

1912, when the New South Wales average was 751 tons. These remarkable averages, which greatly exceed those attained in other parts of the Empire, are due to the unusual thickness of the coal-seams generally, which is favourable to coal-mining. An analysis of the total output for 1916 shows that whereas there has been an increase of 10·21 per cent. in tonnage, the number of persons employed at collieries has declined 4 per cent. The increase in tonnage may be attributed to more regular work at the collieries. The decline in the number of miners is due to voluntary enlistment.

The quantity of coal imported into New Zealand during 1916 was 293,956 tons, as compared with 353,471 tons for 1915.

During 1916 no new collieries entered upon the production stage, but preparations to lay down one small colliery were commenced near Avoca, on the Christchurch - Arthur's Pass Railway, a distance of sixty miles by rail from the former, and at an altitude of about 1,800 ft. or more above sea-level. This proposed colliery is the property of a newly formed English company named Mount Torlesse Collieries (Limited). The coal to be worked is a brown coal.

At the following collieries operations ceased during the year owing either to exhaustion or the unprofitable nature of the operations: Ralph's, Mangapapa (Mokau), Springfield, and Allandale.

The output of coal from each coalfield is as follows:—

Coalfield.	Output during 1916.	Total Output to End of 1916.
	Tons.	Tons.
North Auckland	126,506	3,512,634
Waikato (including Mokau)	359,608	4,560,665
Nelson	26,147	308,671
Buller	714,015	14,401,071
Inangahua	11,402	264,509
Grey	544,071	8,710,458
Canterbury	19,465	718,597
Otago	281,552	8,853,137
Southland	174,369	2,760,429
Totals	2,257,135	44,090,171

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 1916.	Total Output to 31st December, 1916.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Hikurangi	Hikurangi...	Semi-bituminous	Tons. 65,522	Tons. 1,068,014	110
Taupiri Extended and Ralph's	Huntly ..	Brown ..	186,623	3,358,212	386
Pukemiro	Pukemiro...	" ..	81,582	92,591	122
Waipa	Glen Massey	" ..	88,105	237,981	108
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Coalbrookdale	Millerton ..	Bituminous	274,782	4,972,665	424
Westport-Stockton	Denniston	" ..	245,659	7,400,638	480
State Coal-mines {	Mangatini	" ..	189,430	1,036,370	230
	Point Elizabeth...	Semi-bituminous	140,917	2,136,306	215
Blackball	Liverpool ..	Bituminous	136,928	326,615	243
	Blackball ..	" ..	203,811	2,455,865	325
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Kaitangata and Castle Hill	Kaitangata	Brown ..	119,045	3,400,221	325
Nightcaps	Nightcaps...	" ..	84,166	1,181,011	113
Other New Zealand collieries	All coalfields	Various ..	440,565	16,333,682	907
Totals			2,257,135	44,090,171	3,988