

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals (other than coal) exported from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1926 :—

	1926.	1925.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1926.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	516,207	472,364	Inc. 43,843	92,403,399
Silver	51,236	60,773	Dec. 9,537	3,016,660
Tungsten-ore	998	2,255	„ 1,257	305,123
Kauri-gum	332,765	414,901	„ 82,136	21,855,751
Sand, lime, and building-stone	8,294	7,968	Inc. 326	521,464
Other minerals	1,467	451	„ 1,016 }	
Totals	910,967	958,712	Dec. 47,745	118,102,397

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, 1926.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	850	490	366	1,706
Ironstone	..	64	..	64
Totals for 1926	850	554	366	1,770
Totals for 1925	788	619	342	1,749

* In addition, 12 persons were employed in sulphur-mining, and 23 persons in oil-boring operations.

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1926 three fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 1,770 persons were ordinarily employed.

Cause.	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Persons injured.
Falls of ground	2	2	..	..
Explosives	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous, on surface	1	1	..	..
Miscellaneous, underground	..	..	..	..
Totals	3	3	..	..

The following is a short description of the fatal accidents :—

William Brown, cyanide foreman at the Blackwater Mines battery, on the 23rd March was treating with sulphuric-acid slimes from concentrates which had been roasted in the Edwards furnace. He became ill the same day, and was later taken to hospital, where he died on the 31st March. A post-mortem disclosed the fact that death was due to arsenic poisoning, and that when treating the slimes deceased had inhaled fumes containing arseniuretted hydrogen generated by the action of the acid on the slimes.

Leonard McClure, a miner employed in the Waihi Mine, on the 18th May had gone down the travelling-way to run the pass, which had hung up. A piece of stone fell from the stope above, rolled down the pass, and struck deceased on the head. He died in Waihi Hospital on the 20th May.

On the 16th December Thomas Harris Harrison, manager of the Golden Bar Mine, Wakamarina, was examining the face of No. 1 level when a fall of mullock from the back took place and struck deceased, killing him instantaneously.