THE COAL RESOURCES OF TASMANIA

Introduction

There is no authentic record of the early history of coal mining but the available evidence points to the first discovery of coal at Saltwater River on Tasman Peninsula. This discovery was followed by active production, the coal being conveyed to Hobart for domestic uses, but operations were suspended when the penal settlement was abandoned about 67 years ago. In 1824, coal was discovered in the cliffs of South Cape Bay and, in succeeding years, deposits were located in southern, central, eastern, northern and north-western parts of the State. A large coal potential was soon established but the non-location of recognised commercial gas and coking coals and the development of other means for power have retarded the growth of the industry.

The rapid development of hydro-electric schemes and the progressive extension of transmission lines to places remote from the points of power generation and even to producing collieries have limited the development of coal mining to an extent that would be less apparent in countries not benefited in the same degree for hydro-power development.

The major coalfields occur in the eastern part of the State where they are widely distributed but commercial development has been restricted to localities favoured by transport facilities or higher coal qualities.

The bulk of the mined coal is of the semi-bituminous variety. Lower grades are relatively high in ash but the moisture and sulphur contents are low and, in the presence of favourable heating values, the ash disadvantage has been relieved bu suitably designed furnace equipment. The lower quality coal carries 20 to 25 per cent of ash and has a calorific value ranging in the order of 10,000 to 10,500 B.T.U's. In the higher grade coal the ash content falls to the region of 10 per cent and the calorific value approaches 13,000 B.T.U's.

Bituminous coal of low ash content and high calorific value occurs in some districts but is marred by narrow seams and a relatively high sulphur content.

Reserves of coal are large and the capacity production greatly exceeds the current output.

Geological Occurrence

The coal seams in Tasmania occur in the Permo-Carboniferous, the Triassic, and the Tertiary systems. These rocks are horizontally bedded or have low angles of dip, having been affected by block faulting and tilting without any folding. The base upon which they rest consists of highly faulted and folded Lower Palaeozoic and Proterozoic sedimentary rocks with intrusive and effusive igneous rocks.

The details of the coal-bearing systems are:

(a) Permo-Carboniferous System

The Permo-Carboniferous system of Tasmania possesses the same general characteristics of that system as developed in the Australian Continent. The Carboniferous System proper is absent, the lowest bed of the sedimentary system consisting of the basal glacial conglomera

ates of the Permo-Carboniferous. These conglomerates constitute the base of the Permo-Carboniferous wherever they occur in Tasmania, but there is a very great variation in their thickness in the various parts of the State, ranging from15 feet in the Mount Nicholas area to as much as 1,200 feet in the vicinity of Preolenna.

Conformably overlying this basal conglomerate is the Lower Marine Series of the Permo- Carboniferous. This consists of limestones, mudstones and mudstone conglomerates, and varies in thickness from 30 feet at Barn Bluff to a maximum of about 1,000 feet on the south-east coast. Succeeding this Lower Marine Series are sandstones and shales with associated coal seams as a typical freshwater series. This series, known as the Greta Coal Measures, also has a great variation in thickness, ranging from 30 feet at Barn Bluff and 140 feet at Preolenna to 850 feet at Bruny Island in the south. It is interesting to note that in certain localities this fresh-water series disappears, and some of these localities correspond to the Tasmanite shale areas, in which the tasmanite occurs as a marine deposit on the same geological horizon as the fresh-water series.

Conformably overlying the fresh-water series is the Upper Marine Series, which consists of mudstones and mudstone conglomerates and limestones. This series varies in thickness, being 50 feet at Preolenna, 970 feet at Barn Bluff, 100 feet at Mersey, 300 feet at Mount Nicholas, and 500 feet at Upper Derwent.

The Upper Marine Series passes upwards into fresh-water sandstones and shales with coal seams. This series corresponds to the Tomago or Newcastle Series of New South Wales. Its thickness varies considerably, and is 550 feet at Preolenna, 740 feet at Barn Bluff, 260 feet at Mount Nicholas, and 200 feet at Sandfly-Cygnet.

