The following statement shows the tons of coal raised, persons employed, lives lost by accidents in or about collieries, &c., to 1936 :—

Year.	Output, in Statute Tons.	Persons ordinarily employed.			Tons raised per each Person employed below Ground.	Lives lost by Accidents in or about Collieries.		
		Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.		Per Million Tons produced.	Per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Lives lost.
Prior to 1900	13,444,437	*	*	*	*	*	*	165
1900	1,093,990	617	1,843	2,460	593	3·65	1·62	4
1901	1,239,686	688	2,066	2,754	600	2·42	1·09	3
1902	1,365,040	803	2,082	2,885	655	1·46	0·69	2
1903	1,420,229	717	2,135	2,852	665	2·81	1·40	4
1904	1,537,838	763	2,525	3,288	609	2·60	1·21	4
1905	1,585,756	833	2,436	3,269	651	3·78	1·83	6
1906	1,729,536	1,174	2,518	3,692	687	3·46	1·62	6
1907	1,831,009	1,143	2,767	3,910	662	6·55	3·07	12
1908	1,860,975	992	2,902	3,894	641	2·68	1·28	5
1909	1,911,247	1,159	3,032	4,191	630	3·66	1·67	7
1910	2,197,362	1,136	3,463	4,599	634	7·28	3·48	16
1911	2,066,073	1,365	2,925	4,290	706	6·77	3·26	14
1912	2,177,615	1,130	3,198	4,328	681	4·13	2·08	9
1913	1,888,005	1,053	3,197	4,250	590	3·18	1·41	6
1914	2,275,614	1,176	3,558	4,734	639	21·53	10·35	49†
1915	2,208,624	1,050	3,106	4,156	711	4·07	2·16	9
1916	2,257,135	988	3,000	3,988	752	2·65	1·50	6
1917	2,068,419	1,090	2,893	3,983	715	1·93	1·00	4
1918	2,034,250	1,102	2,892	3,994	703	2·95	1·50	6
1919	1,847,848	1,095	2,849	3,944	648	5·41	2·53	10
1920	1,843,705	1,152	2,926	4,078	630	0·54	0·24	1
1921	1,809,095	1,218	3,149	4,367	574	5·52	2·28	10
1922	1,857,819	1,191	3,365	4,556	552	3·23	1·31	6
1923	1,969,834	1,353	3,647	5,000	540	2·53	1·00	5
1924	2,083,207	1,364	3,505	4,869	594	4·80	2·05	10
1925	2,114,995	1,288	3,489	4,777	606	3·78	1·67	8
1926	2,239,999	1,336	3,823	5,159	586	6·69	2·90	15
1927	2,366,740	1,386	3,988	5,374	593	4·23	1·86	10
1928	2,436,753	1,366	4,010	5,376	608	3·69	1·67	9
1929	2,535,864	1,370	4,127	5,497	614	4·73	2·18	12
1930	2,542,092	1,437	4,430	5,867	574	5·50	2·38	14
1931	2,157,756	1,414	4,331	5,745	498	1·85	0·69	4
1932	1,842,022	1,257	3,379	4,636	545	6·51	2·59	12
1933	1,821,258	1,192	3,194	4,386	570	3·84	1·59	7
1934	2,060,315	1,229	3,249	4,478	634	3·88	1·78	8
1935	2,115,184	1,127	3,104	4,231	681	0·94	0·47	2
1936	2,140,217	1,103	3,154	4,257	678	1·87	0·94	4
Totals	85,977,543	..	..	..	..	..	..	484

* For returns for previous years see page 32, Mines Statement, 1921. † Year of Ralph's (Huntly) explosion.

SECTION III.—ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of accidents in and about coal-mines during 1936, with their causes :—

—	Fatal Accidents.		Serious Non-fatal Accidents.	
	Number of Separate Fatal Accidents.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Separate Non-fatal Accidents.	Number of Persons injured, including those injured by Accidents which proved Fatal to their Companions.
Explosions of fire-damp or coal-dust	2	2	16	16
Falls of ground			1	1
Explosives			1	1
Haulage	1	1	8	8
Miscellaneous—Underground			..	..
On surface	1	1		
Totals	4	4	26	26

In 1936 the fatal accidents in New Zealand coal-mines were at the rate of 0·94 per thousand persons employed, and at the rate of 1·87 per million tons of coal produced.

For the third year in succession I have pleasure in recording that no fatal accident occurred in Northern District coal-mines. In West Coast coal-mines two fatalities occurred in 1936 and two also in Southern District mines. Two of the four fatalities were caused by falls of coal in working-places. The fatal accidents are referred to in the District Inspectors' reports, but the following are short statements concerning them :—

John McLeod, a miner working in the Linton No. 1 Mine, was fatally injured on 13th January by being struck by a runaway truck. The full truck of coal had been standing on a flat sheet at the