

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

THE INSPECTING ENGINEER AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 26th May, 1926.

I have the honour to present my annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to coal-mines of the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1925, in accordance with section 78 of the Coal-mines Act, 1908. The report is divided into the following sections:—

- I. Output.
 - II. Persons employed.
 - III. Accidents.
 - IV. Working of the Coal-mines Act—
 - (a.) Permitted Explosives.
 - (b.) List of Mines required by Law to use Permitted Explosives.
 - (c.) List of Mines required by Law to use Safety-lamps.
 - (d.) Dangerous Occurrences.
 - (e.) Electricity at Collieries.
 - (f.) Prosecutions.
 - V. Legislation affecting Coal-mining.
- Annexures—
- A. Summary of Annual Reports by Inspectors of Mines.
 - B. Colliery Statistics.

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 1925.				Total Output to the End of 1925.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	131,540	913,186	..	1,044,726	37,983,397
Brown	540,863	37,771	332,791	911,425	19,901,452
Lignite	439	158,405	158,844	3,834,494
Totals for 1925 ..	672,403	951,396	491,196	2,114,995	61,719,343
Totals for 1924 ..	637,525	990,612	455,070	2,083,207	59,604,348

The following is a table showing the annual production of coal and the quantity of coal imported since 1911:—

Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.	Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1911 ..	2,066,073	188,068	2,254,141	1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,940	2,356,945	1921 ..	1,809,095	822,459	2,631,554
1914 ..	2,275,614*	518,070	2,793,684*	1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1923 ..	1,969,834	445,792	2,415,626
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1924 ..	2,083,207	674,483	2,757,690
1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016	1925 ..	2,114,995	572,573	2,687,568
1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582				

* Includes 21 tons of shale.

The gross output of coal for 1925 showed an increase of 31,788 tons over the output of the previous year. The increase was wholly due to the increased production of brown coal, which was 72,408 tons in excess of the output of brown coal for the preceding year, the bituminous coal produced being 40,278 tons less than for 1924.

The coal-market was dull during most of the year, and short time was worked in almost all mines. For all classes of coal the combined capacity of the mines is well ahead of the demand, and particularly so in the case of brown coal. There was comparative freedom from stoppages due to industrial trouble during the year. Mining by co-operative parties continues to be carried on to a considerable extent in the Greymouth, Westport, and Huntly districts, and in some cases continues to be very profitable to the parties.