively 356,292 tons, valued at £18,325,252.

During the past five years attempts have been made to raise kauri-gum from swamp land by means of gold-dredges, but up to the present time the profits therefrom, if any, have been small.

Since 1917 progress has been made in the development of the kauri-peat oil-extraction. Plants are being installed by two companies—viz., the New Zealand Peat-oils Company (Limited), who propose to operate on 3,000 acres at Kaimaumu, north of Mangonui, and by the Parenga Gum-fields (Limited), who will shortly commence operations at Redhill, Northern Wairoa, upon 6,000 acres. It is proposed to refine from the crude oil motor-spirit (benzine), paint-oil, and varnish-oils, with the residuum pitch.

The following is the result of analyses by the Dominion Analyst of samples of peat from Kaimaumu taken from a depth of 12 ft. :—

	Sample No. 1.	Sample No. 2.	Sample No. 3.	Sample No. 4.	Sample No. 5.
Total crude oil, in gallons per ton ..	29.8	17.3	20.2	40.9	29.0
Gas (cubic feet per ton) .. ..	..	..	..	..	4,300
Ammonia sulphate, in pounds per ton ..	11.9	13.2	11.2	10.5	14.1
Charcoal (hundredweight per ton) .. ..	..	..	..	..	7.2
Acetic acid (pounds per ton) .. ..	..	..	..	..	8.0

A new process for cleaning low-grade gums has been discovered and patented by Dr. J. S. Maclaurin, Government Analyst. By this process, known as the "salt vacuum process," the gum-containing dirt is agitated in a conical tank containing a strong solution of common salt, the air being removed by a pump. Upon stopping the agitation the gum and dirt separate by gravity, the gum rising to the top of the tank, while the dirt sinks to the bottom, where it is drawn off.