

(vi.) THE AMOUNT MINED.

In estimating the probable duration of the coal available for mining in the Dominion it is necessary to take account, among other factors, of the growth of the rate of production in the past in New Zealand. From the 1st January, 1853, to the 31st December, 1918, the quantity of coal mined in New Zealand amounted to about 48,000,000 tons, or nearly 5 per cent. of the total estimated proved coal. The following table shows the annual production of coal from 1878 to 1918 (inclusive) :—

TABLE 3.—YEARLY OUTPUT OF COAL IN NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.	Year.	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.
Prior to 1878	709,931	..	1898	907,033	Increase 66,320
1878	162,218	..	1899	975,234	.. 68,201
1879	231,218	Increase 69,000	1900	1,093,990	.. 118,756
1880	299,923	.. 68,705	1901	1,239,686	.. 145,696
1881	337,262	.. 37,339	1902	1,365,040	.. 125,354
1882	378,272	.. 41,010	1903	1,420,229	.. 55,189
1883	421,764	.. 43,492	1904	1,537,838	.. 117,609
1884	480,831	.. 59,069	1905	1,585,756	.. 47,918
1885	511,063	.. 30,232	1906	1,729,536	.. 143,780
1886	534,353	.. 23,290	1907	1,831,009	.. 101,473
1887	558,620	.. 24,267	1908	1,860,975	.. 29,966
1888	613,895	.. 55,275	1909	1,911,247	.. 50,272
1889	586,445	Decrease 27,450	1910	2,197,362	.. 286,115
1890	637,397	Increase 50,952	1911	2,066,073	Decrease 131,289
1891	668,794	.. 31,397	1912	2,177,615	Increase 111,542
1892	673,315	.. 4,521	1913	1,888,005	Decrease 289,610
1893	691,548	.. 18,233	1914	2,275,614	Increase 387,609
1894	719,546	.. 27,998	1915	2,208,624	Decrease 66,990
1895	726,654	.. 7,108	1916	2,257,135	Increase 48,511
1896	792,851	.. 66,197	1917	2,068,419	Decrease 188,716
1897	840,713	.. 47,862	1918	*2,034,250	Decrease 34,169

* Approximate.

With the exception of one year (1889) there is a continuous growth in the annual production up to 1910. The rate of this growth remained fairly even for the two decades following 1880. The output of 1881 was doubled by the end of the following decade, and the output of 1902 was double that for 1892. The decade succeeding 1902 showed a falling-off in the rate at which production grew—indeed, an absolute decrease for the year 1911, since which date there has been an alternation of annual increase and decrease till the last two years, which both show a decrease. Table 4 shows the annual production since 1885 and the moving averages for five-yearly periods so as to bring out clearly the general trend of the movement, which is well depicted on the accompanying graphs.

TABLE 4.—PRODUCTION OF COAL, 1885–1918.

Year.	Annual Production.		Quinquennial Period.	Average.
	Quantity.	Log. of Quantity.		
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.
1885	511,063	5·70847	1885–89	560,875
1886	534,353	5·72783	1886–90	586,142
1887	558,620	5·74712	1887–91	613,030
1888	613,895	5·78809	1888–92	635,969
1889	586,445	5·76822	1889–93	651,500
1890	637,397	5·80441	1890–94	678,120
1891	668,794	5·82529	1891–95	695,971
1892	673,315	5·82822	1892–96	720,783
1893	691,548	5·83982	1893–97	754,262
1894	719,546	5·85706	1894–98	797,359
1895	726,654	5·86133	1895–99	848,497
1896	792,851	5·89919	1896–1900	921,964
1897	840,713	5·92465	1897–1	1,008,922
1898	907,033	5·95762	1898–2	1,113,319
1899	975,234	5·98915	1899–3	1,215,951
1900	1,093,990	6·03902	1900–4	1,328,472
1901	1,227,638	6·08906	1901–5	1,426,827
1902	1,362,702	6·13440	1902–6	1,527,207
1903	1,420,193	6·15235	1903–7	1,620,868
1904	1,537,838	6·18690	1904–8	1,709,025
1905	1,585,756	6·20025	1905–9	1,783,706
1906	1,729,536	6·23792	1906–10	1,906,026
1907	1,831,009	6·26269	1907–11	1,973,333
1908	1,860,975	6·26975	1908–12	2,042,654
1909	1,911,247	6·28131	1909–13	2,048,060
1910	2,197,362	6·34191	1910–14	2,120,929
1911	2,066,073	6·31515	1911–15	2,123,182
1912	2,177,615	6·33798	1912–16	2,161,394
1913	1,888,005	6·27600	1913–17	2,139,555
1914	2,275,593	6·35710	1914–18	*2,168,808
1915	2,208,624	6·34412	..	..
1916	2,257,135	6·35355	..	..
1917	2,068,419	6·31563	..	..

* Approximate.