

The following statement shows the production for the year 1905 by coal-mine owners or lessees having an output of upwards of 10,000 tons:—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Output for 1905.	Inspection District.
		Tons.	
Westport Coal Company (Limited) ...	Westport ...	500,231	West Coast.
State Colliery, Point Elizabeth ...	Greymouth ...	131,816	"
New Zealand Coal and Oil Company (Limited)	Kaitangata ...	119,744	Southern.
Taupiri Coal-mines (Limited) ...	Huntly ...	118,612	Northern.
Blackball Coal Company (Limited) ...	Blackball (Greymouth) ...	64,713	West Coast.
Hikurangi Coal Company (Limited) ...	Hikurangi (Whangarei) ...	50,410	Northern.
State Coal-mine, Seddonville ...	Seddonville (Westport) ...	46,085	West Coast.
Nightcaps Coal Company (Limited) ...	Nightcaps (Invercargill) ...	45,500	Southern.
Tyneside Proprietary (Limited) ...	Brunner (Greymouth) ...	44,047	West Coast.
Northern Collieries Company (Limited) ...	Hikurangi (Whangarei) ...	37,733	Northern.
Greymouth-Point Elizabeth Railway and Coal Company (Limited)	Brunner (Greymouth) ...	35,176	West Coast.
Freeman's Coal Company ...	Abbotsford (Green Island)	21,285	Southern.
Puponga Coal and Gold Mining Company, New Zealand (Limited)	Puponga (Collingwood) ...	20,157	West Coast.
Allandale Coal Company (Limited) ...	Shag Point (Palmerston South)	19,533	Southern.
Christie Bros. ...	Saddle Hill (Mosgiel) ...	18,247	"
Taratu-Kaitangata Railway and Coal Company (Limited)	Kaitangata ...	18,189	"
Lowden and Howarth (Jubilee) ...	Fairfield (Green Island) ...	16,928	"
Union Collieries Company (Limited) ...	Mercer ...	15,994	Northern.
J. Dean ...	Glentunnel (Malvern Hills)	15,415	Southern.
J. and J. Smyth ...	Gore ...	11,314	"
Cromwell and Bannockburn Collieries Company (Limited)	Bannockburn (Cromwell)	11,142	"
Ngunguru Coal Company (Limited) ...	Kiripaka (Whangarei) ...	10,871	Northern.

KAURI-GUM.

The export of kauri-gum from the Auckland District for the past year was returned at 10,883 tons, value £561,444, showing an increase of 1,680 tons and £59,627 in value. The average price per ton was £51 11s. 9d., as compared with £54 10s. 6d. for the preceding year. Whenever the output of the gum reaches a certain figure, the value invariably recedes, and last year was no exception to the rule. The export of this commodity has now reached 266,165 tons, value £12,920,531.

SHEELITE.

This mineral continues to be mined at Macrae's Flat, Otago, and also at Top Valley, Marlborough, in connection with quartz reefs. Messrs. Donaldson Bros., who may be said to be the pioneers in the systematic mining and concentrating of this mineral, have now exported scheelite to the value of £24,000 from their property at Macrae's Flat. This mineral is valuable on account of its tungstic acid, which is used for the hardening of steel plates and big guns.

PETROLEUM.

At a depth of 2,310 ft. petroleum flowed into the bore at New Plymouth, and the indications appear promising, but anything like undue inflation in the value of shares or properties is to be deprecated at the present stage.

Near Lake Brunner, on the West Coast, a small quantity of petroleum has been obtained by the Kotuku Oil-Springs Syndicate by hand-drilling, and the Lake Brunner Oil Company has expended £1,000 on valuable plant and labour.

IRON-ORE AT PARAPARA.

The lessees of the land containing the enormous iron-ore deposits at Parapara, near Collingwood, in the Nelson District, have now commenced work on their mineral lease. Nineteen men are employed in tramway-construction work, and it is expected that this number will be considerably augmented at an early date.