

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, 24th July, 1924.

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, 1923, 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 1923.				Total Output to the End of 1923.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Totals.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous and semi-bituminous	126,118	809,579	..	935,697	35,853,667
Brown	507,747	38,710	313,903	860,360	18,151,010
Lignite	740	173,037	173,777	3,516,464
Totals for 1923 ..	633,865	849,029	486,940	1,969,834	57,521,141
Totals for 1922 ..	520,153	879,983	457,683	1,857,819	55,551,307

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	1918 ..	2,034,250	255,332	2,289,582
1912 ..	2,177,615	364,359	2,541,974	1919 ..	1,847,848	391,434	2,239,282
1913 ..	1,888,005	468,940	2,356,945	1920 ..	1,843,705	476,343	2,320,048
1914 ..	2,275,593	518,070	2,793,663	1921 ..	1,809,095	822,459	2,631,554
1915 ..	2,208,624	353,471	2,562,095	1922 ..	1,857,819	501,478	2,359,297
1916 ..	2,257,135	293,956	2,551,091	1923 ..	1,969,834	445,792	2,415,626
1917 ..	2,068,419	291,597	2,360,016				

The output of coal for 1923 showed an increase of 112,015 tons over that for the previous year. The increase was wholly in the production of brown coal, which was 150,027 tons in excess of the production for 1922. Bituminous coal showed a reduction of 32,741 tons, due to the industrial trouble which stopped most of the West Coast mines for the last three months of the year, and lignite a reduction of 5,271 tons, due to a lessened demand for this class of coal. Ample supplies of coal were available for all purposes till the stoppage occurred on the West Coast. The combined capacity of the mines is now ahead of the demands, particularly in regard to mines producing brown coal or lignite. At some of the latter short time was worked through inability to dispose of the output. Mining by co-operative parties continues to be carried on to a considerable extent, and in some cases has proved very profitable to the parties engaged therein.