

Description of Fatal Accidents at Mining Operations other than Coal-mining—continued.

Name of Person killed.	Date of Accident.	Mine or Claim.	Cause of Accident, and Remarks.
William Rolla Beale	28/9/14	Blackwater Mine (quartz)	The deceased, a carpenter engaged upon repairs in the shaft, was lowered in a cage by himself to the No. 3 level; shortly afterwards the signal-bell was rung once (to hold the cage) presumably by deceased. The cage was left stationary for about sixty minutes, when, no further communication being received from him, the chamberman descended the shaft by another cage, and eventually the body of deceased was found in the sump at the bottom of the shaft. The Coroner found that deceased was killed by accidentally falling down the shaft, with a rider that provision should be made in the Mining Act that no person other than a bracedman or chamberman should be allowed to give signals for the moving of the cage in the shaft, as already provided for in the Coal-mines Act.
Harry Nicholls	14/12/14	Bolitho's Claim (alluvial)	After firing four holes in the auriferous conglomerate of this cement claim, the deceased and H. Bolitho, both experienced miners, returned to fire two more that were already charged; and Bolitho had just reached the face when a very heavy stone fell behind him, crushing Nicholls to the floor, death being probably instantaneous. The stone which fell was too large to be sounded for safety. The jury found that no blame was attachable to any one.

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, 1914.* (All Mines.)	Dividends paid, 1914. (By Registered Companies only.)	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Number of Working Mines, Dredges, and Claims.
Quartz-mining ...	£ 1,154,214	£ 288,265	2,863	61
Dredge mining †...	191,112	23,080	491	64
Alluvial mining ‡	157,323	10,992	1,054	258
Totals, 1914	1,502,649	322,337	4,408	383

* 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 64 dredges, but the dividends given are only from 16 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 258 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 1913 and 1914 :—

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid. (By Registered Companies only.)	
	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.
Northern ...	347,194	327,590	£ 911,733	£ 865,619	£ 266,165	£ 260,188
West Coast ...	148,069	126,260	239,237	201,987	22,100	26,900
Southern ...	6,076	10,658	3,244	4,207	...	...
Totals ...	501,339	464,508	1,154,214	1,071,813	288,265	287,088

There has therefore been an increase during 1914 of 36,831 tons of ore treated: £82,401 in value obtained, and £2,177 in dividends declared.