

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows :—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1941.				Total Output to the End of 1941.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Total.	
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	Tons. 80,367	Tons. 1,099,214	Tons. ..	Tons. 1,179,581	Tons. 55,153,167
Brown	837,629	76,136	412,245	1,326,010	37,009,976
Lignite .. .. .	..	745	133,171	133,916	5,812,532
Totals for 1941 ..	917,996	1,176,095	545,416	2,639,507	97,975,675
Totals for 1940 ..	869,970	1,124,057	522,072	2,516,099	95,336,168

TABLE SHOWING THE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF COAL AND OIL SHALE IN THE DOMINION, AND THE QUANTITY OF COAL IMPORTED SINCE 1878.

Year.	Coal and Shale raised in the Dominion.		Coal imported.		
	Tons.	Yearly Increase or Decrease.	Tons.	Increase over Preceding Year.	Decrease below Preceding Year.
Prior to 1937 ..	85,977,543	..	13,583,196	..	..
1937	2,277,799	Inc. 137,582	116,499	5,421	..
1938	2,222,088	Dec. 55,711	109,206	..	7,293
1939	2,342,639	Inc. 120,551	111,537	2,331	..
1940	2,516,099	Inc. 173,460	64,860	..	46,677
1941	2,639,507	Inc. 123,408	78,171*	13,311	..

* From Australia; value, £96,128.

TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY OF COAL EXPORTED ANNUALLY FROM NEW ZEALAND FROM 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Year.	Quantity. Tons.
1937	113,116	1940	81,287
1938	55,711	1941	58,179*
1939	43,990		

* Includes 58,814 tons bunkers, value £103,164, and 5,365 tons cargo, value £6,336.

STATE COAL-MINES.

The output from the State coal-mines for the financial year 1941-42 was 354,708 tons, compared with 281,506 for the previous year. This is the highest output ever recorded in the history of the Department, and all collieries, except Liverpool, contributed to the increase. There was a slight decrease of 1·7 per cent. in the production at the Liverpool Colliery.

The Blackball Colliery, which was about to be abandoned by the owners, was taken over by the State during the year and operated as a State colliery. Development work was pushed ahead in the hope of locating an area of coal which would be less friable than that being worked, but without success so far. The Department is now pushing ahead with plans to establish a briquetting-works to enable it to increase output to an economic level. A geological survey of an area in the vicinity of the mine was carried out during the year, and a boring programme is now being put in hand to determine the possibilities of the field.

Satisfactory progress was made at the two State collieries in the North Island which were taken over in 1940. At Mangapehi development has proceeded during the year and a boring programme is now in progress. The Tatu Mine has not yet been placed on a proper trading basis owing to the fact that the major proportion of the work has been of a developmental nature. Major development is now reaching an end and trading accounts will be commenced as from 1st October next.

Full details in respect of the operations at the collieries appear in the annual report of the State Coal-mines (C.-2A). At the time of writing this report the financial accounts have not been completed and audited, but the provisional figures indicate a satisfactory trading year. These accounts will also be presented in the annual report of the State Coal-mines.

A comparative statement for the last two financial years is shown hereunder :—

Minc.	Output in Tons, 1941-42.		Output, in Tons, 1940-41.		Percentage Increase in Gross Output.	Percentage Increase in Net Output.
	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.		
Liverpool	163,799	157,170	166,529	159,610	1·7*	1·6*
Strongman	87,402	85,381	78,262	76,330	11·7	11·8
James	26,549	25,809	22,936	22,045	15·8	17·0
Blackball	25,950	25,773	..	..	..	..
Mangapehi	40,849	38,920	13,213	12,065	209·1	222·6
Tatu	10,159	8,875	566	566	..	..
Totals	354,708	341,928	281,506	270,616	26·0	26·4

* Decrease.

NOTE.—The difference between the gross and the net output is the allowance for mine consumption and waste. In addition to the above, 17,760 tons of coal was purchased for resale.