

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

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1943.				Total Output to the End of 1943.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Total.	
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	Tons. 81,828	Tons. 1,057,094	Tons. ..	Tons. 1,138,922	Tons. 57,466,814
Brown	939,975	107,478	456,788	1,504,241	39,873,530
Lignite	630	144,075	144,705	6,103,240
Totals for 1943 ..	1,021,803	1,165,202	600,863	2,787,868	103,443,584
Totals for 1942 ..	930,634	1,191,329	558,078	2,680,041	100,655,716

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 1939 ..	90,477,430	..	13,808,901
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	..
1942	2,680,041	Inc. 40,534	90,865	12,694	..
1943	2,787,868	Inc. 107,827	37,454	..	53,411

TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY OF COAL EXPORTED ANNUALLY FROM NEW ZEALAND FROM 1939 TO 1943

Year.	Quantity.	Year.	Quantity.
	Tons.		Tons.
1939	43,990	1942	54,700
1940	81,287	1943	42,522*
1941	58,179		

* Includes 42,462 tons bunkers, value £90,421 and 60 tons cargo, value £195.

COAL-MINERS' RELIEF FUND

The Coal-miners' Sick and Accident Funds having been abolished as from the 1st April, 1926, and incorporated in the Coal-miners' Relief Fund, all accident-relief payments are now made from the latter fund, which is administered by the Public Trustee.

The rate of interest allowed on the fund was decreased from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. as from the 1st April, 1933. The interest earned for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1944 was £436, as against £571 for the previous year, while for the same periods the receipts from the ½d. per ton contributions were £6,325 and £5,346 respectively.

The total expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1944, amounted to £9,780, as against £9,284 for the previous year.

The amount standing to the credit of the fund at the 31st March, 1944, was £11,391, as against £14,410 at the 31st March, 1943.

COAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

This Committee, which comprises representatives of the Mines Department, the Geological Survey, and the Dominion Laboratory, supervises field and laboratory investigations connected with the complete survey of the Dominion's coal resources.

During the year, work has been conducted by the field staff in the Greymouth, Ohai, Westport, Mangapehi, and Waikato fields. The results of both field and laboratory work have been incorporated in coal-survey reports issued by the Committee.

STATE COAL-MINES

The gross output from the State coal-mines for the year ended 31st March, 1944, was 524,665 tons, which is equivalent to 18.8 per cent. of the total Dominion production. Production commenced in the Glen Afton opencast, and 6,175 tons were produced up to the 31st March last.

There was a substantial decrease in production from the Liverpool Colliery, in which mining conditions have become somewhat difficult and troublesome. In order to reduce haulage distance and costs, a stone drive was driven to connect the main haulage road with the Morgan dip workings, and