

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTS AT NEW ZEALAND METAL-MINES AND DREDGES DURING THE YEARS 1906 TO 1914.

Cause of Accident.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Explosion ...	3	...	3	2	2	1	...	...	...
Fall of ground ...	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	5	3
In shafts ...	1	...	1	3	5	...	1	3	1
Miscellaneous--									
Underground ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	...
On surface ...	1	2	6	5	3	2	...	2	2
About dredges ...	6	3	1	2	4	...	1	...	...
Total killed ...	14	7	15	14	15	5	5	10	6
Number of employees...	8,716	9,389	8,880	7,651	8,121	7,400	5,239	4,941	4,470
" persons killed	1.60	0.84	1.69	1.83	1.84	0.67	0.95	2.02	1.34
per 1,000									
employed									

The following is a brief description of accidents at mining operations other than coal-mining during 1914:--

Name of Person killed.	Date of Accident.	Mine or Claim.	Cause of Accident, and Remarks.
Edward Downey ..	17/1/14	Energetic Mine (quartz)	The deceased mine-foreman was killed while picking down ground preparatory to standing a set of timber near the pass on No. 11 level, middle block. About 2 tons of dirt fell away from hanging-wall of pass, crushing his head against the cap-piece and killing him instantly. The jury brought in the following verdict: "The fatality occurred by a fall of stone in No. 11 level," with a rider that the manager's orders, which were disregarded, should in future be more strictly observed.
Reminyi Sarginson;	11/5/14	Ross Mine (alluvial) ..	This fatality occurred in the company's hydro-electric power-house at Kanieri Forks. The body of this youth was found partly inside the danger-guards, consisting of a fence 5 ft. 3 in. high covered with wire netting which guards the lightning-arrester. It is believed by some that he was practical joking with a syringe, the water therefrom coming in contact with a live wire, transmitting the current to his body. The Coroner found that the deceased was killed by an electric shock, but that there was no evidence to show how the fatality occurred.
John L. Williams ..	18/5/14	White Island (sulphur-works)	The deceased was scalded to death at the works of the New Zealand Sulphur Company, White Island, by the bursting of a cast-iron retort used for steaming the sulphur. The cast-iron retort, which had only been in use six weeks, was originally $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. in thickness, but owing to the extremely acid water (containing 5.47 per cent. hydrochloric acid) the metal had wasted to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. The jury returned a verdict that the fatality occurred through a defect in a retort, and added that there should be some means of communication between the mainland and White Island.*
Enos Page Marks ..	24/9/14	Watchman Mine (quartz)	After firing two shots in a stope under 8 ft. in height the deceased and his mate returned and worked the loose rock down; later, when shovelling the broken quartz into a pass, about 1 ton fell, striking deceased on the back. The jury brought in a verdict that the accident occurred by a fall of rock, and that no blame was attachable to any one, with a rider that in future the hanging-wall shall not be broken or shot down as a means of filling in the stopes.

* At White Island, on the 11th September, 1914, at about 2.30 a.m., as the result of an earth-tremor, a fall of about 4 chains of a cliff 600 ft. in height occurred, the debris blocking up the great active thermal crater known as the Blowhole, which subsequently erupted with extreme violence, considerably changing the topography of the island, and hurled out to sea all the eleven inhabitants of the island—the company's employees—no trace of whom or of the company's plant and buildings being discernible. The danger of living upon this weird island was referred to by the Inspector of Mines, Mr. Bennie, in a report shortly prior to the calamity; but being freehold property he had no legal authority to order the men to leave the island. This disaster is not included in the list of fatal mining accidents, as it did not occur when the men were at work, and was an act of God.