

PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

The following comparative statements show the quantity and value of gold entered for exportation for the last two calendar and financial years :—

Name of District.	Year ended 31st December, 1906.		Year ended 31st December, 1905.		Increase for 1906.	Decrease for 1906.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	Oz.
Auckland ...	295,417	1,195,541	232,215	935,602	63,202	...
Nelson ...	2,944	11,746	6,469	25,862	...	3,525
West Coast ...	104,743	414,292	109,704	438,258	...	4,961
Otago ...	160,739	649,825	172,098	694,214	...	11,359
Totals ...	563,843	2,270,904	520,486	2,093,936	43,357*	...

Name of District.	Year ended 31st March, 1907.		Year ended 31st March, 1906.		Increase for 1907.	Decrease for 1907.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.	Oz.
Auckland ...	298,188	1,202,975	248,031	1,000,954	50,157	...
Marlborough ...	110	438	...	...	110	...
Nelson ...	3,584	14,329	4,421	17,650	...	837
West Coast ...	96,783	381,874	110,996	443,089	...	14,213
Otago ...	153,607	620,901	162,752	655,913	...	9,145
Totals ...	552,272	2,220,517	526,200	2,117,606	26,072†	...

* Total net increase, value £176,968.

† Total net increase, value £102,911.

II. PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The appended statement shows the number of persons ordinarily employed in or about the metaliferous mines of the colony during 1906 :—

Classification.				Inspection District.			Total.
				Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold and silver ...	...	...	...	2,706	3,459	2,386	8,551
Antimony ...	...	...	...	4	25	12	41
Copper ...	...	...	...	19	31	4	54
Hæmatite ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Iron ...	...	...	...	...	19	...	19
Platinum ...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Scheelite ...	...	...	...	...	...	38	38
Totals ...	...	...	...	2,729	3,536	2,451	8,716

The number of diggers engaged upon the kauri-gum fields varies between 5,000 and 7,000; the actual number is not known.

III. ACCIDENTS.

The following is a classification of fatal and serious mining accidents that have occurred during 1906 at all mines other than coal :—

Inspection District.			Explosions.		Falls of Ground.		In Shafts.		Miscellaneous Underground.		Surface.		About Dredges.		Total.	
			Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.	Fatal.	Serious.
Northern ...	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	4	...	...	6	7
West Coast ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	3
Southern ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5	3
Totals ...	...	...	3	...	3	4	1	1	...	1	1	4	6	2	14	13

Being at the rate of 1·6 fatalities per 1,000 persons employed.