

## V. MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD.

## TUNGSTEN-ORE.

The price for scheelite throughout the year was round about 10s. per unit—too low to permit of this mineral being produced at the scheelite-mines in the Dominion, and consequently they were not worked. Only 3 tons were produced.

## IRON.

The blast furnace at the Onakaka Iron and Steel Company's works at Onakaka was run for about a month, and 630 tons good-quality pig iron were produced. Difficulties in connection with the supply of coke and in transportation by road between the wharf and the works forced the company to shut down the blast furnace till additional coke-ovens could be built and a rope-road constructed from the wharf to the blast furnace. This work was put in hand, but the available funds of the company were insufficient, and the construction was stopped in October pending the raising of further capital.

## PETROLEUM.

An Australian company was formed during the latter half of the year to further test the Taranaki oilfield. Acting under the guidance of Mr. F. G. Clapp, oil geologist, the company decided to put down two wells, one on the foreshore at Moturoa and another about a mile from the Township of Tarata. By the end of the year fully equipped standard rigs had been erected at the sites. It is considered that previous failures to get oil in payable quantities near New Plymouth have been to some extent due to the casing used having been too light, with the result that it collapsed, stopped the flow from the well in which it was used, and seriously impaired the productivity of the surrounding portion of the field; in the two wells now to be drilled the casing will be of much heavier section than in former wells. Field-work by expert geologists was energetically carried out, and still continues, with a view to discovering areas with a favourable structure for the retention of oil.

## VI. STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS.

By section 2 of the Stone-quarries Amendment Act, 1920, the application of the Act was extended to include every place, not being a mine, in which persons work in quarrying stone and any part of which has a face more than 15 ft. deep, and also in any tunnel in the construction of which explosives are used. The Act, however, does not apply to any Government operations, or any road or railway cutting, or excavations for buildings.

The following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1924 :—

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 Stone.							Value at Quarry.
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building or Monumental-stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	Miscellaneous.	
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	122	699	Tons. 385,624	Tons. 58,250	Tons. 2,147	Tons. 18,132	Tons. 196,800	..	..	£ 143,673
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	19	149	111,275	..	477	..	..	..	..	35,006
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	16	73	11,929	12,084	460	6,160	..	..	..	6,218
Taranaki ..	Ditto .. ..	10	43	8,695	10,682	..	..	..	..	..	3,492
Wellington ..	„ .. ..	34	215	90,914	10,120	..	7,000	..	..	..	36,257
Canterbury ..	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	13	123	111,283	4,246	9,682	5,976	..	..	..	42,583
Nelson	Ditto .. ..	11	111	9,335	..	92	15,256	23,537	..	1,150	12,539
Westland											
Marlborough	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	35	335	126,903	8,399	6,316	86,210	40,620	1,575	..	94,059
Otago											
Southland											
Totals 1924	..	260	1,748	855,958	103,781	19,174	138,734	260,957	1,575	1,150	373,827
Totals 1923	..	242	1,644	864,412	316,182	34,458	103,566	143,248	2,383	80	370,995

There were 104 more men employed than during the previous year, and the value of the stone produced was greater by £2,832.