

II. PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The appended statement shows the number of persons ordinarily employed in or about the metalliferous mines of the Dominion during the year :—

| Classification. | | | | Inspection District. | | | Total. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | Northern. | West Coast. | Southern. | |
| Gold and silver | ... | ... | ... | 2,888 | 3,405 | 2,845 | 9,138 |
| Antimony | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 19 | 21 | 42 |
| Copper | ... | ... | ... | 47 | 63 | 2 | 112 |
| Hæmatite | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Iron | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| Platinum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 11 |
| Scheelite | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 | 51 |
| Cinnabar | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 4 |
| Tin | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Greenstone | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | ... | ... | ... | 2,939 | 3,510 | 2,940 | 9,389 |

About a thousand diggers are engaged upon the kauri-gum fields; the actual number is not known.

III. ACCIDENTS.

The following is a classification of fatal and serious mining accidents that have occurred during the year at all metalliferous mines :—

| Inspection District. | | | Explosions. | | Falls of Ground. | | In Shafts. | | Miscellaneous Under-ground. | | Surface. | | About Dredges. | | Total. | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-------------|----------|------------------|----------|------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. | Fatal. | Serious. |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | 1 | 6 | ... | ... | 2 | 17 |
| West Coast | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Southern | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 22 |

Being at the rate of .84 fatalities per 1,000 persons employed.

IV. GOLD-MINING.

For the year a decline of £243,414 in the value of gold-production below that of the previous year has to be recorded, this decline being confined to alluvial and dredge-mining, the gradual exhaustion of which has been apparent for several years past. During the year, however, the scanty rainfall and consequent reduction of water-supplies has greatly contributed to the abnormal decline in the production of alluvial gold. It is extremely satisfactory to note that the returns from the quartz-mines again constitute a record for the Dominion, showing an increased production of £50,485 above that of the previous year. Dividends declared by registered gold-mining companies amounted to £731,951, representing the high proportion of 36 per cent. of the value of the total production from all gold-mines, which is probably the highest proportion ever recorded in any country. These figures would be considerably increased if the profits of the privately owned mines, which are unobtainable, were added to the dividends of the public companies here given.

The following statement shows the value of the gold-production and the proportion of the same paid in dividends during the year :—

| | | Production of Gold, 1907. | Dividends paid, 1907. | Percentage of Production paid in Dividends. | Number of Persons ordinarily employed. |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| | | £ | £ | Per Cent. | |
| Quartz-mining | ... | 1,544,572 | 628,866 | 40.7 | 3,740 |
| Dredge-mining | ... | 419,634 | 89,707 | 21.1 | 1,150 |
| Alluvial mining | ... | 63,284 | 13,378 | 21.1 | 4,248 |
| Totals, 1907 | ... | 2,027,490 | 731,951 | 36.0 | 9,138 |
| Totals, 1906 | ... | 2,270,904 | 790,020 | 34.7 | 8,551 |