

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 1935 :—

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.
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£
Auckland ..	R. H. Schoen, Mines Dept., Huntly	205	1,042	621,074	1,000	800	80,892	126,356	..	32,000	133,045
	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	14	89	52,509	..	966	..	..	..	..	15,104
Hawke's Bay	R. H. Schoen, Mines Dept., Huntly	19	93	32,877	..	..	26,080	..	..	..	8,417
Taranaki ..	Ditto	12	69	13,733	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,174
Wellington ..	„	43	193	88,997	6,976	..	8,022	..	..	6,120	18,758
Nelson ..	G. W. Lowes, Mines Dept., Reefton	20	124	39,374	11,513	..	6,820	22,314	..	17,800	16,211
Westland ..											
Marlborough	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	45	392	136,882	50,868	24,400	166,745	34,274	..	..	96,565
Canterbury ..											
Otago ..											
Southland ..											
Totals, 1935	..	358	2,002	985,446	70,357	26,166	288,559	182,944	..	55,920	289,274
Totals, 1934	..	327	1,818	741,428	67,241	31,500	261,940	168,662	..	15,014	261,637

There were 184 more men employed than during the previous year, with an increase in the value of the stone produced of £27,637.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1935 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

Cause.	Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers	
	Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Haulage ..	1	1	1	1
Machinery ..	..	1	..	1
Explosives ..	..	2	..	2
Falls of ground ..	3	2	3	2
Miscellaneous ..	..	4	..	4
Totals ..	4	10	4	10

An account of the four fatal accidents at stone-quarries during 1935 follows :—

There were no fatalities at any of the South Island Quarries, but four fatal accidents occurred at North Island Quarries during 1935.

On 22nd January three men were shovelling waterworn stones and clay into a lorry which was backed in a cutting 9 ft. high and 10 ft. wide at the Waikato Council's Maramarua Quarry. A fall occurred from the face 6 ft. ahead and struck one of the workmen. He was killed instantly, his spine and almost every rib being fractured. The other two men avoided the fall by stepping back along the sides of the lorry.

On 12th March another fatality of a similar nature occurred at an old quarry at Kiore. Three men had gone in with a lorry which was backed to within 7 ft. of the face. While discussing what material they would fill into the lorry a fall occurred and struck the centrally situated man who was standing behind the lorry. The other men got clear of the fall. The seriously injured man was conveyed to the Stratford Hospital, where he died of his injuries the next day.

On 4th June a quarryman was struck by a fall of clay from about 40 ft. up a very high face of shell rock and clay at the Kaiwhaiki Quarry, Wanganui. He died within half an hour of the accident. About a month later the manager of the quarry and another man who had been relieving manager for a few weeks previously were charged with breaches of the Stone Quarries Regulations. The first defendant was convicted and ordered to pay costs, while the information against the second defendant was dismissed. The Magistrate remarked, however, that, although proceedings had been laid in respect to the fatality, there was no direct personal responsibility for that accident to be imputed to the first defendant from the fact of the conviction of a breach of the regulations. The evidence showed that the deceased and another man had gone to the place of danger, which was not then being worked, after having been ordered by the first defendant to leave the place.

On 10th July a quarry-worker was killed by being crushed between a moving railway truck and the side of a hopper or bin built near the railway-line. There was only 6 in. of clearance between the truck and the side wall of the bin. Such an accident shows the need of an addition to the regulations under the Stone Quarries Act debarring the erection of any building within 5½ ft. from the centre-line of the nearest line of rails.