

Magnesite.—At Upper Takaka 171 tons of magnesite, valued at £154, was quarried.

Manganese.—At Moumoukai 10 tons of manganese-ore was mined, and from a mine near Clevedon 500 tons, worth about £2,000, was won.

Mercury.—The large landslide at the Puhipuhi opencast working was not completely cleared away until late in 1943. From then until the end of the year 1,010 tons of material was treated for a recovery of 63 cwt. of mercury worth £7,192.

A little work is still being done at the Ascot Cinnabar mine near Karangahake.

Mica.—A track 2½ miles in length is to be constructed to gain access to the mica deposits on the Matukituki Range in South Westland.

Petroleum.—At Uruti, in North Taranaki, two bores were put down, the No. 1 to 1,173 ft. and the No. 2 to 5,096 ft. Both bottomed in greywacke and were unproductive. The Superior Oil Co's plant completed the Marsden bore, and New Zealand Oil Exploration, Ltd., did 571 ft. of structural drilling. A short bore, also unproductive, was drilled in the Arahura Valley by the Superior Oil Co. From the three producing wells owned by Moturoa Oilfields, Ltd., Nos. 1, 2, and 4, a total of 73,487 gallons of petroleum was obtained, and was treated by New Zealand Oil Refineries, Ltd., New Plymouth.

Platinum.—Together with the gold recovered, a Southland sluicing claim produced 5¼ oz. of platinum during 1943.

Pottery Clay.—Near Kaka, in the Nelson District, 1,300 tons of pottery clay, worth £1,722, was mined. Fifty tons of inferior pottery clay, worth £31, was mined near Tadmor. From Kakahu and Mount Somers 1,173 tons of high-grade clays was produced.

Serpentine.—To augment the supply of fertilizers 59,445 tons of serpentine, valued at £49,537, was obtained from Wayby and Kaukapakapa quarries. From a quarry near Mossburn, Southland, 2,200 tons of serpentine, valued at £1,100, was won.

Talc.—From the Upper Takaka district 62 tons of talc, valued at £202, was quarried.

Silica.—From the Wanganui and North Auckland districts 17,398 tons of silica, valued at £38,813, was produced. In the Southern District 2,349 tons, valued at £2,313, was mined.

Sulphur.—No work was done on any sulphur deposit during the year.

Tungsten.—From the Glenorchy and Macraes districts, Otago, 110 tons of scheelite concentrates, valued at £52,215, was produced.

STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS

By section 2 of the Stone-quarries Amendment Act, 1920, the application of the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, was extended to include every place, not being a mine, in which persons work in quarrying stone and any part of which has a face more than 15 ft. deep. The Act also applies to any tunnel in the construction of which explosives are used, but it does not apply to any Government operations or any road or railway cutting, or excavations for buildings.

The following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1943 :—

Provincial District.	Name and Address of Government Inspector of Stone-quarries.	Number of Working Quarries under the Act.	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Output of Stone.							
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building or Monumental Stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	Miscellaneous.	Value at Quarry.
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£
Auckland ..	R. C. Ruffin, Mines Dept., Huntly	153	814	521,304	..	11,725	168,848	271,246	..	223,752	251,654
	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	23	84	72,793	..	293	..	..	..	..	26,281
Hawke's Bay	R. C. Ruffin, Mines Dept., Huntly	21	82	11,140	..	..	42,771	..	..	2,859	27,216
Taranaki ..	Ditto	20	57	16,530	..	..	..	..	..	52	3,735
Wellington		31	104	55,623	..	..	78,835	..	..	3,166	51,054
Nelson ..	G. W. Lowes, Mines Dept., Greymouth	25	106	7,284	4,702	3,000	21,430	58,510	..	5,027	21,388
Westland ..											
Buller ..											
Marlborough	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	52	425	90,319	47,212	2,694	440,719	81,289	9,241	2,200	198,969
Canterbury											
Otago ..											
Southland ..											
Totals, 1943	..	325	1,672	774,993	51,914	17,712	752,603	411,045	9,241	237,056*	580,297
Totals, 1942	..	334	1,559	1,330,177	50,950	2,924	613,168	381,870	..	63,412	539,904

* Includes 62 tons talc, value £202; 171 tons magnesite, value £154; 3,571 tons dolomite, value £1,098; 2,200 tons serpentine, value £1,100.