

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 1936 :—

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 ..	R. H. Schoen, Mines Dept., Huntly	237	1,076	Tons. 559,321	Tons. 5,000	Tons. 14,159	Tons. 92,296	Tons. 165,675	Tons. ..	Tons. 33,700	£ 159,958	
	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	20	122	78,230	..	1,460	..	..	..	..	21,475	
Hawke's Bay	R. H. Schoen, Mines Dept., Huntly	32	97	42,127	..	..	27,006	..	..	..	10,708	
Taranaki ..	Ditto .. ..	11	56	13,041	..	..	4,148	..	..	..	1,856	
Wellington ..	„ .. ..	34	153	86,362	9,852	4,639	9,326	..	..	13,000	33,979	
Nelson ..	G. W. Lowes, Mines Dept., Reefton	21	127	23,722	7,450	..	7,796	38,298	..	33,939	15,887	
Westland ..												
Marlborough	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	38	350	139,067	26,777	2,560	176,483	37,044	..	..	98,998	
Canterbury ..												
Otago ..												
Southland ..												
Totals, 1936	..	393	1,981	941,870	49,079	22,818	317,055	241,017	..	80,639	342,861	
Totals, 1935	..	358	2,002	985,446	70,357	26,166	288,559	182,944	..	55,920	289,274	

There were twenty-one fewer men employed than during the previous year, but an increase in the value of the stone produced of £53,587.

#### QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1936 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

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

There were no fatalities at any of the South Island quarries during 1936. An account follows of the four fatal accidents which occurred during the year at North Island quarries :—

On 24th August, Thos. C. Oates, employed at a crushing-plant belonging to the Te Kawa Quarry near Te Awamutu, was run over by a railway truck which was being lowered down the line by another workman. The deceased had stepped backward to get out of the way of the advancing truck, but he stumbled and fell in front of it. He suffered fractures of both legs, as well as other extensive injuries, and he died two hours and a half after the accident.

On 1st September George Lipanovich was fatally injured by a fall of loose clay at Amner's Lime Quarry, Napier. The face was only 11 ft. in height, and Lipanovich, who had been feeding the clay on to an elevator, was driven by the fall on to the buckets of the elevator. He suffered severe body injuries, from which he died the same day.

On 15th December a young man, Alex. W. E. Lyle, was killed instantly at the National Timber Co.'s rhyolite quarry at Ngongotaha. From the nature of his injuries it appeared that a premature explosion had occurred while he was placing the gelignite in the shot-hole.

After having "bulled" a shot-hole 13 ft. deep at the Matatoki Quarry on 21st December, a kerosene-tinful of water was poured down the hole and it was left while the workmen had their midday meal. On resuming work Ivan Lendrich and the quarry-manager, P. R. Hinton, placed safety ropes around their waists and, with a supply of explosives, descended to the bench below which the shot-hole had been drilled. Lendrich was tamping the "Lithyte," which was being handed to him by Hinton, and, when about 12 lb. of it has been placed in the hole, a plug stuck about 4 ft. from the bottom. Lendrich pressed on to it with the wooden tamping-rod when the charge, or a portion of it, exploded, killing Lendrich instantly. At the inquest the evidence given led the Coroner to add to his verdict a rider that the required clearance between the plugs of explosives and the side of the shot-hole should be maintained to the bottom of the shot-hole.