

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

The INSPECTING ENGINEER AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 25th May, 1925.

I have the honour to present my annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to coal-mines of the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1924, in accordance with section 78 of the Coal-mines Act, 1908. The report is divided into the following sections :—

- I. Output.
 - II. Persons employed.
 - III. Accidents.
 - IV. Working of the Coal-mines Act—
 - (a.) Permitted Explosives.
 - (b.) Dangerous Occurrences.
 - (c.) Electricity at Collieries.
 - (d.) Prosecutions.
 - V. Legislation affecting Coal-mining.
- Annexures—
- A. Summary of Annual Reports by Inspectors of Mines.
 - B. Colliery Statistics.

SECTION I.—OUTPUT.

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

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1924.				Total Output to the End of 1924.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	129,927	955,077	..	1,085,004	36,938,671
Brown	507,598	35,173	296,246	839,017	18,990,627
Lignite	..	362	158,824	159,186	3,675,650
Totals for 1924 ..	637,525	990,612	455,070	2,083,207	59,604,348
Totals for 1923 ..	633,865	849,029	486,940	1,969,834	57,521,141

The following is a table showing the annual production of coal and the quantity of coal imported since 1911 :—

Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.	Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1911 ..	2,066,073	188,068	2,254,141	1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,940	2,356,945	1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048
1914 ..	2,275,593	518,070	2,793,663	1921 ..	1,809,095	822,459	2,631,554
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1923 ..	1,969,834	445,792	2,415,626
1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016	1924 ..	2,083,207	674,483	2,757,690

The gross output of coal for 1924 was 113,373 tons in excess of the output for 1923. This increase is wholly due to the increased output of bituminous coal, which is 149,307 tons in excess of the output of bituminous coal for the previous year. Brown coal shows a reduction of 21,343 tons, and lignite a reduction of 14,591 tons.

In the Northern District the output of bituminous coal from the Hikurangi mines was 3,809 tons over that for 1923, and the output of brown coal from the Waikato mines was 149 tons less.

In the West Coast District there was an increase of 145,498 tons in the output of bituminous coal, a reduction of 3,537 tons in the output of brown coal, mostly from the Reefton mines, and a reduction of 378 tons of lignite, making altogether a net increase of 141,583 tons for the district.

In the Southern District there was a reduction of 17,657 tons in the amount of brown coal produced, and of 14,213 tons of lignite, a total reduction of output for the district of 31,870 tons.

The market for all classes of coal was dull throughout the year, and at many of the mines a considerable amount of slack time was worked. The industry was almost free from stoppages due to labour trouble. Co-operative mining still continues to be successfully carried out in the Northern and West Coast Districts.