

I. MINERALS PRODUCED AND EXPORTED.

The following statement shows the value of minerals (other than kauri-gum and coal) produced during 1920 and 1919 :—

	1920.	1919.
	£	£
Gold and silver .. .. .	528,317	702,131
Quicksilver .. .. .	1,378	2,794
Tungsten-ore .. .. .	1,956*	21,771
Manganese .. .. .	10	..
Copper .. .. .	..	12
Asbestos .. .. .	105	..

\* Estimated.

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals exported from metal-mines, quarries, and kauri-gum fields from the 1st January, 1853 to the 31st December, 1920 :—

—	1919.	1920.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1920.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ... .. .	1,334,405	883,748	Dec. 450,657	89,012,107
Silver ... .. .	103,037	87,665	" 15,372	2,648,950
Quicksilver ... .. .	4,619	900	" 3,719	7,641
Tungsten-ore ... .. .	29,489	1,378	" 28,111	299,311
Kauri-gum... .. .	255,812	556,756	Inc. 300,944	19,137,820
Manganese ... .. .	..	10	" 10	61,915
Copper ... .. .	12	..	Dec. 12	19,390
Other minerals ... .. .	4,039	8,745	Inc. 4,706	356,869
Total value for 1919 .. .. .	..	..	£1,731,413	..
Total value for 1920 .. .. .	..	..	£1,539,202	..

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, 1920.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten ... .. .	1,058	484	372	1,914
Cinnabar ... .. .	15	..	..	15
Asbestos ... .. .	..	1	..	1
Totals for 1920 ... .. .	1,073	485	372	1,930
Totals for 1919 .. .. .	1,167	591	443	2,201

III. ACCIDENTS.

Only one serious accident occurred at any metalliferous mine during 1920, which constitutes a record for such mines since the industry has been established in the Dominion.

The accident referred to resulted in the death of the sufferer, Thomas Liddell, a miner, forty-eight years of age, who was killed by a blasting accident in the Rising Sun Gold-mining Company's mine at Owaharoa, in the Northern Inspection District, on the 9th August, the following being a description of the sad occurrence :—

Owing to the timber at the top of the main rise collapsing and blocking the ventilation, a drive was being put in the footwall to connect with the top adit level, clear of the broken country. Two shifts were employed, driving from both sides. On the morning of the accident, deceased, in the presence of the mine-manager, bored a hole through and was able to converse with M. Brean, who was working on the other side. Deceased had bored five holes, and Brean on the other side two holes, the latter having been charged ready to fire. Before commencing to charge the holes drilled in the face where deceased was working he suggested to Brean