

The fatal accidents were in the proportion of 1·40 per 1,000 persons employed.

The total number of quarry accidents is the lowest since the Act came into operation during 1910. Both the fatal accidents were caused by falls of rock. That by which James Ward Cotton, a carter, lost his life at Shiel's quarry, Dunedin, was due to neglect by the management in not making the face safe. A fine of £20 and costs was inflicted for this breach of the law. In the case of John King, quarry foreman, killed at Cobden quarry, the evidence at the inquest showed that deceased took a risk by working under loose rock, and that no other person was blameworthy.

The non-fatal accidents were only four in number.

The regular and efficient inspection of stone-quarries by experienced Inspectors of Mines, who are also Inspectors of Stone-quarries, has greatly improved the conditions of the stone-quarries as regards safety.

The following is a description of fatal accidents during 1918 at quarries which are under the Stone-quarries Act:—

Date.	Name and Situation of Quarry.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Description of Accident, and Remarks.
3 July	Shiel's quarry, St. Clair, Dunedin	James Ward Cotton (42), carter	He was sent by his employer, C. J. Mead, a carting contractor to the Dunedin City Council, to Shiel's quarry to load stone into his dray. On arrival there he was directed by Henry J. Harrison, quarry foreman, to back his dray and load broken stone from a fall at the face near an overhanging basalt column, the base of which had been removed by blasting some time previously. While he was loading at the place directed a small fall of stone occurred from the overhanging face, striking him on the head and inflicting injuries from which he died five days later. Shiel's quarry has been worked for about twenty-five years, and has a front of about 200 yards, and a maximum height of about 102 ft. The quarry, owing to the almost perpendicular fissured and jointed basalt columns, was worked from the bottom by blasting the base of each column separately, and removing workmen from the vicinity until the column fell; by this method there had been no serious accident for many years. In the case of this accident, however, the above precaution had not been taken, and deceased was put to load stone under an unfallen column, with the result stated. The quarry foreman, Mr. Harrison, was subsequently prosecuted by the Inspector of Stone-quarries, Mr. E. R. Green, for breaches of section 9 (d) of the Stone-quarries Act, and of Regulation 1 under that Act, in that the quarry at the time of the accident was not securely protected and made safe for persons employed therein, and that the working of the quarry was not carried out so as to prevent dangerous falls. A conviction with a fine of £20 and costs was imposed.
26 Aug.	Cobden quarry, Greymouth	John J. H. A. King, quarry foreman	When holding dog-hooks in position upon a large stone about 60 ft. up the quarry-face, preparatory to the stone being lowered by a crane, a fall of loose stones occurred from above that being moved, two of which stones, of considerable size, knocked him down and pinned him to the ground, inflicting injuries from which he died the following day. He was an experienced and careful quarryman, but committed an error of judgment by not first removing the stones which fell. The face of the quarry where the fall occurred has a slope of about 45°.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1919, nine approved prospecting parties were granted subsidies amounting to £1,404 11s. 8d., of which £1,206 1s. 8d. was expended during that period. In addition to this, £9,942 11s. 1d. granted during previous years was expended by ten parties during the past financial year.

The following statement shows the total expenditure during the year ended 31st March, 1919:—

	£	s.	d.
Tauranga County	479	6	8
Coromandel County	24	0	0
Thames County	106	13	4
Ohinemuri County	38	0	0
Pelorus Road District	17	10	0
Grey County	50	0	0
Buller County	77	13	4
Westland County	315	19	6
Prospecting associations, &c.	*10,039	9	11
Total	£11,148	12	9

* Includes subsidy to Boatman's Consolidated Gold-mining Company (Limited), £9,201 0s. 3d. : and to Teviot-Molyneux Gold-mining Company (Limited), £500.