

(2.) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING DRILLS.

The following table gives details of the drilling done and the results obtained :—

Drill Superintendents: W. H. Warburton, G. E. D. Seale, S. W. Ford, T. Williams, F. Carter, and H. Butland.
Drills used: Schram-Harker diamond and Keystone drills.

Number of Holes drilled.	Total Depth, in Feet.	Diameter of Hole.	Mineral sought.	Character of Rocks drilled through.	To whom lent.	Cost per Foot of Drilling.	Cost per Foot of Transport.	Cost per Foot of Carbon's wear.	Results.
1	1,345	Inches. 2½	Coal	Gravel, mudstone, sandstone, and grits	Dobson Coal Co., Ltd.	s. d. 4 8	s. d. 0 5½	s. d. 1 1:35	21 ft. of coal at 1,323 ft.
2	1,908	2½	„	Ditto	J. Taylor	4 10	0 6	1 0:3	12 ft. of coal at 902 ft.
8	1,218	5	Gold	Gravels	*Waikaia Gold Syndicate	7 6	2 0	..	Four holes carrying fair gold.
16	794	6	„	„	*Ngahere Dredging Syndicate	25 4	..	..	Several holes carrying fair gold.
7	311	4, 3	..	Gravels and grey-wacke	*Christchurch Municipal Electricity Dept.	..	..	15 1:145	Testing bed of Waimakariri River for power-project dam.
9	613	6	Gold	Gravels	*Rimu Gold Dredging Co.	..	..	..	Gold averaging 0·94d. per cubic yard.
1	150	6	„	Moraine gravels	*Westland Prospecting Association	..	..	..	No gold; hole not completed.
1	110	6	Water	Clay and gravel	*Westland Dairy Co.	4 0	..	..	Satisfactory.

* Drill Superintendent supplied by hirer.

(3.) SUBSIDIZED ROADS ON GOLDFIELDS.

The expenditure in the form of subsidies and direct grants upon roads on goldfields amounted to £2,867, as compared with £4,850 during the previous year.

(4.) GOVERNMENT WATER-RACES.

The Waimea-Kumara and Mount Ida water-races, which greatly assist alluvial gold-mining in the localities of Kumara (Westland) and Naseby (Central Otago), but which showed a loss of £798 13s. 9d. to the Government, have during the year ended 31st March, 1924, supplied with water for sluicing auriferous gravel claims employing an average number of 17·91 persons, by which gold to the approximate value of £5,618 13s. was obtained.

The following is a statement showing the cash received by the Government for water sold, and the expenditure on the upkeep of the races, together with the average number of miners supplied with water, and the approximate quantity and value of gold received for the year ended 31st March, 1924 :—

—	Receipts. (Sales of Water.)		Expenditure.		Debit Balance.		Average Number of Miners supplied with Water.	Approximate Quantity and Value of Gold obtained.		
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		Oz.	£	s. d.
Waimea-Kumara Water-races	758	13 0	1,314	19 11	556	6 11	10·91	944	3,705	4 0
Mount Ida	474	4 10	716	11 8	242	6 10	7·00	497	1,913	9 0
Totals	1,232	17 10	2,031	11 7	798	13 9	17·91	1,441	5,618	13 0

The amount outstanding on the Waimea-Kumara water-races on the 31st March, 1924, was £722 13s. 2d., an increase of £27 9s. 4d. on the previous year. No money for water supplied was owing on account of the Mount Ida water-race.

(5.) SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The total expenditure on schools of mines during the year ended the 31st March, 1924, amounted to £3,816 13s. 3d., against £4,456 16s. 3d. during the previous year. The schools continue to do very useful work, but the students who take advantage of the facilities which the schools offer are increasingly from occupations other than mining. This is markedly the case in schools, like the Thames School of Mines, which are situated in districts where mining has seriously declined, and where other industries have taken its place. In that particular school the students engaged in mining or likely to follow mining comprise less than 12 per cent. of the total number of students attending the school, so that the institution is now a technical school rather than a school of mines.

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J. A. C. BAYNE,

Inspecting Engineer of Mines.