

The comparative tonnage of the various classes of coal, &c., for the years 1911 and 1912 is summarized as follows:—

Class of Coal.	Output for 1912.	Output for 1911.	Increase or Decrease for 1912.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Increase	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous ..	1,417,608	1,358,357	Increase	59,251
Pitch-coal	4,115	4,411	Decrease	296
Brown coal	544,675	601,093	„	56,418
Lignite	211,217	102,212	Increase	109,005
Totals	2,177,615	2,066,073	Increase	111,542

The most important development in connection with the coal-mining industry during the year has been at the new State mine at the Seven-mile Creek, near Greymouth, where a colliery has been laid down to deal with an estimated output of 2,000 tons of bituminous coal per day. This new mine has been connected by rope-haulage inclines and a short branch railway with the Government line at Runanga, where a State colliery has for some years been in operation. By the kind permission of His Excellency the Governor it is proposed to name this new colliery after him; it will therefore be known in future as the “Point Elizabeth (Liverpool) Colliery,” and the township now in course of formation is to bear the name of Liverpool. The quality of the coal now in course of development at this mine is superior for steam-production, household purposes, smithy use, gas and coke making, and may shortly be procured by the public at any of the State coal-depots established in the chief towns of the Dominion.

In the North Island important collieries are being laid down upon the Waikato Coalfield by the Waipa Railway and Collieries (Limited) and by the Pukemiro Company. The Taupiri Company, whose output exceeded all other North Island collieries combined, have largely increased their plant and scale of operations.

On the Buller Coalfield, of which a geological survey has recently been made by the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department, an important development of a new coal-bearing area has been made by the Westport-Stockton Company, as referred to in my preliminary remarks.

The production of coal and shale from the mines of the Dominion is shown in the following table:—

Name of Colliery.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1912.	Total Output to 31st December, 1912.
		Tons.	Tons.
Taupiri	Brown	258,108	2,495,263
Westport Coal Company—			
Millerton	Bituminous	329,430	3,761,423
Denniston	„	298,636	6,344,435
Westport-Stockton	„	125,031	457,160
State coal-mines—			
Seddonville	„	72,693	472,797
Point Elizabeth	„	188,835	1,602,298
Blackball	„	202,878	1,672,824
Kaitangata	Brown	127,761	2,841,492
Nightcaps	Lignite	89,874	878,449
Other collieries	Various	484,369	14,949,095
Totals		2,177,615	35,475,236

PERSONS ENGAGED IN MINING.

The number of persons employed in and about the mines of the Dominion during 1912 is estimated at 9,567. The number employed in connection with the metalliferous mines was 5,239, and at coal-mines 4,328. The number of gum-diggers is not ascertainable.