

OUTPUT.

The output of coal and lignite (Southern District) for the year 1908 amounted to 452,482 tons, a decrease of 9,528 tons on the previous year's output.

	Tons.
Canterbury	21,788
Otago	288,004
Southland	142,690
Total	452,482
Output for previous year	462,010
Decrease for 1908	9,528

The contributions by coal-owners to the Coal-miners' Relief Fund amounted to £447 5s. 3d., while payments from the fund to the amount of £430 8s. 5d. have been recommended on account of accidents which have occurred in and about coal-mines in the district during the year.

• *Return of Coal-output (Southern Mining District) for the Year ended 31st December, 1908.*

	Tons.
Abstract of output of coal for year ended 31st December, 1907 ..	462,010
„ „ „ „ „ 1908 ..	452,482
Decrease, 1908	9,528

Summary of Outputs.

District.	Output, 1908.	Output for 1908 (Otago).	Output, 1907.	Increase, 1908.	Decrease, 1908.	Contributions to Coal-miners' Relief Fund.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£ s. d.
Canterbury	21,788	...	23,679	...	1,891	19 6 11
North Otago	18,657	...	23,075	...	4,418	19 4 7
South Otago	228,773	288,004	227,847	926	...	219 18 0
Central Otago	40,574	...	44,428	...	3,854	40 17 9
Southland	142,690	...	142,981	...	291	147 18 0
Totals	452,482	...	462,010	...	9,528	447 5 3

Outputs of 10,000 Tons and over.

Name of Mine.	Output, 1908.	Contributions to Coal-miners' Relief Fund, 1908.
Kaitangata and Castle Hill	110,315	105 15 3
Nightcaps	48,487	50 9 5
Saddle Hill Collieries :—		
No. 1 Mine	8,250	8 11 10
No. 2 Mine	19,442	20 5 1
Jubilee	21,807	22 14 6
Freeman's	20,758	19 17 6
Taratu	17,346	17 5 4
Allandale	14,227	14 16 3
Homebush	13,756	11 18 5
Waronui	12,178	10 6 11
Other mines	165,916	165 4 9
Totals	452,482	447 5 3
		Tons.
Fireclay (Canterbury and Otago)	4,898
Sand (Green Island coalfields)	16,554
Lime	33,000
Phosphate (Clarendon, Otago)	5,933

ACCIDENTS.

There has been comparative freedom from serious accident throughout the year. A total of eighty-four cases of accident were reported to me, of which two resulted in serious consequences to the individuals. The balance of the cases were reported chiefly in connection with claims on the Coal-miners' Relief Fund, of which, after inquiry, five had to be disallowed.

Non-fatal (Serious) Accidents.

16th January, 1908.—William Forrester : Burns of face and arms by an ignition of gas at a spontaneous fire in Kaitangata Mine.

9th June, 1908.—Robert Ferguson, repairer, Kaitangata Mine : Fracture of both legs, caused by being run down by a rake of full boxes on the horse-road.