

## 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, 1939.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten .. .. .	797	1,338	659	2,794
Cinnabar .. .. .	2	..	..	2
Iron-ore .. .. .	6	1	..	7
Manganese .. .. .	13	..	..	13
Silica .. .. .	5	..	..	5
Pumice .. .. .	1	..	..	1
Fuller's earth .. .. .	1	..	..	1
Diatomaceous earth .. .. .	1	..	..	1
Totals for 1939 .. .. .	826	1,339	659	2,824
Totals for 1938 .. .. .	871	1,488	653	3,012

In addition, the following persons were employed in oil-boring operations :—

Geologists, geophysicists, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	55
Surveyors .. .. .	..	..	..	9
Draughtsmen .. .. .	..	..	..	4
Laboratory assistants .. .. .	..	..	..	5
Drillers, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	23
Others .. .. .	..	..	..	36
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	132

## III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1939 three fatal and nine serious but non-fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 2,824 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 .. .. .	3	3	1	1
Explosives .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous, on surface .. .. .	..	..	4	4
Miscellaneous, underground .. .. .	..	..	4	4
Totals .. .. .	3	3	9	9

The three fatalities which occurred in 1939 in metalliferous mines were all in the Southern District and were caused by falls of earth or stone. One occurred underground in a "deep lead" working, one in a tail-race, and the third at the bottom of an elevator.

A short statement concerning these fatalities appears in the report of the Inspector of Mines for the Southern District.

It is pleasing to record the absence of fatal accidents during 1939 in the Northern and West Coast Inspection Districts.

There were eight serious non-fatal accidents in the West Coast District, three of them on dredges and, of the others, three were caused by falling rock. There was one serious non-fatal accident in the Southern District. No serious non-fatal accidents occurred in the Northern District during the year.

## 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, 1939.* (All Mines.)		Dividends paid, 1939. (By Registered Companies only.†)	Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines, 1939.	Number of Productive Quartz-mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1939.
	Quantity.	Value.			
	Oz.	£	£		
Quartz-mining .. .. .	472,309	717,219	86,987	1,126	62
Alluvial mining‡ .. .. .	18,512	150,169	15,809	1,190	774
Dredge mining .. .. .	78,476	699,589	90,254	438	23
Totals, 1939 .. .. .	569,297	1,566,977	193,050	2,754	859
Totals, 1938 .. .. .	509,759	1,214,054	217,748	2,955	1,171

\* 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 774 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only obtainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.