

SECTION I.—OUTPUT OF MINERAL.

The output of the several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarised as follows :—

Class of Coal, &c.	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous coal ...	147,405	1,057,807	...	1,205,212
Pitch-coal ... ..	...	2,801	14,658	17,459
Brown coal... ..	197,522	2,958	338,661	539,141
Lignite ... ..	...	...	99,163	99,163
Totals	344,927	1,063,566	452,482	1,860,975

As compared with the output for the preceding year, the above statement shows an increase of 29,966 tons.

The following statement shows the production, &c., of the principal collieries :—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1908.	Total Output to 31st December, 1908.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Hikurangi Coal Company (Limited) ...	Hikurangi...	Semi-bituminous	Tons. 61,071	Tons. 581,593	74
Taupiri Coal-mines (Limited) ...	Huntly ...	Brown ...	175,777	1,900,362	357
Northern Collieries Company (Limited)	Hikurangi...	Semi-bituminous	50,275	284,246	74
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport Coal Company (Limited) (Coalbrookdale Collieries)	Westport	Millerton, bituminous	316,601	2,651,061	473
		Denniston...	296,617	5,026,377	574
New Zealand State Coal-mines	Seddonville (Westport)	Bituminous	55,231	209,410	100
	Point Elizabeth (Grey-mouth)	"	234,250	795,458	400
	Blackball...	"	85,348	1,026,555	150
Tyneside Proprietary Coal Company (Limited)	Brunnerton	"	40,304	295,059	160
<i>Southern District.</i>					
New Zealand Coal and Oil Company (Limited)	Kaitangata	Brown ...	110,315	2,312,680	296
Nightcaps Coal Company (Limited) ...	Nightcaps...	" ...	48,487	616,263	92
Other collieries, in all districts ...	...	Various ...	386,699	11,423,875	1,144
Totals ... ..	...	...	1,860,975	27,122,939	3,894

The most important feature in connection with the coal-mining industry has been the activity displayed on the West Coast bituminous coalfields, where new collieries are being opened and equipped on a scale of considerable magnitude. The quality of the coal from these fields is of a high class, the coal being used by the Admiralty and to a considerable extent by ocean-going vessels. On the northern coalfields activity has also been displayed in the development of new areas, and the acquisition by the principal companies of mining rights over freehold property. The equipment of the mines all over the country has been greatly improved.