

V. 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 following is a table showing the number of quarries under the Stone-quarries Acts, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1923 :—

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 Stone.							
				Stone or Gravel for Macadamizing or Ballast.	Stone for Harbour-works.	Building or Monumental-stone.	Limestone for Agriculture.	Limestone for Cement or Mortar.	Phosphate for Agriculture.	Miscellaneous.	Value at Quarry.
Auckland ..	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	96	656	Tons. 485,205	Tons. 180,000	Tons. 10,700	Tons. 15,951	Tons. 92,443	Tons. ..	Tons. ..	£ 148,740
	M. Paul, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	18	119	77,134	..	53	..	..	..	..	25,381
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	15	76	19,711	29,118	541	14,400	207	..	..	10,022
Taranaki ..	Ditto	12	48	8,207	42,481	..	..	..	..	..	8,277
Wellington ..	"	32	185	83,886	15,990	1,620	8,330	..	..	..	37,582
Canterbury ..	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Reefton	18	124	93,763	5,949	2,186	7,216	..	..	80	35,523
Nelson Westland Marlborough Otago Southland	Ditto	17	138	7,616	2,825	940	2,544	11,740	..	..	6,835
	A. Whitley, Mines Dept., Dunedin											34	298	88,890	39,819	18,418	55,125	38,858	2,383	..	98,635
Totals 1923	..	242	1,644	864,412	316,182	34,458	103,566	143,248	2,383	80	370,995
Totals 1922	..	212	1,383	580,707	265,091	60,692	88,087	210,184	3,128	220	318,093

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1923 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

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

Of the fatal accidents the following is a short description :—

Percy Ayden, at the Mount Eden sewerage-works, on the 10th February. The deceased was using a hammer and gad in a tunnel where six shots had been fired the previous day. He must have struck some unexploded gelignite, as an explosion occurred, which resulted in his death.

John Fowler, at the Mangatuna Quarry, Tolaga Bay, on the 12th May. The deceased was the quarry foreman, and was engaged in firing a round of shots when the accident occurred. From the evidence it appears that he either miscalculated the time of burning of the fuse or had attempted to light too many shots and left himself insufficient time to take shelter before the shots went off.

Arthur Joseph Pobar, at Calder's Quarry, Dunedin, on the 7th June. The deceased with other workmen was engaged on the quarry-floor when a large fall of stone took place from a height of about 90 ft. up the face of the quarry. The other workmen were able to get clear of the falling material, but the deceased was struck and so seriously injured that he died the following day.

VI. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1.) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations seventy-five persons were intermittently employed during the year.

The following is a statement showing the results of prospecting operations as reported by the Inspectors of Mines.