

1905.
NEW ZEALAND.

INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES REPORT.

("THE COAL-MINES ACT, 1891.")

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, 3rd May, 1905.

I have the honour to submit reports on the coal-mines of the colony for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

OUTPUT.

The following summary shows the output of the various classes of coal and lignite mined in each inspection district:—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal ...	106,219	832,299	...	938,518
Pitch-coal ...	...	2,397	22,109	24,506
Brown coal ...	136,298	2,254	345,306	483,858
Lignite ...	...	...	90,956	90,956
Totals ...	242,517	836,950	458,371	1,537,838

The total number of mines at work during the year was 168, of which number 24 provide employment for over twenty persons at each mine, whilst 45 mines employ over four but not more than twenty persons at each. The relatively large proportion of small mines is due to the fact that these properties are being worked for the supply of local requirements only, and include several at which fuel is obtained on private lands solely for the requirements of the owners, who are, for the most part, farmers who quarry a few tons of lignite from time to time.

In comparison with the output for the year 1903, the foregoing statement shows a net total increase of 117,609 tons.

The statement given below shows the relative increase and decrease in the output of the various classes of coal, &c., in each of the inspection districts:—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.		West Coast District.		Southern District.		Total Increase.	Total Decrease.	Total Net Increase.
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.			
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal	Tons. 4,700	Tons. ...	Tons. 53,927	Tons. ...	Tons. ...	Tons. ...	...	...	...
Pitch-coal ...	...	...	2,397	...	993	...	..	...	...
Brown coal ...	28,022	...	...	406	14,428	...	...	...	...
Lignite ...	...	...	...	...	13,584	...	...	...	...
Oil-shale ...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	...
Totals ...	32,722	...	56,324	406	29,005	36	118,051	442	117,609