

Description of Fatal Accidents at Metal-mines, &c.—continued.

Name of Person killed.	Date of Accident.	Mine or Claim.	Cause of Accident, and Remarks.
Wong Hong ..	10/5/13	Nokomai (sluicing) ..	Deceased was working in a sluicing and elevating claim when by some means his foot became caught in the hydraulic elevator, although there appeared to be no necessity for him to go too close thereto, the paddock being roomy. The sufferer's countrymen prevented Europeans from attending to the deeply lacerated foot, but, after neglectful delay, applied their own remedies. Finally amputation became necessary, fatal results following. The elevator was provided with Adams' Patent Blow-back, for use when a block occurred. The Coroner decided that no person was blameworthy.
Francisco Carmine	2/7/13	Coronation Claim (sluicing)	Deceased, an experienced claimholder, was picking a stone from a sluicing-face of about 12 ft. in height, when a fall of earth occurred without warning, killing him instantly. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict accordingly.
W. H. McKee ..	13/4/12 (died 17/11/13)	Moanataiari (quartz) ..	While shovelling after blasting at the 1,000 ft. level a fall of quartz occurred, breaking the back of deceased. The walls being soft and the quartz disjointed, the place was timbered to within 12 ft. of the face, and slabs were driven ahead, but no false sets were used, which precaution was necessary, and if adopted the accident would not have occurred.
Lewis Adams ..	26/11/13	Adams and Weir's Claim (sluicing)	While engaged at work a large stone rolled down from the face, crushing deceased fatally. The Coroner's verdict was "accidentally killed." In contravention of section 269 (b) of the Mining Act, the mine-manager failed to notify the Inspector of Mines of this accident, and for such neglect was liable to prosecution and fine.
Alexander Woods ..	11/12/13	New Zealand Crown Mines (quartz)	Deceased and another were working in a leading stope at the No. 6 level, immediately above a drive timbered with stulls, when without warning the loose quartz underfoot gave way owing to the collapse of the stulls underneath, burying the deceased and his companion. When extricated, Woods was dead. It is probable that surface-water percolating through broken country caused the collapse of the stulls. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict to the above effect, adding as a rider a recommendation that set timbers in preference to stulls should be used in the class of country in which the accident occurred.

IV. GOLD-MINES.

The following statement shows the value of the bullion-production, also the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and number of gold-mines and dredges:—

	Production of Bullion, 1913.* (All Mines.)	Dividends paid, 1913. (By Registered Companies only.)	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Number of Working Mines, Dredges, and Claims.
Quartz-mining ...	£ 1,071,813	£ 287,088	3,031	63
Dredge mining †...	195,848	18,750	621	74
Alluvial mining ‡	295,704	11,643	1,097	223
Totals, 1913 ...	1,563,365	317,481	4,749	360

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The bullion-production is from 74 dredges, but the dividends given are only from 11 of these, the property of registered companies. The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 223 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING.

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated, the value of bullion produced, and the amount of dividends paid by quartz-mining companies in each of the inspection districts during the years 1912 and 1913:—

Inspection District.	Tons of Ore treated. (2,240 lb.)		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid. (By Registered Companies only.)	
	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.
Northern ...	327,590	264,831	£ 865,619	£ 781,716	£ 260,188	£ 299,303
West Coast ...	126,260	55,098	201,987	116,408	26,900	15,600
Southern ...	10,658	15,722	4,207	8,065	...	...
Totals ...	464,508	335,651	1,071,813	906,189	287,088	314,903