

The following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1926 :—

| 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. | Miscellaneous. | Value at Quarry. |
| Auckland ..          | James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland                         | 161                                       | 999                                    | Tons. 524,790                                | Tons. 86,700             | Tons. 51,400                  | Tons. 26,163               | Tons. 252,215                   | Tons. ..                   | Tons. ..       | £ 222,260        |
|                      | M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)  | 26                                        | 206                                    | 132,666                                      | 15,571                   | 906                           | ..                         | ..                              | ..                         | ..             | 57,771           |
| Hawke's Bay          | James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland                         | 18                                        | 118                                    | 16,179                                       | 7,824                    | ..                            | ..                         | 16,368                          | ..                         | ..             | 12,839           |
| Taranaki ..          | Ditto .. ..                                                 | 16                                        | 73                                     | 31,496                                       | 11,669                   | ..                            | ..                         | ..                              | ..                         | ..             | 12,991           |
| Wellington           | .. ..                                                       | 29                                        | 212                                    | 111,816                                      | 14,270                   | ..                            | 9,469                      | ..                              | ..                         | ..             | 52,760           |
| Canterbury           | J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton ..                       | 14                                        | 106                                    | 94,503                                       | 1,224                    | 5,661                         | 2,530                      | ..                              | ..                         | ..             | 35,695           |
| Nelson               | Ditto .. ..                                                 | 12                                        | 157                                    | 5,310                                        | 19,068                   | 260                           | 2,257                      | 36,838                          | ..                         | 10,584         | 15,425           |
| Westland             |                                                             |                                           |                                        |                                              |                          |                               |                            |                                 |                            |                |                  |
| Marlborough          |                                                             |                                           |                                        |                                              |                          |                               |                            |                                 |                            |                |                  |
| Otago                | A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin                            | 37                                        | 372                                    | 154,633                                      | 6,073                    | 14,691                        | 81,762                     | 51,597                          | ..                         | ..             | 106,334          |
| Southland            |                                                             |                                           |                                        |                                              |                          |                               |                            |                                 |                            |                |                  |
| Totals 1926          | ..                                                          | 313                                       | 2,243                                  | 1,071,393                                    | 162,399                  | 72,918                        | 122,181                    | 357,018                         | ..                         | 10,584         | 516,075          |
| Totals 1925          | ..                                                          | 289                                       | 1,972                                  | 958,122                                      | 52,249                   | 26,623                        | 134,689                    | 305,482                         | ..                         | 5,645          | 463,667          |

There were 271 more men employed than during the previous year, and the value of the stone produced was greater by £52,408.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1926 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

| Cause.          |    |    |    |    |    | Number of Accidents. |          | Number of Sufferers. |                    |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                 |    |    |    |    |    | Fatal.               | Serious. | Killed.              | Seriously injured. |
| Electricity     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                    | ..       | 1                    | ..                 |
| Explosives      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                   | 1        | ..                   | 1                  |
| Falls of ground | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                    | 3        | 1                    | 3                  |
| Haulage         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1                    | ..       | 1                    | ..                 |
| Miscellaneous   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                   | 4        | ..                   | 4                  |
| Totals          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3                    | 8        | 3                    | 8                  |

Of the fatal accidents the following is a short description :—  
Kawahere Matu, a workman employed on the Arapuni diversion tunnel, died on the 25th February from the results of an electric shock received from coming in contact with the neutral wire used in connection with the lighting of the tunnel. The neutral was of uninsulated wire, and had broken a short distance back from where deceased was working. The voltage was 230 volts.  
Robert Henry Thompson, a workman employed at Waiorongomai quarry, was crushed between full trucks on the 21st June, and died shortly after the accident. He was engaged taking two trucks of stone from the quarry to the crusher, when he was overtaken by two other trucks, the brakes of which he had released but had afterwards omitted to put down again.  
Samuel Thomas Silcock, foreman at Paeroa quarry, was struck by a fall of stone on the 31st August, and died in hospital on the same day. An examination after the accident showed that the stone had slipped from between two greasy heads, the presence of which could not have been noticed prior to the accident.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 155 persons were intermittently employed during the year.  
The following is a statement showing the results of prospecting operations as reported by the Inspectors of Mines.