

(2) GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING DRILLS.

The following table gives details of the drilling done and the results obtained for twelve months ended 31st December, 1936 :—

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	Cost per	Cost per	Remarks.
	Ft.	In.				Foot of Drilling.	Foot of Transport.	Foot of Carbons' Wear.	
4	921	6	Gold	Clay and sand ..	Argyle Mining Co.	s. d. 9 9-33	s. d. 0 3-956	s. d. ..	..
13	660	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Austral Malay Tin, Ltd.	9 7-9	1 1	..	..
8	687	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Austral Malay Tin, Ltd.	14 7-56	0 2-64	..	..
11	585	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Austral Malay Tin, Ltd.	8 6	14 3	..	..
20	1,599	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Clutha River Gold-dredging, Ltd.	..	..	..	In progress.
3	83	6	Gold	Sand and gravel	Consolidated Gold-fields of N.Z., Ltd.	6 6-94	3 4-08	..	..
10	270	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Consolidated Gold-fields of N.Z., Ltd.	8 6-89	2 3-77	..	..
4	181	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Consolidated Gold-fields of N.Z., Ltd.	10 1-99	5 11-59	..	..
3	411	2½	Gold	Andesite and quartz	Coromandel Gold-mines, Ltd.	..	..	..	In progress.
72	1,957	6	Gold	Soil and gravel ..	Labour Department (Employment Division)	3 10	0 2-1	..	..
18	564	6	Gold	Soil and gravel ..	Labour Department (Employment Division)	13 9	0 0-66	..	..
109	1,178	6	Gold	Soil and gravel ..	Labour Department (Employment Division)	..	..	..	In progress.
2	68	4½	Gold	Gravel ..	Labour Department (Employment Division)	..	..	..	..
14	489	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Learmont and party	10 7	3 6	..	..
8	187	6	Gold	Silt and gravel ..	Mataki Gold-dredging, Ltd.	11 4	4 6	..	..
3	159	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Mines Department	10 11-12	2 4-07	..	..
11	964	6	Gold	Gravel ..	N.Z. Prospecting and Mining, Ltd.	8 6*	0 3	..	..
24	1,842	6	Gold	Gravel ..	N.Z. Prospecting and Mining, Ltd.	..	..	..	In progress.
5	946	2½	Gold	Andesite and quartz	Ohinemuri Gold and Silver Mines, Ltd.	17 3-75	0 2-5	3 4	..
258	8,317	6	Gold	Gravel ..	Rimu Gold-dredging Co., Ltd.	..	..	..	In progress.
4	1,348	2½, 3, and 3¾	Coal	Shale and sandstone	State Coal-mines	..	..	..	In progress.
604	23,416								

* Includes cost per foot of holes bored with private drill.

(3) SUBSIDIZED ROADS ON GOLDFIELDS.

The expenditure in the form of subsidies and direct grants upon roads on goldfields amounted to £3,132 11s., as compared with £1,051 18s. 10d. during the previous year.

(4) GENERAL REMARKS.

Finding it necessary to add to their staff of mining engineers, the Labour Department during 1936 engaged the services of additional qualified men, one of them, Mr. R. F. Landreth, taking over the duties of Mr. S. W. S. Strong, whose tragic death near the end of the year I very much regret. He died after a very short illness and within a few weeks of having been appointed to supervise the whole of the field-work of the Labour Department's mining activities. When alluvial and lode mining were at a low ebb Mr. Strong was out in the hills seeking new areas on which to place unemployed men at prospecting, and his unbounded energy and optimism must have renewed hope in many a disappointed miner.

The increasing activity in mining in the West Coast District reflected itself also in the work of the Inspector of Mines for that district. As a consequence it was decided to appoint another Inspector to act with Mr. G. W. Lowes, and Mr. A. W. Turner took up duty at Reefton.

Their help and co-operation throughout the year, as well as that of the Northern and Southern District Inspectors and of Mr. J. E. Downey, who was transferred from Waihi to Wellington in 1935, has been much appreciated.

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GEORGE DUGGAN,
Inspecting Engineer of Mines.