

(2) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING DRILLS.

The following table gives details of the drilling done and the results obtained for twelve months ended 31st December, 1934 :—

Drills used: Diamond and Keystone drills. Percussion and Hand-placer drills.

Number of Holes drilled.	Total Depth, in Feet.		Mineral sought.	Character of Country drilled through.	To whom lent.	Cost per Foot of Drilling.		Cost per Foot of Transport.		Cost per Foot of Carbon's Wear.	Remarks.
	Ft.	In.				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			
23	1,398	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Ettrick Prospecting Syndicate	6 1-06	0 6-88	..	..	..	..
26	816	6	Gold	Sand ..	Gold Options, Ltd.	4 8-25	0 5-50	..	..	..	..
3	197	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Wild and Robertson	8 1	3 0	..	..	..	..
1	98	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Bendig Deep Lead Syndicate	13 7*	..	..	..	..	..
7	240	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Luggate Syndicate	10 2	2 4	..	..	..	..
5	286	6	Gold	Sand and gravel	Investigations Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
115	2,331	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Mining Trust and Finance, Ltd.	24 11	0 4	..	..	..	..
9	633	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Unemployment Board	15 1*	..	..	..	..	..
13	806	6	Gold	Clay and gravel	Austral Malay Tin, Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
19	581	3½	Gold	Gravel ..	Austral Malay Tin, Ltd.	3 5-47	2 9-70	..	..	..	..
18	1,427	6	Gold	Sand and gravel	Investigations Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
3	105	3¾	Gold	Sand ..	J. S. Langford	18 0	2 2	..	..	..	..
13	574	3½	Gold	Gravel and schist	Unemployment Board	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
1	54	6	Gold	Pug and coal ..	Argyle Mining Co.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
20	437	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Upper A h a u r a Gold-dredging Co., Ltd.	15 9-5	5 10-5	..	..	..	..
12	449	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Rimu Gold-dredging Co., Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
3	235	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Investigations Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
21	324	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Alluvial Holdings, Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
3	1,530	3 & 2¾	Coal	Shale, sandstone	State Coal-mines	..	..	..	..	..	In progress.
1	196	1¾	Coal	Sandstone ..	Kaye and party	1 9	0 8	0 4	..	..	..
316	12,717										

* Includes cost per foot of transport.

(3) SUBSIDIZED ROADS ON GOLDFIELDS.

The expenditure in the form of subsidies and direct grants upon roads on goldfields amounted to £766 13s. 8d., as compared with £1,227 1s. 10d. during the previous year.

Interest in gold-mining continued unabated, and, in consequence, the duties of the Inspectors of Mines tended to increase, but the Unemployment Board's appointment of qualified mining engineers, to direct and supervise the work of assisted miners and prospectors in several districts, has afforded the Inspectors some relief.

These engineers confer with and are guided by the Inspector's intimate knowledge of his district, and the enthusiasm with which they have taken up their tasks has proved the wisdom of appointing such men.

The Inspector of Stone-quarries, Mr. James Newton, after twenty years' faithful service, was to retire on superannuation at the end of 1934, but, to assist his successor, Mr. R. H. Schoen, who was appointed early in 1935, Mr. Newton kindly continued to act for another month.

The Inspectors of Mines have continued to render me all possible help, and are assiduous in watching that the safety of the workmen is always the first consideration.

I have, &c.,
 GEORGE DUGGAN,
 Inspecting Engineer of Mines.