

The acquisition of the Linton property has considerably extended the scope of open-cast mining in the Ohai field, and an area at present under investigation holds out promise of being suitable to open-cast mining operations on a large scale.

GENERAL

While open-cast mining was responsible last year for over 26 per cent. of the total coal production, considerable scope for expansion of this type of mining still remains. At the present time new projects capable of large-scale production in all the major coal-fields with the exception of Grey are either in the process of development or under investigation.

Surveys and drilling operations are being continued in the search for additional open-cast areas, and every effort will be made to expand this form of mining to the utmost.

OUTPUT

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

Mine.	Output, 1949-50.		Output, 1948-49.		Percentage Variation in Gross Output.	Percentage Variation in Net Output.
	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
Kamo	56,847	56,807	50,096	50,072	+13.48	+13.45
Kemp's Opencast*	12,125	12,125	68,084	68,084	..	..
Hillcrest†	48,253	48,253	..	..	..	..
Kimihia Opencast‡	35,953	35,953	78,340	78,340	..	..
Wilton	87,199	85,249	93,482	90,985	-6.72	-6.30
Mangapehi	38,119	37,225	38,190	36,210	-0.19	+2.80
Tatu	38,229	36,400	30,800	29,535	+24.12	+23.24
Waitewhena Opencast	39,199	39,199	42,932	42,932	-8.70	-8.70
Denniston	75,203	66,045	75,904	66,320	+0.39	+0.41
Millerton	51,972	51,599	59,318	58,874	-12.38	-12.36
Stockton Mine and Opencast	196,968	191,551	214,933	209,741	-8.36	-8.67
Burke's Creek	19,284	18,907	20,462	19,612	-5.76	-3.59
Garvey Creek	14,880	14,782	12,560	12,451	+18.47	+18.72
Burnwell§	3,386	3,376	..	..	..	..
Central|| .. .. .	4,329	4,294	75	68	..	..
Blackball	69,860	67,635	70,785	68,574	-1.31	-1.37
Dobson	74,276	71,748	69,121	67,230	+7.46	+6.72
Paparoa	31,217	30,500	27,651	26,865	-12.90	+13.53
Wallsend	55,840	52,780	55,953	53,868	-0.20	-2.02
Liverpool	100,037	97,400	93,114	90,220	+7.43	+7.96
Strongman	97,249	94,260	85,187	82,300	+14.16	+14.53
Wangaloa Opencast	41,111	41,111	45,462	45,462	-9.57	-9.57
Birchwood	23,695	22,790	22,524	21,633	+5.20	+5.35
Black Diamond Opencast	42,242	42,242	35,769	35,769	+18.10	+18.10
Mossbank	25,962	24,981	26,350	24,790	-1.47	+0.77
Star	40,636	39,157	34,690	33,285	+17.14	+17.64
McLean's Opencast¶	43,690	43,690	8,728	8,728	..	..
Wairaki	65,634	60,941	66,215	61,730	-0.88	-1.28
Totals	1,434,395	1,391,000	1,426,725	1,383,678	..	..

* Mine ceased operations (worked out) in June, 1949. † Mine commenced operations in April, 1949.
 ‡ Operations in No. 1 area completed in December, 1949. § Mine acquired on 1st May, 1949.
 ¶ Mine acquired on 21st March, 1949. ¶ Mine commenced operations on 4th October, 1948.