

Mercury.—At Puhipuhi 1,172 tons of ore was treated, which yielded over 3 tons of mercury, valued at £6,840. Work has ceased at the cinnabar-mine at Karangahake.

Mica.—Work was abandoned on the deposit at the 4,000 ft. level on the Matukituki Range, South Westland. A start was then made at about the 1,700 ft. level, and from there 700 lb., yielding about 300 lb. of useable material, was recovered.

Petroleum.—From the three producing wells owned by Moturoa Oilfields, Ltd., a total of 73,588 gallons was obtained, and was treated by N.Z. Oil Refineries Ltd., New Plymouth. The borehole at Kamaka, West Coast District, reached basement rock at 6,942 ft. with negative results.

Phosphate.—From the Clarendon deposit 19,931 tons, worth £20,551, was quarried.

Pottery Clay.—Near Kaka, in the Nelson District, 2,330 tons of pottery clay, worth £3,087, and about 50 tons of inferior clay, worth £44, was mined. At Benhar, South Otago, 3,374 tons of pottery clay was quarried; and at Kakahu, South Canterbury, 914 tons of clay used for making insulators was produced.

Pumice.—In the Northern District 2,931 tons of pumice, valued at £11,856, was quarried.

Serpentine.—To augment the supply of fertilizers, 17,699 tons of serpentine was obtained from Wayby Quarries and 20,022 tons from Kaukapakapa Quarries.

Silica.—From the Wanganui and North Auckland districts, 22,214 tons of silica, valued at £54,857, was produced. From Canterbury and Central Otago, 2,105 tons of silica sand, valued at £2,538, was mined.

Tungsten.—From the Glenorchy and Macraes districts of Otago, 136 tons of scheelite concentrates, valued at about £62,000, was mined.

STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS

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 1944:—

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.							
				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.	Value at Quarry.
Auckland ..	R. C. Ruffin, Mines Dept., Huntly	180	775	Tons. 554,533	Tons. ..	Tons. ..	Tons. 234,740	Tons. 251,395	Tons. ..	Tons. 203,922	£ 296,299
	E. J. Seobie, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	28	89	78,064	..	351	..	..	..	..	31,531
Hawke's Bay	R. C. Ruffin, Mines Dept., Huntly	17	31	16,081	..	..	45,828	..	..	1,950	21,717
Taranaki ..	Ditto	21	64	20,630	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,183
Wellington ..	„	25	72	35,571	..	..	90,487	..	..	22,500	46,303
Nelson ..	G. W. Lowes, Mines Dept., Greymouth	24	103	13,852	..	4,321	24,899	70,335	..	4,003	13,504
Westland ..											
Buller ..	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	52	417	101,304	52,587	7,513	507,854	58,575	19,931	..	234,708
Marlborough											
Canterbury ..											
Otago ..											
Southland											
Totals, 1944	..	347	1,551	820,035	52,587	12,185	903,808	380,305	19,931	232,375*	649,245
Totals, 1943	..	325	1,672	774,993	51,914	17,712	752,603	411,045	9,241	237,056	580,297

* Includes 25 tons talc, value £10; 3,931 tons dolomite, value £1,474; 47 tons quartzite, value £85.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1944 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act:—

Cause.						Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
						Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Haulage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machinery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
Falls of ground ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	1

One accident, causing two deaths, occurred in a North Island quarry, and a quarry-manager was killed in an accident in a South Island quarry, during 1944.