

I. PRODUCTION OF MINERALS.

The following statement shows the value of the exports from metal-mines and kauri-gum fields from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1914:—

Classification.				1913.	1914.	Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1914.
				£	£	£	£
Gold	...	...	...	1,459,499	895,367*	564,132	82,953,910
Silver	...	...	...	103,866	62,085*	41,781	2,000,799
Other minerals	...	...	...	31,532	29,338	2,194	517,425
Kauri-gum	...	...	...	549,106	497,444	51,662	17,257,007
Totals	...	...	...	2,144,003	1,484,234	659,769	102,729,141

Owing to the prohibition by the Banking Amendment Act, 1914, of the export of gold except with the consent of the Minister of Finance, the value of gold and silver exported during 1914 is no indication of the annual production.

The official returns from gold-mines show that bullion to the value of £1,502,649 was produced during 1914, being approximately £60,716 less than the production of the previous year. This decline is confined to alluvial and dredge mining. The Banking Amendment Act came into operation on the 5th August, 1914.

II. PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The following statement shows the number of persons ordinarily employed in or about the metalliferous mines of the Dominion during the year:—

Classification.				Inspection District.			Total, 1914.
				Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and scheelite	...	...	...	1,971	1,369	1,104	4,444
Cinnabar	...	...	...	5	...	...	5
Tin	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Copper	...	...	...	...	11	...	11
Total for 1914	...	...	...	1,976	1,380	1,114	4,470
Total for 1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,941

III. ACCIDENTS.

A satisfactory reduction in the number of fatal accidents at metal-mines can be recorded. Six fatal accidents occurred, by which six lives were lost; two of these were due to absence of caution by the sufferers; one was due to defective plant; the remainder being of a nature difficult to provide against.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured in metalliferous mines during 1914:—

Inspection District.				Explosions.		Falls of Ground.		In Shafts.		Miscellane- ous Under- ground.		Surface.		About Dredges.		Total.	
				Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.
Northern	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	3
West Coast	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	4	3
Southern	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	1	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	6	7

Being at the rate of 1·34 fatalities per 1,000 persons employed.