

The following statement shows the tons of mineral raised (coal and shale), persons employed, lives lost, &c., from 1878 to 1908 :—

Year.	Output of Mineral.	Persons employed.			Tons of Mineral raised per each Person employed Underground.	Tons of Mineral raised per Life lost.	Persons employed per each Life lost.	Lives lost per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Deaths.
		Above.	Below.	Total.					
Prior ...	709,931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1878 ...	162,218	147	366	513	443	4,771	15	66.27	34†
1879 ...	231,218	...	...	802	...	115,609	401	2.49	2
1880 ...	299,923	...	...	1,038	...	149,961	519	1.92	2
1881 ...	337,262	...	...	963	...	337,262	963	1.04	1
1882 ...	378,272	...	...	1,043	...	189,136	521	1.91	2
1883 ...	421,764	361	888	1,249	475	210,882	624	1.60	2
1884 ...	480,831	393	890	1,283	540	160,277	421	2.34	3
1885 ...	511,063	338	1,145	1,483	456	170,354	494	2.01	3
1886 ...	534,353	392	1,213	1,605	440	*	*	*	0
1887 ...	558,620	388	1,111	1,499	503	139,655	375	2.66	4
1888 ...	613,895	414	1,275	1,689	481	153,474	422	2.36	4
1889 ...	586,445	466	1,251	1,717	261	146,611	313	2.37	4
1890 ...	637,397	512	1,334	1,846	477	79,674	231	4.33	8
1891 ...	668,794	416	1,277	1,693	523	167,198	423	2.36	4
1892 ...	673,315	485	1,196	1,681	563	673,315	1,681	0.66	1
1893 ...	691,548	590	1,298	1,888	533	138,309	377	2.64	5
1894 ...	719,546	506	1,393	1,899	516	119,924	316	3.16	6
1895 ...	726,654	525	1,274	1,799	618	145,331	360	3.33	5
1896 ...	792,851	590	1,347	1,937	588	12,013	29	34.07	66†
1897 ...	840,713	531	1,381	1,912	609	210,178	478	2.09	4
1898 ...	907,033	556	1,447	2,003	627	907,033	2,003	0.49	1
1899 ...	975,234	554	1,599	2,153	609	325,078	717	1.39	3
1900 ...	1,093,990	617	1,843	2,460	593	273,497	615	1.62	4
1901 ...	1,239,686	688	2,066	2,754	600	413,228	918	1.09	3
1902 ...	1,365,040	803	2,082	2,885	655	682,520	1,443	0.69	2
1903 ...	1,420,229	717	2,135	2,852	665	355,057	713	1.40	4
1904 ...	1,537,838	763	2,525	3,288	609	384,459	822	1.21	4
1905 ...	1,585,756	833	2,436	3,269	651	264,293	546	1.83	6
1906 ...	1,729,536	1,174	2,518	3,692	687	288,256	615	1.62	6
1907 ...	1,831,009	1,143	2,767	3,910	662	152,584	326	3.07	12
1908 ...	1,860,975	992	2,902	3,894	641	372,195	778	1.28	5
Totals...	27,122,939	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210

* No life lost.

† Year of Kaitangata explosion.

‡ Year of Brunner explosion.

SECTION IV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

MINING OPERATIONS.

Northern Inspection District.—An increase of 27,950 tons in the annual output of coal from the mines of the Auckland Province has to be recorded.

The original property of the Hikurangi Coal Company (Limited) being nearly worked out, this company have acquired an area south-west of the Township of Hikurangi, and have proved thereon by boreholes at depths varying between 200 ft. and 500 ft., the existence of a 10 ft. seam, which will in all probability give a new lease of life to this company. During the year the respected manager of this colliery, Mr. Moody—who for a period exceeding a quarter of a century has occupied a prominent position on the northern coalfields—retired from the management of the Hikurangi Company.

At the Northern Colliery some difficulty has been experienced by subsidence, owing to pillar-extraction in proximity to the air-shaft and airways, but ventilation will be restored and a considerable area to the dip of the present workings will be opened up by a new airway, which is now being driven to overcome the difficulty.

Mining operations at the Kiripaka Colliery have been confined to the solid coal, this mine being still in the early stages of development. An extensive coal-bearing area has been proved by boring on this property.

The output of the Taupiri Coal-mines (Limited) for the year amounted to 175,777 tons, being an increase of 13,731 tons; the output from this property now exceeds that of all the other North Island collieries combined. This company have, by the acquisition of the Taupiri West Com-