

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN OR ABOUT MINES AND QUARRIES

The following table shows the number of persons employed in each inspection district during 1945 and 1944 :—

Classification.	Inspection District.			Totals.	
	Northern (North Island).	West Coast (of South Island).	Southern (Rest of South Island).	1945.	1944.
Gold, silver, and tungsten-ore	506	621	177	1,304	1,390
Coal	2,110	2,421	1,061	5,592	5,595
Quarries	1,091	116	511	1,718	1,531
Silica	7	..	4	11	13
Cinnabar	9	..	..	9	18
Iron-ore	17	5	..	22	20
Manganese	1	..	..	1	1
Fuller's earth	2	..	..	2	2
Diatomaceous earth	2	..	2	4	2
Bentonite	5	..	..	5	5
Serpentine	5	..	..	5	17
Asbestos	..	6	..	6	15
Dolomite	..	5	..	5	4
Clay*	3	4	9	16	12
Phosphate	..	..	3	3	14
Mica	..	5	..	5	6
Oil prospecting	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	3,758	3,183	1,767	8,708	8,845

* Other than for brickmaking.

MINING AND QUARRY ACCIDENTS

Fatal and serious accidents in the mining industry during the year 1945 were as follows :—

	Number of Men killed.	Number of Men seriously injured.	Number of Men ordinarily employed.
Coal-mines	6	28	5,592
Metal-mines	2	3	1,304
Quarries	4	3	1,718
Totals	12	34	8,614

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

During the year regional geology was carried on by only one party under Mr. Fleming in Wanganui, and under his direction Mr. Beck extended the mapping on the ironsands as far as Waitara.

Small areas in Southland were mapped by parties under Mr. Willett, and at Wairaki Mr. Rout located important new carboniferous fossiliferous beds.

Bentonite was examined at the Blue Slip, Kekerangu, and Clarence.

Coalfields were examined at Ohai, Morley, Kaitangata, Wangaloa, Mataura, Hokonui, Mount Davy, Garvey Creek, Buller, Tatu, Kamo, Kikurangi, Kawakawa, Mangatangi, and Huntly.

Clays were investigated at Wellington, Ashburton, McLeod's Bay, Tussock Creek, Taylor's Gorge, and throughout North Auckland.