

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals (other than coal and coke) and allied substances exported during 1937 and 1936, and since 1st January, 1853 :—

	1937.	1936.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1937.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	1,423,348	1,385,003	Inc. 38,345	102,682,874
Silver	48,087	55,574	Dec. 7,487	3,505,558
Tungsten-ore	7,248	5,563	Inc. 1,685	337,361
Kauri-gum	151,589	96,161	„ 55,428	23,513,752
Sand, lime, and building-stone	8,057	8,881	Dec. 793	640,714
Other minerals	31	..		
Totals	1,638,360	1,551,182	Inc. 87,178	130,680,259

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, 1937.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	1,024	1,894	992	3,910
Cinnabar	2	..	..	2
Iron-ore	1	..	..	1
Totals for 1937	1,027	1,894	992	3,913
Totals for 1936	1,068	2,652	1,463	5,183

*In addition four persons were employed in oil-boring operations.

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1937 two fatal and nine serious but non-fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 3,913 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	1	1	5	5
Explosives	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous, on surface	..	..	4	4
Miscellaneous, underground	1	1	..	..
Totals	2	2	9	9

One of the fatal accidents occurred in a Northern District mine and the other in a sluicing claim in the Southern District.

It is pleasing to record the total freedom from fatal accidents in the West Coast mines during 1937.

Accounts of the two fatalities follow :—

On 2nd June, 1937, an old Chinaman named Yew Kui was instantaneously killed in a cutting he had made into a very large block of clay which had been left in old alluvial workings near the bank of the Tuapeka River. The cutting was about 20 ft. in length and 7½ ft. high. Kui had been under-cutting the clay and then levering it down from the top with a fencing-standard. Apparently, while he was undercutting, a mass of the clay came away, for he was found buried to the shoulders by the fall and lying face downwards. He held no title to the land, nor, as far as is known, did he hold a miner's right. His spine was fractured and his chest crushed.

On 27th August, 1937, a shaft-repairer named Milos F. Zenovich was killed by falling down the No. 6 shaft at the Martha Mine, Waihi. He and his mate were installing a new knocker line in the shaft and were using a platform, which had been built on top of the skip to get from one place to another in the shaft. In order to take out a kink in the new knocker line, the deceased climbed up a few feet above the stationary skip and stood with one foot on the centre timber of the shaft and the other on a wall plate. He signalled for the skip to be hauled up to enable him to take out another kink higher up the shaft. His mate then noticed that Zenovich was jammed between the skip and the shaft centre. The skip continued ascending, and when clearing the point where Zenovich was jammed his body fell down the shaft into the sump 115 ft. below. He was dead when picked up, having suffered an extensive fracture of the skull as well as many other injuries to the body. After an examination underground the connections between the new knocker line and the engine-room were examined. It was found that a coach screw had worked loose from adjacent timbers, and it had fouled a buckle, or straining piece, and thus had rendered the knocker line inoperative.