

COAL-MINING.

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows :—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1921.				Total Output to the End of 1921.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Total.	
Bituminous and semi-bituminous	Tons. 83,325	Tons. 810,520	Tons. ...	Tons. 893,845	Tons. 33,949,532
Brown	431,282	155	268,683	700,120	16,580,317
Lignite	...	200	214,930	215,130	3,163,639
Totals for 1921 ...	514,607	810,875	483,613	1,809,095	53,693,488
Totals for 1920 ...	483,492	821,507	538,706	1,843,705	51,884,393

The decline in the production of brown and bituminous coal is chiefly attributable to the considerable increase in the quantity of coal imported, which during 1921 amounted to 822,459 tons, of which 76½ per cent. came from Australia, as against 476,343 tons, of which 97 per cent. was imported from Australia, during the previous year. The annual rate of coal-consumption in the Dominion—viz., about 2,300,000 tons—has been maintained notwithstanding that the utilization of hydro-electric power is constantly increasing.

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN OR ABOUT MINES AND STONE-QUARRIES.

The following table shows the number of persons employed in each inspection district during 1920 and 1921 :—

Classification.	Inspection District.			Totals.		
	Northern (North Island).	West Coast (of South Island).	Southern (rest of South Island).	1921.	1920.	Increase.
Gold, silver, and tungsten ore	1,147	481	393	2,021	1,914	107
Ironstone, cinnabar, and asbestos	11	36	2	49	16	33
Coal	1,220	2,026	1,121	4,367	4,078	289
Stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act	1,060	88	413	1,561	1,468	93
Totals	3,438	2,631	1,929	7,998	7,476	522

The shortage of labour experienced during previous years, more especially as regards coal-mines, has entirely disappeared.

MINING AND QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

At metalliferous mines, at which 2,070 persons were ordinarily employed, one life was lost by accident, and seven other persons received serious injuries.

At stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, in which 1,561 persons were ordinarily employed, one person was accidentally killed, and four others received serious injuries.

In or about coal-mines, at which 4,367 persons were ordinarily employed, it is regretted that ten fatalities occurred, three of which were unconnected with mining operations. Thirty-seven other persons received serious injuries.

At all the mines and quarries the proportion of fatal accidents was 1·5 per 1,000 persons employed.