

I. MINERALS ENTERED FOR EXPORTATION.

The following statement shows the value of minerals (other than gold) entered for exportation from metal-mines, quarries, and kauri-gum fields from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1918 :—

Classification.	1917.	1918.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1918.
	£	£	£	£
Silver	105,299	171,456	Inc. 66,157	2,458,248
Quicksilver	...	2,122	" 2,122	2,122
Tungsten-ore	28,972	37,922	" 8,950	268,444
Other minerals	6,847	5,882	Dec. 965	425,368
Kauri-gum... ..	291,917	157,313	" 134,604	18,325,252

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, 1918.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	1,264	760	542	2,566
Cinnabar	13	...	...	13
Asbestos	...	3	...	3
Totals for 1918	1,277	763	542	2,582
Totals for 1917	1,432	925	655	3,012

During the period of the present war—viz., 1914 to 1918 inclusive—the number of metal-miners employed has declined 430; but as most of the principal quartz-mines have considerably reduced their ore reserves during the war period the shortage of metal-miners is by no means so acute as that of coal-miners.

III. ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured in metalliferous mines during 1918 :—

Inspection District.			Explosives.		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	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
West Coast	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Southern	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Totals	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	3

The proportion of fatalities per 1,000 persons employed was 0·77, being, with one exception, the lowest hitherto recorded for the metal-mines of the Dominion, and less than one-quarter of the proportion of fatalities in the United States or South Africa.

Neither of the two fatalities occurred in or about mines, however, one being in connection with drilling for oil; the other happened upon a gold-dredge. Both operations being controlled by the Mining Act, the fatalities have been included among mining accidents.