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, 1927.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	804	507	352	1,663
Ironstone	..	70	..	70
Totals for 1927	804	577	352	1,733
Totals for 1926	850	554	366	1,770

* In addition, 6 persons were employed in sulphur-mining, and 32 persons in oil-boring operations.

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1927 there were no fatal accidents and only one serious accident. In this respect the year under review is the best in the history of metal-mining in New Zealand.

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..	..	..	..	..
Explosives	..	..	1	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous, underground	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	1	1

A full account of the serious accident, which occurred in the Waihi Mine, is contained in Inspector Paul's report in the annexure hereto.

IV. GOLD-MINING.

The following statement shows the value of the bullion-production, also the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and the number of gold-mines and dredges :—

—	Production of Bullion, 1927.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1927. (By Registered Companies only.)†	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines.	Number of Productive Quartz-mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1927.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining ..	480,978	449,281	49,591	1,089	22
Dredge mining ..	15,040	60,731	6,766	104	4
Alluvial mining‡ ..	10,402	40,154	2,155	468	346
Totals, 1927 ..	506,420	550,166	58,512	1,661	372
Totals, 1926 ..	554,529	539,302	59,566	1,704	314

* 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 profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.
‡ The bullion-production is from 346 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

The value of bullion produced during 1927 was greater by £10,864 than during 1926. Bullion from quartz-mining increased by £6,607, from alluvial mining the decreased value was £3,505, but the increased value of gold from dredging was £7,762.