

VI. STONE-QUARRIES.

(1.) QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS.

The operations of the Stone-quarries Act are confined to those places (excluding mines) where stone is quarried or tunnelled by means of explosives, and to those places where the rock-face is more than 20 ft. deep. It will thus be seen that an important section of the quarrying industry, including the Oamaru limestone-quarries and those at which high faces are worked without explosives, likewise all Government quarries, do not come under the operations of the Act, which is unfortunate from the viewpoint of safety or the collection of statistics. In the Stone-quarries Act or Regulations no provision has been made for annual returns of quarrying statistics, such as is provided in the Coal-mines and Mining Acts, for the annual returns of output and other particulars necessary for the compilation of statistics. Under these circumstances the Quarry Inspectors are dependent upon the generosity of quarry owners or managers for any statistical information which is required for official use.

The table accompanying this report, containing the number of quarries, the number of persons employed, also the output, must therefore be regarded as approximate only. From the information available, however, it will be seen that the quarrying industry is rapidly growing to considerable importance. The production of 247 stone-quarries which are under the operation of the Act amounted to 840,426 tons. At these quarries 1,453 persons were employed.

The production of limestone for agriculture and cement-manufacture amounted to 123,314 tons. A decline occurred in the quantity of stone used upon harbour-works.

Table showing the Number of Quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, also the Number of Persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the Annual Output of Crude Stone during 1918.

Provincial District.	Name and Address of Government Inspector of Stone-quarries.	Number of Working Quarries under the Act.	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Output of Crude Stone.							
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building-stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	Fireday for Bricks or Tiles.	Sand for Building or Asphalting.
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	100	651	322,921	8,505	2,578	250	115,420	..	..	..
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	11	71	39,904	..	735	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	11	65	18,215	..	..	16,000	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	Ditto	15	60	38,237	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	"	60	147	59,773	12,605	..	4,001	..	..	..	..
Greymouth and Westport	G. Duggan, Mines Dept., Greymouth	2	15	..	15,369	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson Westland	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	4	112	400	..	653	..	23,494	..	..	..
	"	1	15	..	..	..	400	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	E. R. Green and A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	16	98	65,993	33,602	..	4,428	1,642	..	..	437
Otago		20	161	56,430	7,980	231	56,748	11,371	5,000	2,500	5,749
Southland	"	7	48	9,296	12,000	..	4,980	..	..	..	..
Totals 1918	..	247	1,453	611,169	90,061	4,197	86,807	36,507	5,000	2,500	6,186
Totals 1917	..	151	1,000	620,261	180,161	6,409	69,861	154,717	5,050	..	3,124

Further particulars regarding the inspection of stone-quarries in the North Island are contained in the annual report by Inspector James Newton, appearing in Annexure B accompanying this report.

(2.) QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of persons killed or seriously injured during 1918 at stone-quarries and places within the operation of the Stone-quarries Act:—

Cause of Accident.						Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
						Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.
Explosives .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Falls of ground .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Falling from face, or during ascent or descent .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	4