

## SOCIAL AMENITIES

Financial assistance for the provision of social amenities for mining communities was continued during the year. At the Benneydale Township the theatre and billiard-room were recently completed and are now in full use.

## HOUSING

The provision of housing accommodation in mining townships continues to be retarded by the lack of materials and labour. In the near future a review of the position will probably be necessary owing to the return of directed labour to normal avenues of employment.

## CARBONIZING AND BRIQUETTING

The following figures show the production of the low-temperature coal carbonizing and briquetting plant of Waikato Carbonization, Ltd., at Rotowaro during 1944 :—

Raw coal carbonized .. .. .	31,965 tons.
Carbonized coal produced .. .. .	15,663 tons.
Average percentage of carbonized coal to raw coal .. .. .	49 per cent.
Carbonettes manufactured .. .. .	12,461 tons.
Tar and oil treated .. .. .	289,154 gallons.
Pitch produced .. .. .	429 tons.
Light and heavy oils produced .. .. .	1,320 gallons.
Creosote produced .. .. .	155,055 gallons.
"Char" sold for producer-gas plant .. .. .	5,029 tons.
"Char" sold for other purposes .. .. .	60 tons.

No briquettes were manufactured by Smokeless Fuel and Briquettes (Canterbury), Ltd., during 1944, but the company produced 25,000 gallons of tar at the works at Sockburn.

During the year four tenders, three from British firms and one from an American firm, were received for the equipment of a proposed briquetting plant to treat a blend of Strongman and Blackball slack coals according to specifications drawn up by Mr. A. B. Jones, the works manager of Waikato Carbonization, Ltd., of Huntly. It is expected that at least one additional tender is yet to be received, and decision is being deferred until this comes to hand.

## SUBSIDY ON COAL PRODUCTION

For the financial year ended 31st March, 1945, the amount paid by way of subsidy on coal production and distribution was £717,916, made up as follows: tonnage subsidy (including provision for increases in mine stores), £469,243; subsidy in respect of coastal shipping freights, £52,420; and subsidy in respect of the additional cost of work on back Saturdays and statutory holidays and bonus payments, &c., to workmen not on contract, £196,253. At 31st March, 1945, the total sum paid out for coal subsidies since the subsidy was first introduced in May, 1940, amounted to £1,941,946.

## COAL-MINES COUNCIL

The work of the Coal-mines Council continued during the year, its chief tasks, apart from special reports required from time to time, being the settlement of industrial disputes and the determination of the terms and conditions of employment generally in the industry.

## PERSONS EMPLOYED IN OR ABOUT MINES AND STONE-QUARRIES AND IN OIL-PROSPECTING OPERATIONS

The following table shows the number of persons employed in each inspection district during 1944 and 1943 :—

Classification.	Inspection District.			Totals.		
	Northern (North Island).	West Coast (of South Island).	Southern (Rest of South Island).	1944.	1943.	Increase or Decrease.
Gold, silver, and tungsten-ore	528	640	222	1,390	1,471	Dec. 81
Coal .. .. .	2,112	2,491	992	5,595	5,374	Inc. 221
Stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act	1,031	97	403	*1,531	1,643	Dec. 112
Silica .. .. .	8	..	5	13	12	Inc. 1
Cinnabar .. .. .	18	..	..	18	18	..
Iron ore .. .. .	17	3	..	20	20	..
Manganese .. .. .	1	..	..	1	2	Dec. 1
Fuller's earth .. .. .	2	..	..	2	1	Inc. 1
Diatomaceous earth .. .. .	..	..	2	2	..	2
Bentonite .. .. .	5	..	..	5	4	.. 1
Serpentine .. .. .	15	2	..	17	12	.. 5
Asbestos .. .. .	..	15	..	15	15	..
Dolomite .. .. .	..	4	..	4	3	Inc. 1
Clay† .. .. .	..	6	6	12	10	.. 2
Phosphate .. .. .	..	..	14	14	23	Dec. 9
Mica .. .. .	..	6	..	6	..	Inc. 6
Oil prospecting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	216	Dec. 216
Totals .. .. .	3,737	3,264	1,644	8,645	8,824	Dec. 179

\* The total number of men employed at stone-quarries is actually 1,551, as certain of the minerals listed separately in this table are produced from quarries which come under the Stone-quarries Act.

† Other than for brickmaking.