

The following is a description of fatal accidents during 1918 at operations which are under the Mining Act:—

Date.	Name and Situation of Mine or Operations.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Description of Accident, and Remarks.
1918. 29 Oct.	Taranaki Oil-wells (Limited), Moturoa	Frank Salmons Drury (33), derrick hand	He with four other men were at No. 5 bore, rotating fishing-rods, working with two pairs of tongs, one used for holding the strain, the other for rotating. The tongs used for rotating were pulled around by block and tackle; these at the time of the accident were being pulled by an engine. They had considerable strain on the fishing-stem, when, releasing the pulley hold, the strain was all on the holding-tongs. When about to hook the blocks on to take a fresh hold the pin that holds the chain in place on the bottom tongs sheared off, allowing the pulling-tongs to swing back with considerable force, striking in the first instance another man, but not doing him much harm, and then hitting deceased, inflicting injuries from which he died the same day. The Coroner found that the occurrence was entirely accidental, no blame being attachable to any one.
21 Nov.	Rise - and - Shine No. 2 Dredge, Cromwell	John Macauley Wrightson (41), winchman	His body was found jambed between two pinions of a winch on the opposite side to that on which the driver usually stands. The winch was in good order. The dredgemaster believed that deceased thought he had steam shut off, and either went to put the clutch in, or to look at the toothed wheels, and while doing so touched the reversing-lever and set the engine in motion, and was caught by his loose clothing and drawn into the wheels. He was an experienced, careful, and sober man. The Coroner's jury found that there was no conclusive evidence to show how the accident occurred, and that no person was blameworthy.

IV. GOLD-MINES.

The following statement shows the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and number of gold-mines and dredges:—

	Dividends paid. (By Registered Companies only.)		Number of Persons ordinarily employed, 1918.	Number of Productive Quartz-mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1918.
	1918.	1917.		
Quartz-mining	£ 193,519	£ 203,069	1,751	50
Dredge mining	4,925	4,800	187	28
Alluvial mining	4,953	5,710	520	153
Totals	203,397	213,579	2,458	231

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING.

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated and the amount of dividends paid by quartz-mining companies in each of the inspection districts during the years 1917 and 1918:—

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Dividends paid. (By Registered Companies only.)	
	1918.	1917.	1918.	1917.
Northern	259,103	298,396	£ 178,619	£ 195,619
West Coast	86,495	105,539	14,900	7,450
Southern	1,690	5,381
Totals	347,288	409,316	193,519	203,069