

The estimated yield of gold for 1879 is 906 oz. 10 dwt. more than the quantity obtained during 1878.

Estimated yields of gold from alluvial and quartz mines, since the year 1867 :—

| Year. | Alluvial. | Quartz. | Year. | Alluvial. | Quartz. |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | oz. | oz. | | oz. | oz. |
| 1868 .. | 1,087,502 | 597,416 | 1874 .. | 433,283 | 664,360 |
| 1869 .. | 934,082 | 610,674 | 1875 .. | 426,611 | 641,806 |
| 1870 .. | 718,729 | 585,575 | 1876 .. | 357,901 | 605,859 |
| 1871 .. | 698,190 | 670,752 | 1877 .. | 39,754 | 519,899 |
| 1872 .. | 639,551 | 691,826 | 1878 .. | 264,453 | 493,587 |
| 1873 .. | 504,250 | 666,147 | 1879 .. | 293,310 | 465,637 |

For the first time during 11 years the estimated yield of gold from alluvial mines shows an increase on that of the preceding year, due principally to a better water-supply for sluicing operations, and to the opening up of deep mining ground near Beaufort ; but owing to the exhaustion of the auriferous drifts in the older workings of the gold-fields, it is hardly to be expected that yields from this class of mining will show any lasting improvement. There is still a slight falling off in the yields from quartz mines. The year 1879 shows no alteration in that respect from those that preceded it back to the year 1871, except that the diminished yields of 1879 and of 1878 are comparatively small. It is, however, to quartz mining that we have to look hopefully for future progress, and it is confidently anticipated that the recent discoveries of extensive and highly auriferous quartz veins at Ballarat, in close contiguity to the deep alluvial leads so long and profitably wrought on that gold-field, together with a great improvement in the prospects of vein mining at Maldon and other places, will cause an increase in the yields from this class of mining.

Yields of gold from parcels of quartz in the 6 years 1874-79 :—

| Year. | Crushed or treated. | | Produce. | | | Average per ton. | | |
|---------|---------------------|------|----------|------|-----|------------------|------|-------|
| | tons | cwt. | oz. | dwt. | gr. | oz. | dwt. | gr. |
| 1874 .. | 967,069 | 9 | 573,220 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 20'51 |
| 1875 .. | 949,468 | 12 | 565,561 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 21'92 |
| 1876 .. | 1,011,808 | 4 | 534,328 | 6 | 19 | 0 | 10 | 13'48 |
| 1877 .. | 965,573 | 15 | 453,372 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 9'38 |
| 1878 .. | 874,717 | 6 | 417,306 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 9 | 12'99 |
| 1879 .. | 849,324 | 16 | 372,946 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 8 | 18'77 |

Quantities of quartz tailings, mullock, &c., crushed and treated, and results obtained therefrom, during the 6 years 1874-79 :—

| Year. | Quartz Tailings, Mullock, &c., crushed. | | Produce. | | | Average per ton. | | |
|---------|---|------|----------|------|-----|------------------|------|-------|
| | tons | cwt. | oz. | dwt. | gr. | oz. | dwt. | gr. |
| 1874 .. | 69,439 | 0 | 6,866 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 23'46 |
| 1875 .. | 31,299 | 0 | 4,432 | 15 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 19'98 |
| 1876 .. | 34,028 | 7 | 3,281 | 10 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 21'49 |
| 1877 .. | 28,435 | 0 | 2,938 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1'60 |
| 1878 .. | 38,281 | 14 | 3,502 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 19'92 |
| 1879 .. | 37,301 | 15 | 3,028 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 14'96 |