

inspection of such places is performed without extra salary by officials of the Public Works Department and Inspectors of Mines resident in the districts where the quarries, &c., are situated. The inspection of stone-quarries does not come under my control.

Since the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, came into operation I have only heard of one prosecution thereunder. The number of fatal accidents during 1915 was six, causing the loss of seven lives, being in the proportion of 4.45 lives lost per thousand persons employed—a very high proportion indeed.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured during 1915 at stone quarries and places within the operation of the Stone-quarries Act:—

Cause of Accident.	Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
	Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.
Explosives	2	3	3	3
Falls of ground	2	12	2	12
Machinery .. .. .	..	1	..	1
Haulage	2	7	2	7
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	5	..	5
Totals	6	28	7	28

The following are details of the fatal quarry accidents during 1915:—

Name of Deceased.	Date of Accident.	Place of Accident.	Cause of Accident.
James A. Green	Jan. 6	Patutahi Quarry ..	Premature explosion of gelignite.
Alfred Bugden .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Frederick Saul	April 30	Otira Railway Tunnel	Crushed between trucks on tramway.
Patrick Twomey	June 18	.. .. .	Premature explosion of gelignite.
John Kyle	July 2	Cobden Quarry ..	Fall of stone.
John Chalmers	Sept. 12	Otira Railway Tunnel	Fall of earth.
J. Bryne	Oct. 12	.. .. .	Crushed by electric locomotive.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1916, thirty-four approved prospecting parties were granted subsidies amounting to £5,151 8s. 4d., of which £2,736 17s. 11d. was expended during that period. In addition to this, £1,111 1s. granted during previous years was expended by twenty parties during the past financial year.

The following statement shows the total expenditure during the year ended the 31st March, 1916, on authorities issued previous to that date, in subsidies to prospecting associations and parties of miners in the different counties:—

Name of County, &c.	Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.
Rotorua County	26	0 0
Coromandel County	101	5 0
Ohinemuri County	152	5 0
Pelorus Road Board	131	6 8
Inangahu County	387	5 0
Murchison County	48	0 0
Grey County	52	0 0
Westland County	513	13 0
Ross Borough	10	0 0
Tuapeka County	100	0 0
Prospecting associations, &c.	2,386	10 3
Total	£3,908	4 11

Altogether thirty-six prospecting parties, employing eighty-six persons, have during 1915 been engaged upon subsidized prospecting operations, and, although no discovery of much commercial value has been made, ground has been proved in a few instances which may be profitably worked.

The following is a table prepared by the Inspectors of Mines who have inspected the subsidized operations:—