

## APPENDIX B.

## REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

The INSPECTING ENGINEER OF MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 11th May, 1916.

I have the honour to present my tenth annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to the coal-mines of the Dominion, for the year ended 31st December, 1915.

The report is divided into the following sections:—

- I. Output of Mineral.
- II. Persons employed.
- III. Accidents.
- IV. The Coal-mines Acts and Regulations.
- V. General Remarks.

Annexures—

- (a.) Examination of Colliery Officials, and List of Certificate-holders.
- (b.) Statistics of Working Collieries.

## SECTION I.—OUTPUT.

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows:—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1915.				Total Output to the End of 1915.
	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal	118,780	1,149,160	...	<b>1,267,940</b>	25,246,582
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	129,834	6,626	<b>136,460</b>	2,132,052
Brown coal ... ..	338,270	...	386,731	<b>725,001</b>	12,491,312
Lignite ... ..	3,365	...	75,858	<b>79,223</b>	1,963,090
Totals for 1915 ...	<b>460,415</b>	<b>1,278,994</b>	<b>469,215</b>	<b>2,208,624</b>	<b>41,833,036</b>
Totals for 1914 ...	<b>440,463</b>	<b>1,351,182</b>	<b>483,958</b>	<b>2,275,593</b>	<b>39,624,412</b>

The decrease in output is due principally to a shortage of miners, the number having been reduced by 578 during 1915, owing chiefly to enlistment. The decrease in output has not, however, been proportional to the reduction in the number of miners employed: thus there has been a falling-off in the average number of persons employed to the extent of 13 per cent., whereas the reduction in output has been only 3 per cent.

The quantity of coal imported during 1915 amounted to 353,471 tons, being 164,599 tons less than that imported during the previous year. This decrease may be attributed to the abnormal conditions at present existing in the industries of the Empire.