

From the West Coast coal-mines the output was 60,625 tons less than during 1932, and from those in the Southern District the output increased by 20,404 tons. Many men had to be dismissed in West Coast and Southland mines, and the work concentrated in sections where the best and cheapest coal could be won.

In all districts the steadily decreasing demand for coal could be supplied from a much smaller number of mines than are being operated. Competition is very keen and many of the small West Coast mines had to be closed. Most of the others were worked for about half-time only.

The coal trade of New Zealand is, of course, not unique in finding itself with an excessive productive capacity. Sir Ernest A. Gowers, Chairman of the British Coal-mines Reorganization Commission in a recent speech said,—

“There was no room for doubt that the long era of easy expansion of the coal industry was over. There was no prospect that even in the best of times markets could be found for anything like the total possible production.

“On every side attempts were made to supersede *laissez-faire* with what was, at first, called rationalization, and then planning. The common feature of these schemes was that they moved away from unrestricted competition to co-operation.

“They were of two main types. One was the amalgamating type and the other the federating type.

“In respect to the coal-mining industry what was the proper form of organization?”

During the past year a compressed-air-driven coal-cutter, weighing only 16 cwt., was introduced into one of the larger of the Southern mines, and the use of coal-cutters is extending in the Waikato field.

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 1933.	Total Output to 31st December, 1933.	Total Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Hikurangi	Hikurangi ..	Sub-bituminous	Tons. 43,166	Tons. 544,966	143
Rotowaro	Huntly ..	Brown ..	94,858	1,819,129	179
Pukemiro .. .. .	.. .. .	.. ..	69,370	2,132,051	138
Wilton	Glen Massey ..	.. ..	97,100	221,226	246
Glen Afton	Glen Afton ..	.. ..	44,315	1,474,992	93
MacDonald	Waikokowai ..	.. ..	77,936	269,563	119
Renown .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	109,129	432,520	169
Egmont	Tangarakau ..	.. ..	15,056	79,319	31
<i>West Coast District.</i>					
Westport-Stockton	Ngakawau ..	Bituminous ..	104,909	3,112,227	283
Millerton	Millerton ..	.. ..	31,140	8,238,400	74
Denniston	Denniston ..	.. ..	116,739	10,330,055	386
Cardiff Bridge	Seddonville ..	.. ..	17,665	249,964	15
Paparoa	Roa ..	Semi-bituminous	27,319	737,492	37
Blackball	Blackball ..	Bituminous ..	35,980	3,987,500	81
Blackball Creek .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	19,154	44,257	42
Liverpool (State)	Rewanui ..	.. ..	94,780	2,478,413	328
James (State)	Rapahoe ..	Sub-bituminous	32,910	371,907	74
Dobson	Dobson ..	Bituminous ..	57,999	633,706	170
Wallsend	Brunnerton ..	.. ..	50,905	474,652	131
<i>Southern District.</i>					
Kaitangata (2 collieries)	Kaitangata ..	Brown ..	111,186	5,103,584	287
Linton (2 collieries)	Ohai ..	.. ..	54,187	928,555	109
Black Lion .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	20,918	104,938	30
Mossbank (2 collieries) .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	29,208	417,998	65
Birchwood No. 2 .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	24,200	132,366	55
192 other collieries	All coalfields ..	Various ..	441,129	10,228,013	1,101
Collieries abandoned or suspended, &c. ..	Various ..	.. ..	..	25,114,034	..
Totals .. .. .	.. ..	.. ..	1,821,258	79,661,827	4,386

SECTION II.—PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Inspection District.	Average Number of Persons employed during 1933.		
	Above Ground.	Below Ground.	Total.
Southern	282	667	949
West Coast	571	1,493	2,064
Northern	339	1,034	1,373
Totals, 1933	1,192	3,194	4,386
Totals, 1932	1,257	3,379	4,636