

(2.) DREDGE MINING.

This system of gold-mining, which originated in New Zealand, has greatly declined in importance owing to increased cost of labour and material, the number of productive dredges having decreased from 167 during 1906 to twelve during 1920, the number of persons employed thereon having decreased from over 1,000 to 112 during that period.

The following dredges were put out of commission during 1919: Rise and Shine No. 2, Ngapara, Otakau, Kapitea, Pactolus, and Hessey-Cameron; and during 1920, the Ferry, Lower Nevis, and McGeorge's No. 2.

The only interesting feature worthy of record in connection with this branch of the gold-mining industry is the near completion of the powerful dredge "Rimu," built after the American design at Rimu Flat, near Hokitika, where an ancient and buried branch of the Hokitika River has been favourably and systematically proved by Government Keystone drills.

The following is a statement showing the capacity, production, and profits of bucket gold-dredges during 1920. (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.	Value of Bullion obtained during 1920.	Dividends declared.	
								During 1920.	Total.
<i>Otago and Southland.</i>									
Rise and Shine No. 1 ..	Cromwell ..	5½	10	20	S	40	2,601	..	53,100
Rising Sun ..	" ..	7	10	25	S	45	2,173	..	24,000
Ferry (private) ..	" ..	4½	11½	16	S	40	215	..	..
Electric No. 1 (private) ..	" ..	5	10	16	S	35	3,320	..	..
Earnsclough No. 3 ..	Alexandra ..	7	12	150	E	50	4,348	}	30,250
Earnsclough No. 5 ..	" ..	6	13	150	E	35	2,750		
Lower Nevis ..	Nevis ..	4	11	12	S	10	526	..	2,970
Nevis Crossing (private) ..	" ..	3½	10	12	S	10	716	..	..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 2 (private)	Waikaka Valley ..	6½	9	16	S	14	5,400	..	..
McGeorge's Freehold No. 3 (private)	" ..	6½	9	20	S	35	1,330	..	..
Kura (private) ..	Waikaia ..	3½	9	16	S	30	7,983	1,400	7,747
<i>West Coast.</i>									
Chambers Reward	Arahura Valley ..	8	15	20	S	15	3,319	..	..
Rimu* ..	Rimu ..	10	20	550	E	..	..	..	..
Totals 1920 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,672	1,400	Unknown.
Totals, 1919 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47,838	2,845	Unknown.

* This dredge, the property of the Rimu Gold-dredging Company, is being equipped with machinery preparatory to being put into commission.

(3.) ALLUVIAL MINING.

Upon alluvial gold-mining operations, which formerly employed many thousands of prosperous diggers, only 409 persons were engaged during the past year; and some of these must have failed to earn a living-wage, the average gold-production per person employed being £190, from which all costs for rent, water, plant, tools, and other material should be deducted.

The following is a table showing the value of production of alluvial gold-mines, and dividends paid by those few which are owned by registered companies, during 1920. (The profits of privately owned mines are unobtainable.)

Name of Company.	Value of Gold produced.	Dividends declared.	
		During 1920.	Total to End of 1920.
Gabriel's Gully Sluicing Company ..	£ 3,692	£ 1,320	£ 15,615
Golden Crescent Sluicing Company ..	2,754	525	12,425
Havelock Sluicing Company ..	2,146	200	11,000
Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company ..	8,547	2,400	53,483
Other claims (118) ..	60,638	..	..
Totals, 1920 ..	77,777	4,445	Unknown.
Totals, 1919 ..	80,273	2,068	Unknown.