

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals (other than coal and coke) and allied substances exported during 1938 and 1937, and since 1st January, 1853 :—

	1938.	1937.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1938.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	1,287,421	1,423,348	Dec. 135,927	103,970,295
Silver	38,857	48,087	„ 9,230	3,544,415
Tungsten-ore	10,804	7,248	Inc. 3,556	348,165
Kauri-gum	103,777	151,589	Dec. 47,812	23,617,529
Sand, lime, and building-stone	8,811	8,057	} Inc. 984	649,786
Other minerals	261	31		
Totals	1,449,931	1,638,360	Dec. 188,429	132,130,190

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, 1938.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	857	1,488	653	2,998
Cinnabar	2	..	..	2
Iron-ore	4	..	..	4
Manganese	8	..	..	8
Totals for 1938	871	1,488	653	3,012
Totals for 1937	1,027	1,894	992	3,913

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

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1938 two fatal and ten serious but non-fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 3,012 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	..	..	10	11
Miscellaneous, underground	..	..	..	..
Totals	2	2	10	11

Both of the fatalities occurred in the West Coast district and both were from falls of earth or clay in sluicing claims.

It is pleasing to record the absence of fatal accidents in both Northern and Southern districts during 1938.

Of the ten serious but non-fatal accidents, six were in the West Coast district, three in the Southern district, and one in the Northern district.

Two of the six West Coast serious accidents were due to falls from ladders or stairways, one to a blow from a windlass handle, another to a blow from a tightening headline of a dredge, another to the backfire of a tractor used at a dredging claim, and the sixth to the fall of a screen-drive bearing on a dredge.

One of the three men injured in Southern mines was struck by a wire rope whilst working on his alluvial claim, another was caught between a dredge and a large boulder on the river-bank, and the third was injured by the collapse of a trestle when he was erecting an aerial ropeway.