

The quantity of gold bullion produced during the year was 27,229 oz. less than in the previous year, and the value less by £61,227. This reduction was principally due to the diminished returns from quartz-mining in Waihi Borough and Tauranga County, though decreases were also shown in the gold got from dredging and from alluvial mining.

COAL-MINING.

The output of several classes of coal mined in each inspection district is summarized as follows :—

Class of Coal.	Output of Coal during 1925.				Total Output to the End of 1925.
	Northern District (North Island).	West Coast District (South Island).	Southern District (South Island).	Total.	
Bituminous and sub-bituminous	Tons. 131,540	Tons. 913,186	Tons. ...	Tons. 1,044,726	Tons. 37,983,397
Brown	540,863	37,771	332,791	911,425	19,901,452
Lignite	439	158,405	158,844	3,834,494
Totals for 1925 ...	672,403	951,396	491,196	2,114,995	61,719,343
Totals for 1924 ...	637,525	990,612	455,070	2,083,207	59,604,348

There were 2,114,995 tons of coal produced during 1925, as against 2,083,207 tons during the previous year, an increase of 31,788 tons. This increase was wholly of brown coals, of which the output was 72,408 tons greater than in 1924.

The output of bituminous coal declined by 40,278 tons, and lignite was less by 342 tons.

During the year the coal-mines in the Dominion have been practically free from any serious industrial trouble, and ample supplies of coal have been available for all the requirements of the country. The coal market, however, was dull during most of the year and short time was worked at some of the mines.

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN OR ABOUT MINES AND STONE-QUARRIES.

The following table shows the number of persons employed in each inspection district during 1925 and 1924 :—

Classification.	Inspection District.			Totals.		
	Northern (North Island).	West Coast (of South Island).	Southern (rest of South Island).	1925.	1924.	Increase or Decrease.
Gold, silver, and tungsten ore	788	536	342	1,666	1,830	Dec. 164
Ironstone	83	..	83	28	Inc. 55
Coal	1,326	2,394	1,057	4,777	4,869	Dec. 92
Stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act	1,424	136	412	1,972	1,748	Inc. 224
Totals	3,538	3,149	1,811	8,498	8,475	Inc. 23

MINING AND QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

In metalliferous mines, at which 1,749 men were ordinarily employed, there were three fatal accidents and one serious non-fatal accident whereby one person was seriously injured.

At stone-quarries under the Stone-quarries Act, employing 1,972 men, there were three persons killed and five persons met with serious injuries.

There were 4,777 persons ordinarily employed about the coal-mines, and there were eight persons killed and twenty-five persons seriously injured.