

It is satisfactory to report that the usual annual increase in output has been maintained. There has also been a considerable increase in the quantity of coal imported into the Dominion during the past year, 364,359 tons having been imported, as against 188,068 tons during 1911. The quantity of coal exported was 223,918 tons during 1911, and 229,849 tons in 1912. There has therefore been an increase of 281,902 tons in the coal consumed or stocked in New Zealand during 1912.

The following is a statement showing output of coal from each coalfield :—

| Coalfield.             | Output during 1912. | Total Output to End of 1912. |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
|                        | Tons.               | Tons.                        |
| North Auckland .. .. . | 116,147             | 3,024,403                    |
| Waikato .. .. .        | 263,938             | 3,230,768                    |
| Mokau .. .. .          | 3,762               | 81,560                       |
| Nelson .. .. .         | 29,071              | 224,604                      |
| Buller .. .. .         | 826,105             | 11,478,628                   |
| Inangahua .. .. .      | 11,046              | 215,886                      |
| Grey .. .. .           | 435,239             | 6,782,216                    |
| Canterbury .. .. .     | 16,764              | 657,041                      |
| Otago .. .. .          | 294,063             | 7,658,649                    |
| Southland .. .. .      | 181,480             | 2,107,059                    |
| Totals .. .. .         | 2,177,615           | 35,460,814                   |

The production from, and the number of persons employed at, the principal collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table :—

| Name of Colliery.                          | Locality.          | Class of Coal.  | Output for 1912. | Total Output to 31st December, 1912. | Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed. |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Northern District.</i>                  |                    |                 |                  |                                      |                                              |
| Hikurangi .. .. .                          | Hikurangi...       | Semi-bituminous | Tons. 54,618     | Tons. 822,067                        | 85                                           |
| Taupiri .. .. .                            | Huntly ..          | Brown ..        | 258,108          | 2,495,263                            | 496                                          |
| Northern .. .. .                           | Hikurangi...       | Semi-bituminous | 43,436           | 452,112                              | 71                                           |
| <i>West Coast District.</i>                |                    |                 |                  |                                      |                                              |
| Coalbrookdale .. .. .                      | Millerton ...      | Bituminous      | 329,430          | 3,761,423                            | 584                                          |
| Westport-Stockton .. .. .                  | Denniston ..       | "               | 298,636          | 6,344,435                            | 559                                          |
| State Coal-mines .. .. .                   | Mangatini ..       | "               | 125,031          | 457,160                              | 140                                          |
|                                            | Seddonville ..     | "               | 72,693           | 472,797                              | 103                                          |
|                                            | Point Elizabeth .. | "               | 188,835          | 1,602,298                            | 336                                          |
| Blackball .. .. .                          | Blackball ...      | "               | 202,878          | 1,672,824                            | 355                                          |
| <i>Southern District.</i>                  |                    |                 |                  |                                      |                                              |
| Kaitangata .. .. .                         | Kaitangata ..      | Brown ..        | 127,761          | 2,841,492                            | 327                                          |
| Nightcaps .. .. .                          | Nightcaps...       | " ..            | 89,874           | 878,449                              | 129                                          |
| Other collieries, in all districts .. .. . | ..                 | Various ..      | 386,315          | 13,660,494                           | 1,143                                        |
| Totals .. .. .                             | ..                 | ..              | 2,177,615        | 35,460,814                           | 4,328                                        |

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

| Inspection District. | Average Number of Persons employed during 1912. |               |        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
|                      | Above Ground.                                   | Below Ground. | Total. |
| Northern .. .. .     | 234                                             | 618           | 852    |
| West Coast .. .. .   | 632                                             | 1,867         | 2,499  |
| Southern .. .. .     | 264                                             | 713           | 977    |
| Totals, 1912 .. .. . | 1,130                                           | 3,198         | 4,328  |
| Totals, 1911 .. .. . | 1,365                                           | 2,925         | 4,290  |