

The following is a brief description of fatal accidents in connection with metalliferous mining operations during 1916:—

Date.	Name and Situation of Mine.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Cause of Accident, Nature of Injuries, and Remarks.
27 June ..	Blackwater Mine, Waitutu ..	Albert Riley (15), working at cyanide-vats	Found dead in a vat full of cyanide solution a little after midnight. He was working alone at the vats; there is no evidence to show how this accident happened. It is assumed that he climbed on to the rim of the vat and accidentally fell in, or that he fell from a gangway above the vats, being an adequately fenced and lighted gangway. A boy so young should not have been left in sole charge of cyanide-works at night; a breach of the Mining Act, section 236 (b), was committed thereby.
30 June ..	Waihi Gold-mining Company's mill, Wai-kino	William Irvine (40), working at ore-hoppers	He was found suffocated at the bottom of a quartz-hopper which supplied ore to an automatic feeder at a stamp battery. It is supposed that while carrying out his duties he either fell into the hopper and was rendered insensible, or was buried while endeavouring to loosen quartz which had arched and ceased running in the hopper.
16 July ..	Success dredge, near Hokitika ..	Joseph Shore (58), engineer ..	About 11 p.m. on a bright Sunday night, whilst boating himself across the paddock to the dredge, he fell into the paddock and was drowned. The dredge was equipped with all the safety appliances as required by the law. Deceased was the holder of a first-class certificate as manager under the Coal-mines Act.
19 July ..	Talisman Mine, Karangahake ..	Matthew Kay Hillhouse (39), mine-manager	While standing on a skip in the Talisman underlay (63°) shaft, 24 ft. above No. 8 level, for the purpose of throwing a plumb-line on to a beam between the winding-drum and pulley, he slipped and fell down the shaft to the No. 14 level, a distance of about 850 ft., and was killed. At No. 8 level, about 24 ft. below the point from which deceased fell, there are doors provided to close the shaft when men are working above; this door was not closed. On the 8th June Inspector Paul had warned deceased not to work in the shaft without putting in a stage. He had the reputation of being a careful man, but in this case he took a risk, and lost his life in consequence. This is the third fatal accident, causing the loss of four lives, which has occurred at this shaft during the past four years.
11 Aug. ..	Waihi Gold-mining Company's Mine, Waihi	Thomas Francis Rowney (50), stoping contractor	He and his mate, A. E. Lewis, experienced and careful miners, having broken through into a temporarily suspended stope at No. 2 level, Martha lode, which had been stopped on account of danger, were cleaning up quartz in order to crib a pass, when they heard a fall from the back of the suspended pass above them and about 30 ft. away. For the purpose of investigation they unnecessarily and unwisely proceeded into the suspended stope too far, when a large flake fell from the back, striking deceased on the head and body, and breaking his leg. He died the same evening from the injuries received.
28 Aug. ..	Parker's claim, Kyeburn ..	Edwin Francis Parker (41), alluvial miner..	On the day work was resumed at the claim of deceased, after a suspension over the winter months, he took a needless risk and entered the tail-race to build a wall of stones to support it, when a fall of about 1 ton of earth occurred, crushing his chest and breaking one leg. He died from shock two hours later. He and his mate, Thomas Blanchard, knew that the race was dangerous owing to undermining; and the proper course would have been to sluice the sides down, and make the race safe before effecting repairs therein.