

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 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 1928 :—

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	166	1,073	Tons. 480,325	Tons. 109,800	Tons. ..	Tons. 26,449	Tons. 226,037	Tons. ..	Tons. 46,405	£ 202,216
	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	15	103	72,316	..	774	..	..	..	..	26,380
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	16	74	24,449	10,236	..	17,000	..	..	..	9,571
Taranaki ..	Ditto	22	96	27,711	7,583	..	3,260	..	..	..	14,752
Wellington	"	44	215	127,314	1,095	..	10,000	700	..	28,000	48,781
Canterbury	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Reefton	12	104	107,990	1,143	..	4,056	..	..	..	38,721
Nelson	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin ..	11	162	8,353	18,586	440	2,631	40,485	..	16,118	17,666
Westland		33	334	130,283	30,200	6,840	119,553	43,560	..	..	103,803
Marlborough											
Otago											
Southland }											
Totals, 1928	..	319	2,161	978,741	178,643	8,054	182,949	310,782	..	90,523	461,890
Totals, 1927	..	300	2,341	1,145,974	325,789	26,264	144,073	372,475	..	166,020	570,369

There were 180 fewer men employed than during the previous year, and a reduction in the value of the stone produced of £108,479.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1928 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

Cause.							Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
							Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Haulage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Machinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Explosives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Falls of ground	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	1	7

Accounts of the fatal accident and of the serious non-fatal accidents are given in the District Inspectors' reports attached hereto.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 113 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 :—