

The following statement shows the value of New Zealand minerals (other than coal) exported from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1921 :—

	1920.	1921.	Increase or Decrease.	Total from the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1921.
	£	£		£
Gold	883,748	612,168	Dec. 271,580	89,624,275
Silver	87,665	65,647	.. 22,018	2,714,597
Quicksilver	900	21	.. 879	7,662
Tungsten-ore	1,378	..	.. 1,378	299,311
Kauri-gum*	556,756	367,197	.. 189,559	19,505,017
Manganese	10	..	.. 10	61,915
Other minerals	8,745	8,988	Inc. 243	385,247
Totals	1,539,202	1,054,021	Dec. 485,181	112,598,024

* The quantity of kauri-gum produced is not known, but the quantity exported is recorded.

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, 1921.
	Northern.	West Coast.	Southern.	
Gold, silver, and tungsten	1,147	481	393	2,021
Cinnabar	11	..	2	13
Asbestos .. .. .	..	1	..	1
Ironstone .. .. .	..	35	..	35
Totals for 1921	1,158	517	395	2,070
Totals for 1920	1,073	485	372	1,930

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1921 one fatal and seven serious but non-fatal accidents occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 2,070 persons were ordinarily employed.

Cause.	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Accidents.	Number of Persons injured.
Falls of ground	1	1	2	2
Explosives .. .. .	..	..	2	2
Miscellaneous, on surface .. .. .	..	..	2	2
Miscellaneous, underground .. .. .	..	..	1	1
Totals	1	1	7	7

The following is a description of the fatal accident which happened to Edward Murphy (57) an alluvial-gold miner. On the 3rd August, at about 10 a.m., he was employed with three others cleaning up at the sluicing-face of the Hochstetter Goldfields (Limited). The sandstone bottom rose almost vertically to a considerable height above where the men were working. While thus engaged a fall of sandstone from a higher level occurred, burying deceased; when his body was recovered he was dead, the base of his skull having been fractured. The mates of deceased at the inquest stated in evidence that prior to the accident they did not apprehend danger. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," holding no person blameworthy. Without inspection prior to the accident, it is impossible to gauge the degree of danger (if any) which existed. The work was obviously attended with some risk, but the manager of the claim had not seen the place since 4 p.m. on the previous day—i.e., eighteen hours prior to the accident—and allowed the men to work without control.

Descriptions of the serious non-fatal accidents are contained in the reports of Inspectors of Mines (Annexure A hereto).