

1903.
NEW ZEALAND.

INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES REPORT.

(" THE COAL-MINES ACT, 1891.")

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

Mr. J. HAYES, F.S.Sc., Inspecting Engineer, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department.
SIR,—

Mines Department, Wellington, 11th May, 1903.
I have the honour to submit reports on the coal-mines of the colony for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

Output.

The following summary shows the output of the various classes of coal, &c., mined in each district :—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal ...	92,761	752,285	...	845,046
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	...	25,245	25,245
Brown coal... ..	99,284	1,531	326,357	427,172
Lignite ... ..	...	...	65,239	65,239
Oil-shale ... ..	...	...	2,338	2,338
Totals	192,045	753,816	419,179	1,365,040

Total number of mines at work, 180, only twenty-two of which employ more than twenty-one persons.

In comparison with the output of the previous year the foregoing summary shows a net total increase of 125,354 tons.

The subjoined statement shows the relative increase and decrease in the output of the various classes of coal, &c., in each inspection district :—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.		West Coast District.		Southern District.		Total Increase.	Total De-crease.	Total Net Increase.
	Increase.	De-crease.	Increase.	De-crease.	Increase.	De-crease.			
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal	5,706	...	84,387	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	...	...	...	10,661	...	...	...	...
Brown coal	11,255	...	...	106	10,871	...	...	...	...
Lignite ... ..	...	...	...	...	12,290	...	...	...	...
Oil-shale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	9,710	...	...	...
Totals	16,961	...	84,387	106	33,822	9,710	135,170	9,816	125,354

The approximate total quantity of coal, &c., raised from the several mines throughout the colony up to the 31st December, 1902, is 17,157,596 tons.

The number of persons ordinarily employed is returned at 803 above ground and 2,082 below ground, making a total of 2,885; but it is to be remembered that many of the men included as working above ground are engaged in actually getting coal or lignite at opencast pits or quarries, of