

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 1934 :—

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	175	890	Tons. 407,614	Tons. ..	Tons. 3,604	Tons. 78,599	Tons. 103,854	Tons. ..	Tons. ..	£ 98,809
	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	12	63	63,209	..	158	..	..	..	..	16,863
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	21	105	41,997	..	..	27,793	..	..	..	13,590
Taranaki ..	Ditto .. ..	18	97	17,560	..	..	877	..	..	..	2,631
Wellington..	" .. ..	36	169	54,184	..	..	8,603	..	..	5,000	16,584
Nelson ..	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Reefton	21	107	15,420	11,747	..	5,763	24,895	..	10,014	14,046
Westland ..											
Marlborough	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	44	387	141,444	55,494	27,738	140,305	39,913	..	..	99,114
Canterbury..											
Otago ..											
Southland ..											
Totals, 1934	..	327	1,818	741,428	67,241	31,500	261,940	168,662	..	15,014	261,637
Totals, 1933	..	319	1,711	621,923	58,743	1,994	191,888	137,039	..	17,821	196,481

There were 107 more men employed than during the previous year, with an increase in the value of the stone produced of £65,156.

#### QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1934 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

Cause.	Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
	Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Haulage ..	..	..	..	..
Machinery ..	..	1	..	1
Explosives ..	1	..	1	..
Falls of ground ..	1	4	1	4
Miscellaneous ..	1	1	1	1
Totals ..	3	6	3	6

An account of the three fatal accidents at stone-quarries during 1934 follows :—

On 16th February, at the Paekakariki Quarry, the foreman was barring down some loose material above the ledge on which he was standing, when he stumbled back, or was struck by some falling stone, and fell to the floor of the quarry, a distance of about 150 ft. He sustained such severe injuries that he died almost immediately. The fatality could have been avoided had he, instead of passing the rope between his legs, fastened it around his body.

At Smeed's Quarry, Pukekawa, an employee was suffocated by stone-dust which he was trying to unload from a storage bin. No one saw the accident, but it is thought that, as the material was damp and did not flow from the bin, instead of using a steel bar to loosen it, he stepped into the bin and the material gave way under his feet and buried him.

A premature explosion at the Halswell Quarry, Christchurch, fatally injured the foreman. A 10½ ft. borehole, drilled at an angle, had been "bulled" with ten plugs of gelignite and then flushed out with water. Thirty plugs of lithyte had been loaded into the hole, by the deceased and another man, and another thirty plugs had been prepared. Twenty of them were tamped into the hole and then a piece of stone seemed to have blocked the hole about 6 ft. down. Failing to clear the obstruction with the wooden tamping rod, the foreman used a steel bar, resulting in the explosion of the charge.

#### VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

##### (1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 129 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 :—