

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 1927 :—

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	152	1,132	Tons. 615,624	Tons. 175,026	Tons. 6,100	Tons. 23,007	Tons. 286,760	Tons. ..	Tons. 157,016	£ 301,033
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	18	154	105,606	117	351	..	..	..	..	32,452
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	11	75	13,178	8,561	..	10,416	..	..	..	6,694
Taranaki ..	Ditto	15	64	29,415	16,370	..	4,175	..	..	..	10,653
Wellington ..	„	43	246	138,281	8,930	..	8,072	784	..	..	56,899
Canterbury	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	12	119	102,339	..	3,149	1,789	2,000	..	..	36,798
Nelson	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	12	155	6,613	30,537	327	2,676	38,942	..	9,004	19,185
Westland		37	396	134,918	86,248	16,337	93,938	43,989	..	..	106,655
Marlborough											
Otago											
Southland											
Totals 1927	..	300	2,341	1,145,974	325,789	26,264	144,073	372,475	..	166,020	570,369
Totals 1926	..	313	2,243	1,071,393	162,399	72,918	122,181	357,018	..	10,584	516,075

There were 98 more men employed than during the previous year, and the value of the stone produced was greater by £54,294.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1927 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

Cause.							Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
							Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Explosives	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
Falls of ground ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	5

There was one fatal accident in stone-quarries, which is the lowest number recorded for some years. The fatal accident occurred in the Mount Albert sewerage tunnel, on the 18th October, to G. H. McMahon. On the previous day, when a round of holes was being charged with explosives, it was found that one of the holes, 3 ft. 6 in. deep, crossed a crevice in the rock, and probably one or more cartridges dropped down that crevice. This round was fired, and the face of the tunnel was advanced a distance of 4 ft. 6 in. Next day McMahon was boring the face with a rock-drill, when an explosion occurred, evidently the result of the drill striking some of the explosive previously lost in the crevice. For this to have taken place the lost cartridge or cartridges must have rolled down the crevice away from the face, so that they were not discovered when the material got from the round of holes which had been fired was being filled out. McMahon received severe injuries to his head, and died the following day. His mate, who was working with him at the time lost an eye.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 146 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 :—