

The value of minerals, including kauri-gum, exported and of the coal used in the Dominion, which is shown in table No. 1 accompanying this statement, amounted to £2,919,453, as compared with £3,431,391 during 1920. The total value of such minerals exported to the end of 1921 amounted to £146,673,152.

GOLD AND SILVER MINING.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of bullion-production, the dividends paid by registered companies, and the number of productive claims and gold-dredges during 1921 and 1920 :—

Class of Gold-mining.	Production of Bullion.				Dividends paid by Registered Companies.		Number of Productive Claims and Dredges.	
	1921.		1920.		1921.	1920.	1921.	1920.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	£	£		
Quartz	527,855	433,488	451,122	415,868	53,791	100,981	23	23
Alluvial	16,718	77,438	16,576	77,777	2,337	4,445	150	122
Dredging	7,302	36,179	6,952	34,672	600	..	11	12
Totals	551,875	547,105	474,650	528,317	56,728	105,426	184	157

The production of gold-silver bullion from quartz and alluvial-gold mines and by gold-dredges increased from 474,650 oz., value £528,317, during 1920 to 551,875 oz., value £547,105, during 1921, being an increase in quantity of 16 per cent. and in value 3·5 per cent. This increase may to a large extent be attributed to the encouragement given to work low-grade ore bodies or deposits by the higher value paid in England for gold owing to the low exchange on the paper pound sterling. During 1921 the average price per ounce fine, unfortunately, declined; otherwise the value of the considerably increased gold-production during that year would have been much greater.

During the year no ore bodies or deposits of importance were discovered, mining operations being confined to known ore reserves.

MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER.

The Onakaka Iron and Steel Company having laid down a blast-furnace installation upon its lease at Onakaka, near Parapara, in the Nelson Provincial District, on the 26th April of the current year, the furnace was blown in for a trial run on the ore. The result was very satisfactory, a soft grey marketable foundry pig iron being produced comparable by test and analysis with that imported. The following is the analysis by the Dominion Analyst of a sample then produced: Iron, 92·10; graphitic carbon, 2·89; combined carbon, 0·19; silicon, 3·92; phosphorus, 0·22; sulphur, 0·04; and manganese, 0·64, per cent. respectively.

The iron-ore deposits in the form of limonite which occur on the surface at Onakaka and Parapara have been estimated in the "Iron-ore Resources of the World," published by the International Geological Congress, to be 64,000,000 metric tons.

Owing to the low price paid for 65 per cent. tungsten (scheelite) concentrate, which has fallen from £3 8s. per unit during the war to 9s. per unit, there was no exportation during the year, although 38½ tons of concentrate was produced.

Operations in connection with cinnabar-mining were confined principally to development and prospecting. The New Zealand Quicksilver Mines produced 1,575 lb. of quicksilver at Puhitahi.

Drilling in search of petroleum produced negative results at Waipatiki and Waitangi, near Whatatutu, in the North Island, and Kotuku, near Greymouth.

At Rotorua 873 tons of fumarolic sulphur was taken from a Crown lease.