

At Waipatiki and Waitangi, near Whatatutu, boring was discontinued, results being negative. The Kotuku Prospecting Syndicate, operating near Greymouth, drilled a hole to a depth of 930 ft., with negative result.

ASBESTOS.

The New Zealand Asbestos Company, operating near Takaka, produced 5 cwt., valued at £50.

SULPHUR.

At Rotorua, on a Crown lease situated south of the racecourse, and held by Messrs. Donne and Birks, 873 tons 12 cwt. of crude fumarolic sulphur was obtained, as against 746 tons 3 cwt. during the previous year.

VI. STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS.

By section 2 of the Stone-quarries Amendment Act, 1920, the application of the Act was extended to include every place, not being a mine, in which persons work in quarrying stone and any part of which has a face more than 15 ft. deep, and also in any tunnel in the construction of which explosives are used. The Act, however, does not apply to any Government operations, or any road or railway-cutting, or excavations for buildings.

The stone-quarrying industry continues to advance in importance, during 1921 the value of stone, &c., produced being £358,362 as against £314,470 for the previous year.

The following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Acts, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1921 :

Provincial District.	Name and Address of Government Inspector of Stone-quarries.	Number of Working Quarries under the Act.	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Output of Stone.							
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building or Monumental-stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	Claystone for Bricks or Tiles.	Value at Quarry.
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	118	637	Tons. 318,559	Tons. 88,125	Tons. 220	Tons. 35,178	Tons. 126,179	Tons. ..	Tons. 2,190	£ 137,993
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	12	77	33,139	..	366	..	..	..	..	13,405
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	21	89	26,484	50,677	..	..	14,000	..	..	15,564
Taranaki ..	Ditto	11	45	13,906	21,288	..	..	..	..	..	9,321
Wellington ..	"	36	212	80,637	16,121	..	11,000	..	..	..	32,594
Canterbury ..	"	10	82	77,369	5,079	30	6,920	..	..	..	28,764
Nelson ..	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	13	88	7,500	7,500	833	3,262	12,717	..	..	18,597
Westland ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	36	331	109,645	9,870	10,183	67,436	27,855	6,012	..	102,124
Southland ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals 1921		257	1,561	667,239	198,660	11,632	123,796	180,751	6,012	2,190	358,362
Totals 1920		241	1,468	578,262	317,461	19,023	142,252	169,953	5,341	1,600	314,470

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1921 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :

Cause.	Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
	Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Explosives	..	1	..	1
Falls of ground	1	..	1	..
Falling from face or during ascent or descent	..	3	..	3
Totals	1	4	1	4

The fatal accident is in the proportion 0.64 per 1,000 persons employed.

The following is a brief description of the fatal accident : On the 19th April, while David Bower (60), manager of the Balclutha Borough quarry was barring down rock in the quarry, a large piece came away suddenly from the face striking him on the leg and breaking it. Later he developed pleurisy, and on the 5th June he died of embolism due to the accident. No inquest was held.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1922, twenty-nine approved prospecting-parties were granted subsidies amounting to £1,980, of which £502 was expended during the year. In addition, £3,261 authorized during previous years was expended.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations sixty-five persons were intermittently employed during the year ; in five cases the results attained were satisfactory.

The following is a statement showing the number of subsidized prospectors, the amount of subsidy granted, and paid, also the character and result of such prospecting operations, from the 1st April, 1921, to the 31st March, 1922.