

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, 27th May, 1936.

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, 1935, in accordance with section 42 of the Coal-mines Act, 1925. 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 at which Permitted Explosives are used; (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 1935.				Total Output to the End of 1935.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	72,866	752,361	..	825,227	48,977,729
Brown	764,754	50,210	355,841	1,170,805	29,842,388
Lignite	1,082	118,070	119,152	5,017,209
Totals for 1935 ..	837,620	803,653	473,911	2,115,184	83,837,326
Totals for 1934 ..	807,413	783,439	469,463	2,060,315	81,722,142

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	1924 ..	2,083,207	674,483	2,757,690
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1925 ..	2,114,995	572,573	2,687,568
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,940	2,356,945	1926 ..	2,239,999	483,918	2,723,917
1914 ..	2,275,614*	518,070	2,793,684*	1927 ..	2,366,740	378,090	2,744,830
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1928 ..	2,436,753	247,861	2,684,614
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1929 ..	2,535,864	215,656	2,751,520
1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016	1930 ..	2,542,092	157,943	2,700,035
1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582	1931 ..	2,157,756	179,060	2,336,816
1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282	1932 ..	1,842,022	103,531	1,945,553
1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048	1933 ..	1,821,258	99,272	1,920,530
1921 ..	1,809,095	822,459	2,631,554	1934 ..	2,060,315	100,715	2,161,030
1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297	1935 ..	2,115,184	97,398	2,212,582
1923 ..	1,969,834	445,792	2,415,626				

* Includes 21 tons shale.

It is very pleasing to be able to record again that the output from New Zealand coal-mines shows an increase over that of the previous year. During 1935, 2,115,184 tons of coal were produced, being an increase of 54,869 tons compared with the 1934 output. Of that increase, 30,207 tons were from Northern District mines, 20,214 tons from West Coast mines, and 4,448 tons from Southern District mines.

There were 237 less men employed in and about the West Coast District coal-mines, while in the Waikato coalfield 113 extra men were put on.

In the North Auckland field the number of men employed at coal-mines decreased by 117. In the whole of the Northern District mines there were 19 men less, and in the Southern District mines, 9 men more than in 1934.

For the Northern District the output was 584 tons per man employed. In the Southern District it was 497 tons per man, and for West Coast District mines 425 tons per man.

The output for the year from the Hikurangi area was solely from small mines, but towards the end of the year the Hikurangi Coal Co. commenced a pair of dip drives to work a fair-sized area of coal-bearing land south of View Road.

The total output for the year was obtained from 202 mines, 96 of which were working on freehold lands, and produced 888,089 tons, or 42 per cent., the remaining 106 mines producing 1,227,095 tons, or 58 per cent., from Crown lands.