

(2.) QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured during 1919 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 .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Falls of ground .. .. .	..	2	..	2
Falling from face, or during ascent or descent .. .. .	..	1	..	1
Miscellaneous	1	2	1	2
Totals	1	5	1	5

The fatal accidents were in the proportion of 0·71 per 1,000 persons employed. The non-fatal accidents were only five in number, two of which were occasioned by a splinter of rock injuring the eye of the worker whilst engaged in spawling.

In the case of two serious accidents—one at Karaka Bay, St. Heliers, Auckland, and the other at Mount Somers, Canterbury—proceedings were taken by the Inspector for a breach of the law. In both instances the owners were fined for employing a foreman without a permit, and in the former case the man acting as foreman was fined for carrying on without a permit as well as for failing to notify the Inspector of an accident. Nominal penalties were asked for in each case, the main object of the prosecutions being to bring before private owners the requirements of the law.

The following is a description of the fatal accident during 1919 at a quarry which is under the Stone-quarries Act:—

Date.	Name and Situation of Quarry.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Description of Accident, and Remarks.
1919. Oct. 6..	Harbour Board's Quarry, Rangitoto Island, Auckland	James Arrol (29), labourer	Stone from this quarry was loaded into a box which was lifted by a hand-winch. The jib which carried the hauling-pulley was stayed by one end of the radius-chain to a vertical post. On taking the weight one of the links of the radius-chain broke, allowing the jib to fall on this man, who had been engaged loading the box. The Board's Engineer stated that this chain had been regarded as a tie and had not been regularly annealed, although inspected daily when the pulley was oiled. At the inquest a verdict was returned that deceased met his death through an injury to his skull caused by a falling derrick, and that there was not sufficient evidence to show how or when the flaw was occasioned in the link of the supporting chain.

VII.—STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1920, thirty-eight approved prospecting parties were granted subsidies amounting to £3,554 6s. 8d., of which £1,520 1s. 4d. was expended during that period. In addition to this, £985 4s. 2d. granted during previous years was expended by five parties during the past financial year.

The following statement shows the total expenditure during the year ended 31st March, 1920:—

	£	s.	d.
Coromandel County	170	13	4
Thames County	292	0	0
Ohinemuri County	156	13	4
Wairau Road District	100	0	0
Takaka County	64	10	0
Buller County	51	13	4
Westland County	158	16	4
Lake County	76	10	0
Prospecting associations, &c.	1,434	9	2
Total	£2,505	5	6