

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTS AT NEW ZEALAND METAL MINES AND DREDGES DURING THE YEARS 1906 TO 1912.

Cause of Accident.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Explosion	3	...	3	2	2	1	...
Fall of ground	3	2	2	1	1	2	1
In shafts	1	...	1	3	5	...	1
Miscellaneous: Underground	2	1	2
" On surface	1	2	6	5	3	2	...
About dredges	6	3	1	2	4	...	1
Total killed	14	7	15	14	15	5	5
Number of employees	8,716	9,389	8,880	7,651	8,121	7,400	5,239
" persons killed per 1,000 employed	1.60	0.84	1.69	1.83	1.84	0.67	0.95

The following is a brief description of the fatal accidents at New Zealand metalliferous mines during 1912:—

Name of Sufferer.	Mine.	Nature of Accident.
John Fenton .. (19/7/12)	Coronation (Coromandel) ..	Deceased, an experienced miner, working singly in a surface drive, was killed by a large stone falling from between two clay heads in the roof. The verdict of the Coroner's jury was "accidental death," with a rider that "no tribute should be let in isolated mines unless two miners were engaged at all times," a very reasonable suggestion.
Timothy Higgins .. (19/12/12)	Waihi Grand Junction ..	Deceased fell through the temporary staging in the pumping compartment of the No. 3 sinking shaft, a distance of 25 ft., to the penthouse below. No one witnessed this accident. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict that no blame was attachable to any one.
John Williams and Thomas Guy (11/1/12)	May Queen (Thames) ..	The two deceased with five other miners were stopping above the No. 6 (750 ft.) level, which connects with the Queen of Beauty main shaft, used for upcast ventilation, pumping, and winding. At the 1,000 ft. level from this shaft extensive crosscutting is being carried out by several companies; during these operations considerable exudations of ground carbon-dioxide and nitrogen gas occasionally occurred. Owing to a temporary cessation of ventilation caused by the blower air-pipes becoming obstructed by water, an accumulation of gas occurred at the 1,000 ft. level, which, when eventually liberated by the restoration of the ventilating-current, ascended the upcast shaft and inundated the No. 6 level, above which the deceased and others were stopping. Upon receiving warning these men, in their attempt to regain the main shaft (also used for winding), entered the gaseous No. 6 level and were asphyxiated. The verdict of the Coroner's jury was that the gas came from the 1,000 ft. level, and they added as a rider that in their opinion all stoppages and restarting of the ventilating-blower at the main shaft should be notified to all mines connected therewith; they recommended to the notice of the Royal Humane Society two miners—Joseph Henry James and Michael Crowley—for heroic conduct in their attempt to rescue deceased and others. This recommendation was given effect to.
George Roberts .. (18/3/12)	Smeaton Dredge (Reefton)	Deceased, an engineer, was killed while attending to the top of an elevator-shaft when the elevator was in motion; at the time deceased was wearing a loosely fitting coat. A cover had been carelessly left off the elevator-shaft, around which the deceased was wound. This was a preventable accident; the deceased was blameworthy for his rash action, and the dredge-master was lax in leaving the shaft uncovered. No dredge machinery should be oiled or adjusted when in motion; loose garments should not be worn; moving parts should be protected by rails or covers.

IV. GOLD-MINES.

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

—	Production of Bullion, 1912.* (All mines.)	Dividends paid, 1912. (By registered companies only.)	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Number of Working Mines, Dredges, and Claims.
	£	£		
Quartz-mining	906,189	314,903½	3,290	123
Dredge mining	257,333	38,841†	694	87
Alluvial mining	266,348	14,893½†	1,178	256
Totals, 1912	1,429,870	368,638	5,162	466

* 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 bullion-production is from 87 dredges, but the dividends given are only from 28 of these, the property of registered companies. The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 256 alluvial claims, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.