

The increased production has taken place in all the inspection districts, and at nearly all of the important collieries, the output of which is shown hereunder :—

| Name of Colliery.                         | Locality.       | Class of Coal.  | Output for       | Total Output            | Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed. |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|--|
|   |                 |                 | 1910.            | to 31st December, 1910. |  |
| <i>Northern District.</i>                 |                 |                 |                  |                         |  |
| Hikurangi ... ..                          | Hikurangi...    | Semi-bituminous | Tons. 62,840     | Tons. 702,792           | 90   |
| Taupiri ... ..                            | Huntly ...      | Brown ...       | 228,962          | 2,322,151               | 539  |
| Northern ... ..                           | Hikurangi...    | Semi-bituminous | 44,626           | 368,173                 | 77   |
| Kiripaka ... ..                           | Kiripaka ...    | Ditto ...       | 45,462           | 245,453                 | 59   |
| <i>West Coast District.</i>               |                 |                 |                  |                         |  |
| Coalbrookdale ... ..                      | Millerton ...   | Bituminous      | 268,816          | 3,132,351               | 490  |
| Westport-Stockton ... ..                  | Denniston       | "               | 347,719          | 5,722,431               | 647  |
| State Coal-mines ... ..                   | Mangatani       | "               | 151,951          | 244,893                 | 165  |
|   | Seddonville     | "               | 62,714           | 340,059                 | 115  |
| Blackball ... ..                          | Point Elizabeth | "               | 212,888          | 1,224,571               | 487  |
|   | Blackball ...   | "               | 166,505          | 1,313,125               | 288  |
| <i>Southern District.</i>                 |                 |                 |                  |                         |  |
| Kaitangata ... ..                         | Kaitangata      | Brown ...       | 138,940          | 2,579,352               | 321  |
| Nightcaps ... ..                          | Nightcaps...    | " ...           | 58,010           | 724,325                 | 97   |
| Other collieries, in all districts ... .. | ...             | Various ...     | 407,929          | 12,311,872              | 1,158  |
| <b>Totals</b> ... ..                      | ...             | ...             | <b>2,197,362</b> | <b>31,231,548</b>       | <b>4,533</b>                                 |

## SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

| Inspection District.       | Average Number of Persons employed during 1910. |               |              |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
|                            | Above Ground.                                   | Below Ground. | Total.       |
| Northern ... ..            | 159   | 679           | 838          |
| West Coast ... ..          | 712   | 2,087         | 2,799        |
| Southern ... ..            | 265   | 697           | 962          |
| <b>Totals, 1910</b> ... .. | <b>1,136</b>                                    | <b>3,463</b>  | <b>4,599</b> |
| <b>Totals, 1909</b> ... .. | <b>1,159</b>                                    | <b>3,032</b>  | <b>4,191</b> |

In conformity with the output the number of persons engaged at collieries has doubled within the past decade.

## SECTION III.—ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of coal-mining accidents during 1910, with their causes.

|                                 | Fatal Accidents.                    |                   | Non-fatal Accidents.                    |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
|                                 | Number of Separate Fatal Accidents. | Number of Deaths. | Number of Separate Non-fatal Accidents. | Number of Persons injured, including those injured by Accidents which proved Fatal to their Companions. |
| Explosions of firedamp ... ..   | ...                                 | ...               | ...                                     | ...   |
| Falls in mine ... ..            | 8                                   | 10                | 8                                       | 8   |
| Shaft accidents ... ..          | 1                                   | 1                 | ...                                     | ...   |
| Miscellaneous—Underground... .. | 5                                   | 5                 | 6                                       | 6   |
| On surface ... ..               | ...                                 | ...               | 2                                       | 2   |
| <b>Totals</b> ... ..            | <b>14</b>                           | <b>16</b>         | <b>16</b>                               | <b>16</b>   |

It is to be greatly regretted that the number of fatal mining accidents during 1910 has been higher than usual, no less than sixteen lives having been lost thereby.

It is not intended to excuse this bad fortune, for no good purpose can be served thereby. The importance of greater caution on the part of all concerned, including Inspectors, mine officials, and employees, cannot be too strongly impressed. It is not sufficient that conditions be reasonably safe, for to provide against those contingencies met with occasionally at all mines, ultra-safety should be insisted upon. The verdicts at the inquests on fifteen of the deceased were "Accidental death, no blame being attachable to any one," the sixteenth verdict being "Suffocation by misadventure"; this, no doubt, is satisfactory from the officials' point of view.