

## COAL-MINING.

The production of coal for the past year is, with the exception of 1910, the highest yet attained, being 2,066,073 tons. The output from the three inspection districts is shown in the following table :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF COAL AND LIGNITE RAISED DURING THE YEARS 1909, 1910, AND 1911.

Inspection District.	Output for 1911.	Increase or Decrease, 1910 and 1911.	Output for 1909.	Increase or Decrease, 1909 and 1910.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Northern .. ..	397,872	Decrease 2,792	348,370	Increase 52,294
West Coast .. ..	1,218,693	„ 122,339	1,122,642	„ 218,390
Southern .. ..	449,508	„ 6,158	440,235	„ 15,431
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>2,066,073</b>	<b>Decrease 131,289</b>	<b>1,911,247</b>	<b>Increase 286,115</b>

The comparative tonnage of the various classes of coal, &c., for the years 1910 and 1911 is summarized as follows :—

Class of Coal.	Output for 1911.	Output for 1910.	Increase or Decrease for 1911.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous ..	1,358,357	1,495,709	Decrease 137,352
Pitch-coal .. ..	4,411	6,068	„ 1,657
Brown coal .. ..	601,093	594,995	Increase 6,098
Lignite .. ..	102,212	100,590	„ 1,622
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>2,066,073</b>	<b>2,197,362</b>	<b>Decrease 131,289</b>

The total recorded output for the various classes of coal, lignite, and oil-shale is now 33,297,621 tons.

There continues to be an increasing demand for the high-class bituminous coal from the West Coast mines and from the semi-bituminous collieries of the Waikato district, and with a view to meeting these requirements new collieries are being laid down on the Grey and Waikato coalfields, in addition to which existing mines are being further equipped and prepared for increased outputs.

The production of coal and shale from the mines of the Dominion is shown in the following table :—

Name of Colliery.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1911.	Total Output to 31st December, 1911.
		Tons.	Tons.
Taupiri .. ..	Brown .. ..	252,262	2,574,413
Westport Coal Company—			
Millerton .. ..	Bituminous .. ..	299,642	3,431,993
Denniston .. ..	„ .. ..	323,368	6,045,799
Westport-Stockton .. ..	„ .. ..	87,236	332,129
State coal-mines—			
Seddonville .. ..	„ .. ..	60,045	400,104
Point Elizabeth No. 1 .. ..	„ .. ..	188,892	1,413,463
Blackball .. ..	„ .. ..	156,821	1,469,946
Kaitangata .. ..	Brown .. ..	134,829	2,714,181
Nightcaps .. ..	„ .. ..	64,250	788,575
Other collieries .. ..	Various .. ..	498,728	14,127,018
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>.. ..</b>	<b>2,066,073</b>	<b>33,297,621</b>

## PERSONS ENGAGED IN MINING.

The number of persons employed in and about the mines of the Dominion during 1911 is estimated at 11,690. The number employed in connection with the metalliferous mines was 7,400, and at coal-mines 4,290. The number of gum-diggers is not ascertainable.