

## 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 ... ..	3,264	2,820	2,601	8,685
Antimony ... ..	4	...	4	8
Copper ... ..	12	60	6	78
Iron ... ..	...	17	...	17
Platinum ... ..	...	...	11	11
Scheelite ... ..	...	...	47	47
Marl ... ..	...	...	2	2
Tin ... ..	...	...	2	2
Phosphate ... ..	...	...	30	30
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>3,280</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>8,880</b>

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 ... ..	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	...	...	9	8
West Coast ... ..	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	4
Southern ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	2	4	3
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

Being at the rate of 1.69 fatalities per 1,000 persons employed.

## IV. GOLD-MINING.

The past year has been an uneventful one with the gold-mining industry. There continues to be a slight falling-off in the bullion-production\* from the gold-mines of this Dominion, which decline for 1908 amounted in value to £16,712. This decline in bullion-production appears to be general throughout all the gold-producing States of Australasia, and may reasonably be attributed to the gradual exhaustion of the high-grade ore from the upper levels of the quartz-mines and the rich and easily accessible alluvial deposits. There is also a certain amount of apathy by the public to mining enterprise, which has the effect of discouraging prospecting. The profitable character of gold-mining speculations in this Dominion may be gauged by the fact that during 1908 the sum of £561,833 was distributed in dividends by registered quartz-mining companies, representing in value the high proportion of 38 per cent. of the bullion-production.

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

	Production of Bullion, 1908.* (All mines.)	Dividends paid, 1908. (By registered companies only.)	Percentage of Production paid in Dividends.	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
Quartz-mining ... ..	£ 1,477,012	£ 561,833	Per Cent. 38.04	4,118
Dredge mining ... ..	373,818	75,820†	21.25†	1,013
Alluvial mining ... ..	329,432	11,073	Unknown	3,554
<b>Totals, 1908</b> ... ..	<b>2,180,262</b>	<b>668,726</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>8,685</b>
<b>Totals, 1907</b> ... ..	<b>2,196,974</b>	<b>731,951</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>9,138</b>

\* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver to the value of £175,337 was also obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The bullion-production is from 123 dredges, but the dividends given are only from 43 of these, the property of registered companies. The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.