

KAURI-GUM.

The quantity and value of kauri-gum exported during 1920 amounted to 6,481 tons, valued at £556,756, as compared with 4,128 tons, valued at £255,812, during the previous year.

PHOSPHATE ROCK.

The production of phosphate rock by the Ewing Phosphate Company, of Clarendon and Milburn, Otago, amounted to 5,341 tons, valued at £5,341, as compared with 4,000 tons, valued at £4,000, during 1919.

VI. STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS.

By section 2 of the Stone-quarries Amendment Act, 1920, the application of the Act was extended to include every place, not being a mine, in which persons work in quarrying stone and any part of which has a face more than 15 ft. deep, and also in any tunnel in the construction of which explosives are used. The Act, however, does not apply to any Government operations, or any road or railway-cutting, or excavations for buildings.

The stone-quarrying industry continues to advance in importance, during 1920 the value of stone, &c., produced being £314,470.

The following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1920:—

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.	Fireclay for Bricks or Tiles.	Sand for Building or Asphalting.	Value at Quarry.
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	105	532	Tons. 271,316	Tons. 79,661	Tons. 13,712	Tons. 33,867	Tons. 102,626	Tons. ..	Tons. 1,600	Tons. ..	£ 105,764
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	11	75	15,734	..	295	..	..	..	..	..	8,997
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	20	69	14,500	74,323	..	18,720	..	..	..	..	13,806
Taranaki ..	Ditto ..	11	80	17,404	136,870	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,453
Wellington ..	" ..	43	216	71,270	10,802	..	11,916	..	..	..	..	26,333
Canterbury ..	" ..	11	78	88,517	4,993	1,201	..	6,000	..	..	..	21,627
Nelson {	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	13	144	3,824	772	1,286	1,654	29,716	..	..	..	15,587
Westland {	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin	27	274	95,697	10,040	2,529	76,095	31,611	5,341	..	..	103,903
Otago {												
Southland {												
Totals 1920	..	241	1,468	578,262	317,461	19,023	142,252	169,953	5,341	1,600	..	314,470
Totals 1919	..	219	1,409	587,901	183,000	27,051	102,010	143,182	4,000	2,500	6,685	*

* Unknown.

At the 241 stone-quarries under the Act, at which 1,468 persons were ordinarily employed, the only serious accident which occurred during the year consisted of a broken arm.

A considerable number of quarries, &c., producing valuable stone do not come under the operations of the Act by reason that the face is not 15 ft. deep: these include some of the Oamaru limestone and pumice quarries.

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

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

During the year ended 31st March, 1921, eighteen approved prospecting parties were granted subsidies amounting to £6,545, of which £1,456 was expended during the year. In addition to this, £697 granted during previous years was expended.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 122 persons were intermittently employed during the year; the results attained were moderate.

The following is a statement showing the number of subsidized prospectors, the amount of subsidy granted and paid, also the character and result of such prospecting operations from the 1st April, 1920, to the 31st March, 1921:—