

1902.
NEW ZEALAND.

INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES REPORT.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

Mr. J. HAYES, F.S.Sc., Inspecting Engineer, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department.
SIR,— Mines Department, Wellington, 23rd April, 1902.

I have the honour to submit my annual report (covering those of the Inspectors of Mines for the several districts) for the year ending 31st December, 1901.

The output for the respective districts is summarised as follows:—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal* ...	87,055	667,898	...	754,953
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	...	14,584	14,584
Brown coal	88,029	1,637	315,486	405,152
Lignite ... ..	...	...	52,949	52,949
Oil-shale ... ..	...	...	12,048	12,048
Totals	175,084	669,535	395,067	1,239,686

Compared with the output of the previous year, this shows an increase of coal and lignite amounting to 133,648 tons, which, together with 12,048 tons of oil-shale from the mine at Orepuki (Southland), brings up the total net increase in the production of the mines to 145,696 tons.

The following table will show the ratio of increase and decrease in the output of the various classes of coal produced in the districts under the supervision of the several Inspectors of Mines:—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.		West Coast District.		Southern District.		Total Increase.	Total Decrease.	Total Net Increase.
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.			
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal	7,376	...	73,715	...	...	...	81,091	...	...
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	23,220	...	23,220	...
Brown coal	7,405	...	1,637	...	56,324	...	65,366	...	...
Lignite ... ..	...	...	...	...	10,411	...	10,411	...	...
Oil-shale ... ..	...	...	...	...	12,048	...	12,048	...	...
Totals	14,781	...	75,352	...	78,783	23,220	168,916	23,220	145,696

The approximate total quantity of coal, &c., raised at the several mines of the colony up to the 31st December last is 15,792,556 tons.

The number of mines at work is returned at 149, the number of persons employed being 2,754. This shows that fewer mines were worked than was the case in the previous year, but it is to be remembered that in many instances small lignite-mines (many of these being mere quarries) are worked in a very spasmodic fashion for private consumption and limited local requirements. The decrease in the number of the mines worked is thus largely explained. The number of persons employed shows an increase of 294 as compared with the previous year.