

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OF COAL-MINES.

The INSPECTING ENGINEER AND CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL-MINES to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF MINES.

SIR,— Wellington, 23rd July, 1923.
I have the honour to present my annual report, together with statistical information, in regard to coal-mines of the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1922, in accordance with section 78 of the Coal-mines Act, 1908. The report is divided into the following sections :—

- I. Output.
 - II. Persons employed.
 - III. Accidents.
 - IV. Working of the Coal-mines Act—
 - (a) Permitted Explosives.
 - (b) Dangerous Occurrences.
 - (c) Electricity at Collieries.
 - (d) Prosecutions.
 - V. Legislation affecting Coal-mining.
- Annexures—
- A. Summary of Annual Reports by Inspectors of Mines.
 - B. Colliery Statistics.

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 1922.				Total Output to the End of 1922.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
Bituminous and semi-bituminous	Tons. 89,575	Tons. 878,863	Tons. ..	Tons. 968,438	Tons. 34,917,970
Brown	430,578	480	279,275	710,333	17,290,650
Lignite	640	178,408	179,048	3,342,687
Totals for 1922 ..	520,153	879,983	457,683	1,857,819	55,551,307
Totals for 1921 ..	514,607	810,875	483,613	1,809,095	53,693,488

The following is a table showing the annual production of coal and the quantity of coal imported since 1911 :—

Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.	Year.	Coal produced.	Coal imported.	Total Quantity of Coal produced and imported.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1911 ..	2,066,073	188,068	2,254,141	1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,940	2,356,945	1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282
1914 ..	2,275,593	518,070	2,793,663	1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1921 ..	1,809,095	822,459	2,631,554
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297

During 1922 the production of bituminous coal increased by 74,593 tons, that of brown coal by 10,213 tons, while the output of lignite was reduced by 36,082 tons, making the total increase for the year 48,724 tons. Throughout the year ample supplies of coal were available for all purposes, and at many of the mines difficulty was experienced in disposing of the output even at considerably reduced prices. This caused a slump in the collieries mining the lower grades of coal, and at the end of the year many of these collieries were working short time. The year was marked by a comparative freedom from industrial strife at the mines. One other feature that deserves mention is the striking increase in the number of small mines being worked by co-operative parties, most of whom did well during the year.