

Table showing the Number of Quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, also the Number of Persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the Annual Output of Crude Stone.

Provincial District.	Name and Address of Government Inspector of Stone-quarries.	Number of Working Quarries under the Act.	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Output of Crude Stone during 1917.						
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building-stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	For other Purposes.
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	50	386	Tons. 367,876	Tons. 69,795	Tons. ..	Tons. 4,746	Tons. 95,187	Tons. ..	Tons. ..
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waibi (Hauraki Mining District only)	10	52	36,407	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	6	59	7,784	13,222	1,970	..	6,240	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	24	62	31,430	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	15	102	36,999	..	..	..	7,250	..	..
Marlborough	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	2	5	..	..	..	312	..	..	..
Nelson		5	68	2,400	28,254	1,200	700	25,278	..	..
Westland		2	7	5,184	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury		14	101	66,668	51,574	2,531	2,644	3,765	..	3,124
Otago	E. R. Green and A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	17	103	57,672	17,316	208	36,501	16,870	5,050	..
Southland		6	55	7,841	..	140	24,958	127	..	..
Totals ..	..	151	1,000	620,261	180,161	6,409	69,861	154,717	5,050	3,124

(2.) QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured during 1917 at stone-quarries and places within the operation of the Stone-quarries Act:—

Cause of Accident.	Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
	Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.
Explosives ..	..	1	..	1
Falls of ground ..	1	1	1	1
Falling from face, or during ascent or descent ..	1	..	1	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	1	..	1
Totals ..	2	3	2	3

The following is a brief description of fatal accidents in connection with quarrying operations under the Stone-quarries Act during 1917:—

Date.	Name and Situation of Quarry.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Cause of Accident, Nature of Injuries, and Remarks.
8 Mar.	Wanganui Harbour Board quarry, Kuirwhaika	George Marvin (46), quarryman	He had finished stripping, and commenced to descend via the rock-face, which was provided with a life-line and with steps cut at the top and bottom of the face. This was considered to be a fairly safe travelling-way, although another travelling-way considered safer was mostly used. He was seen to fall off the track over a ledge, and rolled down the side of the hill for a distance of about 500 ft., breaking his neck. There was no evidence as to what caused him to fall. It is surmised that either he did not use the rope or was overcome by giddiness. Had there been a permanent ladderway from one bench to another this accident might not have happened, but the construction and maintenance of such a ladderway would have been difficult. The Inspector of Stone-quarries has since notified the quarry-manager that in future any means of access to the upper bench must be in such a position and made so secure that no similar accident can happen.
1 Sept.	Otamatea County quarry, at Hukutore, via Te Kopuru	Alexander Drummond (56), quarryman	Deceased, an experienced quarryman, was working by himself on a ledge 25 ft. or 30 ft. up the quarry-face. Excessive rain had rendered the face dangerous. He was undermining with a crowbar the sandstone rock, instead of working it down from the top, a safer method. Suddenly a fall of about 30 or 40 tons of stone occurred, striking deceased and carrying him down to the ground. He died the same day, as the result of the very severe injuries sustained. Deceased was solely to blame for the occurrence. The Coroner's verdict imputed no blame to any one.