

Five fatal and two serious accidents occurred in New Zealand quarries during 1947. Two fatalities took place in the Southern District and three in the Northern. All the accidents were reported on, after investigation, by the Inspector of Quarries, but two of the fatalities in the Northern District happened in quarries which are not subject to inspection by Mines Department Inspectors.

Three of the fatalities were due to falls of ground and one due to a worker falling from a high place. Attention is again directed to the need for constant supervision of quarry faces by experienced men and the use of safety ropes and belts by every one working on the quarry face.

QUARRY OUTPUTS

	Northern.		Hauraki.		West Coast.		Southern.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£(N.Z.)	Tons.	£(N.Z.)	Tons.	£(N.Z.)	Tons.	£(N.Z.)
Bentonite	215	1,049	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clay for bricks, &c. ..	92,443	13,410	3,436	1,051	2,500	803	52,429	18,629
Clay for pottery, &c. ..	..	..	1,353	1,791	778	838	9,839	7,341
Diatomite	..	..	204	401	..	..	232	308
Dolomite	..	..	..	..	7,034	3,517	..	..
Fuller's earth	..	..	31	120	..	..	..	..
Limestone for cement ..	256,047	41,457	..	..	60,936	6,630	82,352	25,682
Limestone for agriculture	364,827	153,774	..	..	44,656	14,146	611,327	239,839
Limestone for industry ..	5,475	2,664	..	..	2,683	1,073	10,243	3,122
Magnesite	..	..	..	..	362	253	..	..
Phosphate	..	..	..	..	..	..	200	100
Pumice	3,389	2,635	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quartzite	..	..	..	..	13	33	..	..
Rock for harbour-works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,347	6,451
Sand, gravel, &c., for roads and ballast	973,061	287,020	211,168	80,816	11,881	1,933	421,843	108,539
Sand, &c., for building aggregate	214,634	66,721	..	..	..	..	160,801	70,402
Serpentine	28,639	6,859	..	..	..	..	3,296	4,944
Silica sand	12,541	28,217	..	..	145	145	1,757	1,996
Stone dust for coal-mines ..	..	..	..	..	914	174	384	96
Dimension stone for building	..	..	122	549	..	..	14,406	10,594
Totals	..	603,806	..	84,728	..	29,545	..	498,043

Number of men employed : Northern, 1,127 ; Hauraki, 216 ; West Coast, 157 ; Southern, 648 ; total, 2,148.

STATE AID TO MINING

SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING

A total amount of £6,113 was advanced during the financial year 1947-48 to the mining industry in the form of subsidies, loans, &c.

The Mines Department expended £27,093 in surveying, prospecting, and developing areas.

GOVERNMENT DRILLS

Mines Department drills were fully employed throughout the year in operations on the Buller, Grey, Kaitangata, Ohai, and Waikato Coalfields. No drills were available for hire to private operators.

SUBSIDIZED ROADS

The expenditure on subsidies for the maintenance and construction of roads in mining areas during the financial year 1947-48 was £3,476. The expenditure for the previous year was £7,015.

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