

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 1929 :—

| 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 | 145 | 945 | Tons. 501,676 | Tons. .. | Tons. .. | Tons. 47,338 | Tons. 247,683 | Tons. .. | Tons. .. | £ 187,735 |
| | J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only) | 14 | 109 | 69,725 | .. | 1,118 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25,611 |
| Hawke's Bay | James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland | 21 | 113 | 28,263 | 13,347 | .. | 20,000 | .. | .. | .. | 16,034 |
| Taranaki .. | Ditto | 7 | 49 | 12,784 | 1,148 | .. | 2,671 | .. | .. | .. | 11,249 |
| Wellington | " | 47 | 262 | 183,903 | .. | .. | 10,800 | .. | .. | .. | 54,414 |
| Canterbury | E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Reefton | 12 | 115 | 95,705 | 24,017 | .. | 5,531 | .. | .. | .. | 49,014 |
| Nelson .. | Ditto | 16 | 195 | 12,050 | 24,416 | 416 | 4,087 | 36,249 | .. | 11,408 | 22,186 |
| Westland .. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marlborough | A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin | 31 | 342 | 183,188 | 47,420 | 5,968 | 131,329 | 39,054 | .. | .. | 112,956 |
| Otago .. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southland .. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals, 1929 | .. | 293 | 2,130 | 1,087,294 | 110,348 | 7,502 | 221,756 | 322,986 | .. | 11,408 | 479,199 |
| Totals, 1928 | .. | 319 | 2,161 | 978,741 | 178,643 | 8,054 | 182,949 | 310,782 | .. | 90,523 | 461,890 |

There were 31 fewer men employed than during the previous year, but an increase in the value of the stone produced of £17,309.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1929 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

| Cause. | Number of Accidents. | | Number of Sufferers. | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Fatal. | Serious. | Killed. | Seriously injured. |
| Haulage | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Machinery | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Explosives | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Falls of ground | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Totals | .. | .. | .. | 4 |

Accounts of the accidents are given in the District Inspectors' reports attached hereto.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 118 persons were intermittently employed during the year.

The following is a statement showing the results of prospecting operations as reported by the Inspectors of Mines :—