

APPENDIX [B]

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES

THE INSPECTING ENGINEER AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES

SIR,—

Wellington, 15th May, 1944.

I have the honour to present my annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to coal-mines of the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1943, in accordance with section 42 of the Coal-mines Act, 1925.

OUTPUT

The output from New Zealand collieries for 1943 was 2,787,868 tons, being 107,827 tons greater than the 1942 output.

There were increases of 91,169 tons from the Northern District and 42,785 tons from the Southern District, but the output from the West Coast District was 26,127 tons less than the 1942 output.

The following statement shows the tons of coal raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about collieries, &c., to 1943 :—

Year.	Output, in Statute Tons.	Persons ordinarily employed.			Tons raised per each Person employed below Ground.	Lives lost by Accidents in or about Collieries.		
		Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.		Per Million Tons produced.	Per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Lives lost.
Prior to 1939	90,477,430	*	*	*	*	*	*	501
1939 ..	2,342,639	1,220	3,542	4,762	661	7·26	3·57	17
1940 ..	2,516,099	1,277	3,769	5,046	668	3·18	1·58	8
1941 ..	2,639,507	1,358	3,633	4,991	726	1·51	0·80	4
1942 ..	2,680,041	1,338	3,659	4,997	732	2·24	1·20	6
1943 ..	2,787,868	1,375	3,999	5,374	697	2·87	1·50	8
Totals ..	103,443,584	..	..	..	..	..	..	544

* For returns for previous years see page 53, Mines Statement, 1940.

ACCIDENTS

The following is a summary of accidents in and about coal-mines during 1943 with their causes :—

	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Fatal Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Non-fatal Accidents.	Number of Persons injured, including those injured by Accidents which proved Fatal to their Companions.
Carbon-monoxide poisoning	..	..	..	..
Explosions of fire-damp or coal-dust	..	..	..	..
Falls of ground	6	6	8	8
Explosives	..	..	..	..
Haulage	2	2	16	16
Miscellaneous —Underground	..	..	4	4
On surface	..	..	2	2
Totals	8	8	30	30

During 1943 five fatalities occurred in West Coast collieries, two in Southern mines, and one in the Northern District.

Thirty serious non-fatal accidents were reported to the District Inspectors during 1943, fifteen of them in the West Coast District—six caused by falls of coal or stone; eight in the Southern District, of which two were due to falls of coal; and seven in the Northern District. Sixteen persons were injured in haulage accidents, most of them having been caught between mine tubs, or mine tub and rib of place.

DAINGEROUS OCCURRENCES REPORTED

Of the twenty-eight dangerous occurrences reported to the Inspectors during 1943, sixteen were related to fires or heating in underground workings. There were seven reports of firedamp accumulations.

PROSECUTIONS

Seventeen informations were laid during 1943 by Inspectors of Coal-mines for breaches of the Coal-mines Act and the regulations thereunder. Sixteen convictions were obtained, and in the remaining case decision was suspended for twelve months.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING COAL-MINES

No amendments were made to the Coal-mines Act, 1925, or to the regulations under that Act during 1943.

I have, &c.,
 GEORGE DUGGAN,
 Inspecting Engineer and Chief Inspector
 of Coal-mines.