

In the West Coast District the output of bituminous coal increased by 82,233 tons, the output of brown coal increased by 6,205 tons, and the output of lignite increased by 731 tons, a total increase of 89,169 tons. The coal-mines in the West Coast District, and particularly those in the Buller County, suffered considerable damage from the earthquake of the 17th June. There were many large falls of roof and sides, and some damage to plant. Following the principal shock there was a succession of minor shocks at short intervals during the succeeding ten days. The apprehension of still another major earthquake caused by these after-shocks, and the damage done to roads, railways, and communications by the principal shock, rendered the mines in the Buller district idle for a fortnight, and greatly reduced the output for the months of June and July.

In the Southern District the output of brown coal increased by 18,390 tons and the output of lignite by 3,583 tons, a total increase of 21,973 tons.

The capacity of the mines operating in the Waikato is well ahead of the market, with the result that much short time is worked, particularly in the summer months. Through the increasing use of hydro-electricity for power purposes in the North Island it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a market for Waikato slack. The Waikato coalowners are attempting to solve this problem by erecting near Rotowaro a plant for the low-temperature carbonization of slack.

The number of co-operative parties working mines is increasing, likewise the output from these. They work areas where the coal is too thin or too faulted to be worked by a company, and a remarkable fact is the output per man produced under the adverse conditions under which they work.

Increased use is being made of coal-cutting machines, and excellent results are being obtained in some cases. Good examples of what can be done with arc-wall machines in rapidly opening out a mine are given in Inspector Barclay's report on the Renown and Rotowaro Collieries. This type of coal-cutting machine is also being installed in at least two mines in the Grey district.

The production from and the number of persons employed at the collieries of the Dominion are shown in the following table :—

Name of Colliery.	Locality.	Class of Coal.	Output for 1929.	Total Output to 31st December, 1929.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Hikurangi .. .. .	Hikurangi ..	Sub-bituminous	Tons. 8,227	Tons. 347,989	45
Wilson's .. .. .	" ..	" ..	66,468	487,355	187
Rotowaro .. .. .	Huntly ..	Brown ..	155,521	1,359,939	271
Pukemiro .. .. .	" ..	" ..	156,786	1,759,503	278
Waipa .. .. .	" ..	" ..	56,438	1,038,275	124
Glen Afton .. .. .	Glen Afton ..	" ..	167,197	1,003,129	294
Renown .. .. .	Waikokowai ..	" ..	72,535	99,090	138
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton .. ..	Ngakawau ..	Bituminous ..	151,716	2,642,442	320
Millerton .. .. .	Millerton ..	" ..	203,071	7,903,371	465
Denniston .. .. .	Denniston ..	" ..	200,399	9,785,949	507
Westportmain .. .. .	Westport ..	" ..	36,227	128,068	55
Cardiff Bridge .. .. .	Seddonville ..	" ..	25,518	165,436	27
Paparoa .. .. .	Roa ..	Semi-bituminous	20,436	624,845	35
Blackball .. .. .	Blackball ..	Sub-bituminous	79,845	3,801,351	230
Liverpool (State) .. ..	Rewanui ..	Bituminous ..	137,593	2,031,397	346
James (State) .. .. .	Rapahoe ..	Sub-bituminous	41,592	227,137	80
Dobson .. .. .	Dobson ..	Bituminous ..	139,461	328,152	299
Wallsend .. .. .	Brunnerton ..	" ..	46,316	252,426	141
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Shag Point .. .. .	Shag Point ..	Brown ..	13,290	263,160	48
Kaitangata and Castlehill (3 collieries)	Kaitangata ..	" ..	89,194	4,690,364	269
Taratu .. .. .	" ..	Lignite ..	21,621	701,623	35
Linton (2 collieries) .. ..	Nightcaps ..	Brown ..	115,334	614,639	160
Wairaki (2 collieries) .. ..	" ..	" ..	52,809	326,926	110
Mossbank (2 collieries) .. ..	" ..	" ..	49,640	263,882	74
147 other collieries .. ..	All coalfields ..	Various ..	428,630	6,781,022	959
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c.	Various ..	" ..	..	23,671,249	..
Totals .. .. .	..	..	2,535,864	71,298,699	5,497

## SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1929.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern .. .. .	227	699	926
West Coast .. .. .	768	2,264	3,032
Northern .. .. .	375	1,164	1,539
Totals, 1929 .. .. .	1,370	4,127	5,497
Totals, 1928 .. .. .	1,366	4,010	5,376