

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

The INSPECTING ENGINEER OF MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 26th March, 1917.

I have the honour to present my annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to the coal-mines of the Dominion, for the year ended 31st December, 1916.

The report is divided into the following sections:—

- I. Output of Mineral.
- II. Persons employed.
- III. Accidents.
- IV. General Remarks—
 - (a.) Mining Operations.
 - (b.) Ventilation.
 - (c.) Eye Accidents to Coal-hewers from Flying Coal.
 - (d.) Systematic Timbering.

Annexures—

- A. Summary of Annual Reports by Inspectors of Mines.
- B. Report on the Brunner Fireclay-deposits by Inspectors of Mines, T. O. Bishop and James Newton.
- C. Statistics of Workings in Collieries.
- D. Examination of Colliery Officials, and List of Certificate-holders.

SECTION I.—OUTPUT.

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

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1916.				Total Output to the End of 1916.
	Northern District.	West Coast District.	Southern District.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous*	126,536	1,295,538	...	1,422,074	28,800,708
Brown	359,578	97	294,223	653,898	13,145,210
Lignite	181,163	181,163	2,144,253
Totals for 1916 ...	486,114	1,295,635	475,386	2,257,135	44,090,171
Totals for 1915 ...	460,415	1,278,994	469,215	2,208,624	41,833,036

* Including coal formerly classified as "pitch" coal.

The output for 1916 is, with the exception of 1914, the highest yet attained in the Dominion, but the average output for each person employed underground—viz., 750 tons—constitutes a record for New Zealand, and has only been exceeded in Australia on one occasion—viz., during