

In the West Coast District the output of bituminous coal increased by 51,091 tons, while the outputs of brown coal and lignite decreased by 6,384 tons and 59 tons respectively, the net increase of output for the district being 44,648 tons.

In the Southern District there was a decrease of 2,061 tons in the output of brown coal and a decrease of 6,933 tons in the output of lignite, the total reduction of output for the district for the year being 8,994 tons.

The mines now in operation were able to produce much more coal than there was a market for, with the result that most of the mines were working short time through inability to dispose of the output. This was particularly the case in the mines in the Huntly District and in the Southern District, where the demand for coal is seasonal. The position as regards the mines near Huntly is likely to become worse through the opening-up of new mines and the replacement of steam plants in the Auckland Province by electric plants driven by hydro-electricity from Arapuni. The West Coast mines are feeling the effect of the increasing use of oil fuel on overseas vessels coming to New Zealand and the consequent reduction in the amount of coal required for bunkering.

A considerable amount of mining by co-operative parties is being carried on in the West Coast and Northern Districts. These parties work areas which in most cases could not be worked profitably by companies, and in some instances are extracting pillars left in and abandoned as unworkable by companies which formerly held the areas as part of larger holdings. One marked feature of mining by co-operative parties is the output per man employed compared with the results obtained in the large mines owned by companies; in many cases the former is at least double the average of the latter.

The production from and the number of persons employed at the collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table:—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1928.	Total Output to 31st December, 1928.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>			Tons.	Tons.	
Hikurangi	Hikurangi ..	Sub-bituminous	98,554	339,762	205
Wilson's	" ..	" ..	61,345	420,887	182
Rotowaro	Huntly ..	Brown ..	150,100	1,204,418	279
Pukemiro	" ..	" ..	154,315	1,602,717	280
Waipa	" ..	" ..	63,772	981,837	127
Glen Afton	Glen Afton ..	" ..	167,632	835,932	294
Renown	Waikokowai ..	" ..	26,555	26,555	88
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton	Ngakawau ..	Bituminous ..	152,884	2,490,726	294
Millerton	Millerton ..	" ..	167,340	7,700,300	462
Denniston	Denniston ..	" ..	228,558	9,585,550	513
Westportmain	Westport ..	" ..	35,213	91,841	58
Cardiff Bridge	Seddonville ..	" ..	25,783	139,918	28
Paparoa	Roa ..	Semi-bituminous	23,395	604,409	22
Blackball	Blackball ..	Sub-bituminous	119,358	3,721,506	292
Liverpool (State)	Rewanui ..	Bituminous ..	130,881	1,893,804	346
James (State)	Rapahoe ..	Sub-bituminous	39,877	185,545	83
Dobson	Dobson ..	Bituminous ..	97,524	188,691	264
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Shag Point	Shag Point ..	Brown ..	28,258	249,870	86
Kaitangata and Castlehill (3 collieries)	Kaitangata ..	" ..	85,160	4,601,170	259
Taratu	" ..	Lignite ..	21,860	680,002	40
Linton (2 collieries)	Nightcaps ..	Brown ..	103,459	499,305	157
Wairaki (2 collieries)	" ..	" ..	34,790	274,117	65
Mossbank (2 collieries)	" ..	" ..	43,862	214,242	65
142 other collieries	All coalfields ..	Various ..	376,278	7,148,029	887
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c.	Various ..	" ..	..	23,081,702	..
Totals	..	..	2,436,753	68,762,835	5,376

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1928.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern	244	682	926
West Coast	716	2,128	2,844
Northern	406	1,200	1,606
Totals, 1928	1,366	4,010	5,376
Totals, 1927	1,386	3,988	5,374