

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, 1922. |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Northern. | West Coast. | Southern. | |
| Gold, silver, and tungsten | 1,103 | 540 | 388 | 2,031 |
| Cinnabar | 18 | .. | .. | 18 |
| Ironstone | .. | 42 | .. | 42 |
| Totals for 1922 | 1,121 | 582 | 388 | 2,091 |
| Totals for 1921 | 1,158 | 517 | 395 | 2,070 |

III. ACCIDENTS.

During 1922 one fatal and one serious but non-fatal accident occurred in or about metalliferous mines, at which 2,091 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 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Explosives | .. | .. | 1 | 1 |
| Miscellaneous, on surface | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Miscellaneous, underground | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| Totals | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The fatal accident was that to William Edward Stephenson, and took place in No. 4 shaft, Waihi Mine. Deceased was working in the shaft-bottom, and a small windlass was used for raising and lowering an electric light with which the shaft-bottom was lit. The spindle of the windlass gave way and the windlass fell down the shaft, striking the deceased and killing him instantaneously. Full reports of this accident and of the serious non-fatal accident are contained in the District Inspectors' annual reports.

IV. GOLD-MINING.

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

| | Production of Bullion, 1922.* (All Mines.) | | Dividends paid, 1922. (By Registered Companies only.)† | Number of Persons ordinarily employed at Productive and Unproductive Mines. | Number of Productive Quartz-mines, Alluvial Mines, and Dredges, 1922. |
|--------------------------|--|---------|---|---|---|
| | Quantity. | Value. | | | |
| | Oz. | £ | £ | | |
| Quartz-mining | 488,202 | 439,489 | 51,991 | 1,405 | 20 |
| Dredge mining | 15,465 | 67,239 | .. | 121 | 11 |
| Alluvial mining‡ | 16,620 | 68,260 | 1,040 | 502 | 149 |
| Totals, 1922 | 520,287 | 574,988 | 53,031 | 2,028 | 180 |
| Totals, 1921 | 551,875 | 547,105 | 56,728 | 2,012 | 184 |

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 150 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

At the present time the gold-mining industry is far from thriving. During the year under review the gold premium continued to drop till by the end of the period gold was practically at its pre-war value, with the result that most of the gold won did not pay for the cost of producing it.

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING.

| Inspection District. | Statute Tons of Ore treated. | | Value of Bullion. | | Dividends paid (by Registered Companies only). | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|--|--------|
| | 1922. | 1921. | 1922. | 1921. | 1922. | 1921. |
| | | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Northern | 220,263 | 214,365 | 338,465 | 334,550 | 49,591 | 49,591 |
| West Coast | 48,184 | 40,994 | 100,682 | 98,422 | 2,400 | 4,200 |
| Southern | 162 | 252 | 342 | 516 | .. | .. |
| Totals | 268,609 | 255,611 | 439,489 | 433,488 | 51,991 | 53,791 |

The average value per ton of ore treated during 1922 amounted to £1 12s. 9d. as compared with £1 13s. 11d. during 1921.