

Name of District.	Output of Coal.		Plus + or Minus —	Increase or Decrease 1883.	Approximate Total Output of Coal up to 31st December, 1883.
	1882.	1883.			
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Kawakawa ... ..	41,484	29,271	—	12,213	517,181
Whangarei (Kamo and Whauwhau) ...	26,062	25,198	—	864	95,140
Waikato ... ..	28,605	38,293	+	9,688	182,300
Pelorus ... ..	11	100	+	89	236
West Wanganui ... ..	1,180	2,900	+	1,720	11,132
Westport (proper) ... ..	48,544	39,297	—	9,247	123,127
Reefton ... ..	2,827	2,533	—	294	21,577
Greymouth (proper) ... ..	63,053	86,074	+	23,021	401,286
Malvern ... ..	27,036	32,780	+	5,744	151,035
Timaru ... ..	140	292	+	152	432
Otago ... ..	129,476	149,296	+	19,820	986,523.
Southland ... ..	9,854	15,730	+	5,876	34,320
Total ... ..	378,272	421,764	+	43,492	2,524,289

The total quantity of coal produced from the North Island mines during 1883 was 92,762 tons, against 96,152 tons during the previous year. The falling-off in the yield is from the Bay of Islands (Kawakawa) and Kamo Collieries: from the former the decrease in the yield amounts to 12,213 tons, and from the latter, 2,807 tons; but the increase from the remaining collieries amounts to 11,630 tons, which makes the total decrease from the mines in the North Island to be 3,390 tons.

In the Middle Island there has been a great falling-off in the yield of the Banbury Mine at Westport, being 13,351 tons less than the previous year. This may be accounted for by the erection of machinery and endless-chain haulage and different works that the company have constructed during last year to work their mine on a more extensive scale. When they have their tramways and other works completed to the main seam known as Coalbrook Dale, the output will no doubt be greatly and permanently increased. The principal increase during the last year has been—From the Brunner Mine, Greymouth, 23,845 tons; the Kaitangata Mine, Balclutha, 15,027; the Fairfax Mine, Southland, 11,634 tons; and from the Homebush Mine, Malvern, 7,562 tons. The other principal mines have come up to the output of 1882, and a number of them show a slight increase. The output of the different descriptions of coal that have been raised in the colony are as follow :—

Name of Coal.				Output in 1883.	Approximate Total Output up to 31st December, 1883.
				Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous ... ..				156,542	1,052,726
Pitch ... ..				90,029	427,734
Brown... ..				161,058	985,268
Lignite ... ..				14,135	58,561
Totals ... ..				421,764	2,524,289

The Springfield Coal Company, referred to in last year's report as having ordered a diamond rock-drill from Australia with the view of prospecting for coal of a better quality, has now got it at work. The Manager (Mr. O. G. Parker) states that the drill works very satisfactorily, and that they have bored two holes with it, the first one being 300ft., and the latter 664ft., and have found two workable seams of coal. The Government granted this company a subsidy towards the purchase of this drill, for the purpose of encouraging prospecting in that part of the colony; and it is now gratifying to know that it has so far been very successful.