

VI. STONE-QUARRY INSPECTION AND STATISTICS.

By section 2 of the Stone-quarries Amendment Act, 1920, the application of the Stone-quarries Act, 1910, 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. The Act also applies to any tunnel in the construction of which explosives are used, but it 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 Act, also the number of persons ordinarily employed thereat, and the annual output and value of crude stone during 1931 :—

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	162	942	Tons. 436,015	Tons. ..	Tons. 10,988	Tons. 56,049	Tons. 148,961	Tons. ..	Tons. ..	£ 131,902
	J. F. Downey, Mines Dept., Waihi (Hauraki Mining District only)	16	89	72,309	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,405
Hawke's Bay	James Newton, Mines Dept., Auckland	34	141	30,975	..	..	15,831	..	..	..	9,877
Taranaki ..	Ditto	10	50	24,366	..	..	2,900	..	..	..	10,757
Wellington	"	39	219	81,084	..	..	8,847	..	..	2,848	26,279
Nelson ..	E. J. Scoble, Mines Dept., Reefton	18	180	16,017	22,167	62	6,066	36,879	..	1,730	17,547
Westland ..											
Marlborough	T. McMillan, Mines Dept., Dunedin	39	374	210,915	98,325	1,082	81,466	40,407	..	..	97,599
Canterbury											
Otago ..											
Southland ..											
Totals, 1931	..	318	1,995	871,681	120,492	12,132	171,159	226,247	..	4,578	316,366
Totals, 1930	..	318	1,958	1,107,033	126,649	3,696	204,811	299,848	..	31,204	413,291

There were 37 more men employed than during the previous year, but a decrease in the value of the stone produced of £96,925.

QUARRY ACCIDENTS.

The following is a summary of serious accidents during 1931 at quarries under the Stone-quarries Act :—

Cause.							Number of Accidents.		Number of Sufferers.	
							Fatal.	Serious.	Killed.	Seriously injured.
Haulage ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Machinery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2
Falls of ground ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	1	5

Accounts of the accidents are given in the District Inspectors' reports attached hereto.

VII. STATE AID TO MINING.

(1) SUBSIDIZED PROSPECTING.

Upon subsidized prospecting operations 278 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 :—