

The following statement shows the tons of coal and shale raised, persons employed, lives lost, &c., from 1878 to 1915 :—

Year.	Output.	Persons employed.			Tons raised per each Person employed Underground.	Tons raised per Life lost.	Persons employed per Life lost.	Lives lost per Thousand Persons employed.	Number of Deaths.
		Above.	Below.	Total.					
Prior ...	709,931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1878 ...	162,218	147	366	513	443	*	*	*	0
1879 ...	231,218	...	...	802	...	4,635	23	4.00	35†
1880 ...	299,923	...	...	1,038	...	149,961	519	1.92	2
1881 ...	337,262	...	...	963	...	337,262	963	1.04	1
1882 ...	378,272	...	...	1,043	...	189,136	521	1.91	2
1883 ...	421,764	361	888	1,249	475	210,882	624	1.60	2
1884 ...	480,831	393	890	1,283	540	160,277	421	2.34	3
1885 ...	511,063	338	1,145	1,483	456	170,354	494	2.01	3
1886 ...	534,353	392	1,213	1,605	440	*	*	*	0
1887 ...	558,620	388	1,111	1,499	503	139,655	375	2.66	4
1888 ...	613,895	414	1,275	1,689	481	153,474	422	2.36	4
1889 ...	586,445	466	1,251	1,717	468	146,611	313	2.37	4
1890 ...	637,397	512	1,334	1,846	477	79,674	231	4.33	8
1891 ...	668,794	416	1,277	1,693	523	167,198	423	2.36	4
1892 ...	673,315	485	1,196	1,681	563	673,315	1,681	0.66	1
1893 ...	691,548	590	1,298	1,888	533	138,309	377	2.64	5
1894 ...	719,546	506	1,393	1,899	516	119,924	316	3.16	6
1895 ...	726,654	525	1,274	1,799	618	145,331	360	3.33	5
1896 ...	792,851	590	1,347	1,937	588	12,013	29	34.07	66‡
1897 ...	840,713	531	1,381	1,912	609	210,178	478	2.09	4
1898 ...	907,033	556	1,447	2,003	627	907,033	2,003	0.49	1
1899 ...	975,234	554	1,599	2,153	609	325,078	717	1.39	3
1900 ...	1,093,990	617	1,843	2,460	593	273,497	615	1.62	4
1901 ...	1,239,686	688	2,066	2,754	600	413,228	918	1.09	3
1902 ...	1,365,040	803	2,082	2,885	655	682,520	1,443	0.69	2
1903 ...	1,420,229	717	2,135	2,852	665	355,057	713	1.40	4
1904 ...	1,537,838	763	2,525	3,288	609	384,459	822	1.21	4
1905 ...	1,585,756	833	2,436	3,269	651	264,293	546	1.83	6
1906 ...	1,729,536	1,174	2,518	3,692	687	288,256	615	1.62	6
1907 ...	1,831,009	1,143	2,767	3,910	662	152,584	326	3.07	12
1908 ...	1,860,975	992	2,902	3,894	641	372,195	778	1.28	5
1909 ...	1,911,247	1,159	3,032	4,191	633	273,035	599	1.79	7
1910 ...	2,197,362	1,136	3,463	4,599	634	137,335	283	3.55	16
1911 ...	2,066,073	1,365	2,925	4,290	706	147,577	306	3.26	14
1912 ...	2,177,615	1,130	3,198	4,328	681	241,975	355	2.08	9
1913 ...	1,888,005	1,053	3,197	4,250	590	314,667	708	1.38	6
1914 ...	2,275,614	1,176	3,558	4,734	639	46,441	96	10.35	49§
1915 ...	2,208,624	1,050	3,106	4,156	711	245,403	462	2.16	9
Totals ...	41,847,479	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319

* No life lost. † Year of Kaitangata explosion. ‡ Year of Brunner explosion. § Year of Ralph's (Huntly) explosion.

SECTION IV.—THE COAL-MINES ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

On the 26th June new regulations under the Coal-mines Act were gazetted. These regulations embrace much of those already in force, and also incorporated a considerable proportion of the British regulations contained in an Order (No. 748) dated 10th July, 1910, pertaining to the conduct of persons employed in mines; the use of stationary electric lamps; winding-ropes; signalling; explosives, including permitted explosives; safety-lamps; change-house and bath-houses; ambulance; mechanical ventilating-appliances; prevention of the inflammation of coaldust; and electricity. The regulations have, at the time of writing, been in operation nearly a year, and I believe that, while not increasing the cost of production of coal to any appreciable extent, they have tended to greater security of life and property, while greatly assisting the Inspectors of Mines in the performance of their duties.

During the year only two important cases of litigation under the safety provisions of the Coal-mines Act occurred. The first of these was in connection with the inspection of old workings (traversable standing pillar areas) at Ralph's Colliery, Huntly. The following is a brief summary of this case :—

The Royal Commission in connection with the explosion at Ralph's Colliery on the 12th September, 1914, by which forty-three lives were lost, reported on the 30th October following that the explosion