

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, 15th May, 1940.

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, 1939, 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 Coal-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 1939.				Total Output to the End of 1939.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	71,029	973,580	..	1,044,609	52,829,029
Brown	731,676	58,411	369,876	1,159,963	34,451,156
Lignite	1,351	136,716	138,067	5,539,884
Totals for 1939 ..	802,705	1,033,342	506,592	2,342,639	92,820,069
Totals for 1938 ..	762,717	984,389	474,982	2,222,088	90,477,430

The following is a table showing the annual production of coal and the quantity of coal imported since 1912:—

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.
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1926 ..	2,239,999	483,918	2,723,917
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,910	2,356,915	1927 ..	2,366,740	378,090	2,744,830
1914 ..	2,275,614*	518,070	2,793,684*	1928 ..	2,436,753	247,861	2,684,614
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1929 ..	2,535,864	215,656	2,751,520
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1930 ..	2,542,092	157,943	2,700,035
1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016	1931 ..	2,157,756	179,060	2,336,816
1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582	1932 ..	1,842,022	103,531	1,945,553
1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282	1933 ..	1,821,258	99,272	1,920,530
1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048	1934 ..	2,069,315	100,715	2,161,030
1921 ..	1,869,095	822,459	2,631,554	1935 ..	2,115,181	97,398	2,212,582
1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297	1936 ..	2,140,217	111,078	2,251,295
1923 ..	1,969,834	445,792	2,415,626	1937 ..	2,277,799	116,499	2,394,298
1924 ..	2,083,207	674,483	2,757,690	1938 ..	2,222,088	109,206	2,331,294
1925 ..	2,114,995	572,573	2,687,568	1939 ..	2,342,639	111,537	2,454,176

* Includes 21 tons shale.

The output of New Zealand collieries for 1939, 2,342,639 tons, was 120,551 tons more than the 1938 output and is the highest since 1930. From the Northern District coal-mines there was an increase of 39,988 tons, from the West Coast mines an increase of 48,953 tons, and from the Southern District mines an increase of 51,610 tons, although in that district twenty three less men were employed in the mines than in 1938.

In the Northern District forty-four more men were employed, and the output per man, 5,064 tons, is 11.6 tons higher than the 1938 return.