The total thickness of the Permo-Carboniferous System, therefore, throughout Tasmania varies within wide limits. The approximate thickness at various localities is as follows: 2,400 feet at Preolenna, 1,900 feet at Barn Bluff-Pelion, 500 feet at Mersey, 770 feet at Mount Nicholas, greater than 110 feet at Upper Derwent, greater than 550 feet at New Town, greater than 1,900 feet at Bruny-Cygnet.

The rocks of this system show no signs of folding, being either horizontal or having a dip seldom exceeding 25^0 or 30^0. The structure is that of discontinuous blocks at elevations rising to 3,000 feet above sea-level. These blocks have reached their present positions through the effect of the upthrust of the diabase or through subsequent post-diabase block faulting.

(b) Triassic System

The Triassic System appears to conformably overlie the Permo-Carboniferous, but evidence of a disconformity has been obtained in certain localities. The basal member of the system consists throughout the whole of the island of grit or fine-grained conglomerate, varying in thickness from 1 foot to 50 feet.

The basal grit is conformably succeeded by the Ross sandstones. These are distinctly siliceous sandstones, characterised by the presence of white mica. They are white to yellowish-brown in colour and are of fresh-water origin. This series varies in thickness from 200 feet in the Mount Nicholas area and 700 feet in the Midlands to 1,350 feet in the vicinity of Hobart.

Conformably overlying this series is the felspathic sandstone series, consisting of felspathic sandstones, shales, mudstones and coal seams. It is wholly of fresh-water origin. The total thickness of this series, which contains the most important coal seams in Tasmania, varies from 400 feet to 800 feet. The coal seams are associated with a shale zone occuring at about the middle of the series.

The felspathic sandstone series is in some places overlain by diabase, the presence of which has protected it from erosion. In other places, however, notably at Mt. Nicholas, an upper siliceous sandstone has been recognised, the greatest thickness exposed being 200 feet. This series has obviously been subjected to great denudation, and its complete thickness has nowhere been observed. The system, being conformable to the Permo-Carboniferous System, is naturally characterised by the same structural features as that system, namely, an absence of folding and a general horizontality of the beds within blocks thrown to varying levels during diabasic or Tertiary block faulting. Its distribution in Tasmania is that of isolated blocks, separated in most cases by masses of diabase.

(c) Tertiary System

The only development of importance of Tertiary sedimentary rocks in Tasmania is that of some isolated patches of lacustrine sediments, such as soft sandstones, clays, ferruginous mudstones, sands and lignites. This rock series is most characteristically developed in the Launceston Tertiary basin, which has an area of approximately 600 square miles. The maximum thickness of the system in this locality is 900 feet. The series is horizontal and remains undisturbed in the original position in which it was deposited. The lignite or brown coal beds occur near the base of the system and do not exceed a few feet in thickness. Much smaller areas of similar sediments occur in the Upper Derwent on the north-west coast and in Macquarie Harbour. In each of these localities lignites or brown coals are developed, but the maximum thickness in any case does not exceed 10 feet.

Other geological features closely associated with the coal measures and which have a direct and important bearing on the coalfields and their exploitation are the intrusions of Mesozoic diabase and faulting. These two features are often intimately associated with one another.

(d) Mesozoic Diabase (Dolerite) and Faulting

Diabase (or dolerite) occupies a considerable part of the surface of Tasmania. It intrudes the Triassic and all older rocks but reaches its maximum development in the Permo-Carboniferous and Triassic Systems. In these rocks it assumes the form of huge irregular sills. The upper surface of these sills is particularly irregular, and numerous transgressive bodies of different sizes extend vertically from it and penetrate the overlying strata.

Where the intruded and overlying strata have been removed by denudation, the diabase intrusions below have become exposed. The effect is that there exist numerous areas of the coal measures separated by diabase. These areas are often entirely surrounded by the diabase, and also underlain by it.

The coal measures have been largely affected by normal block faulting. The relative vertical displacement along the faults ranges from a small amount in the case of the minor faults to from 1,900 to 2,000 feet in the case of the major ones. The majority of the faults have a

general meridional trend, but numerous transverse faults also occur.

In many cases the transgressive diabase intrusions are intimately associated with faulting in the sense that the intrusions must have followed fault planes developed synchronously with them. The strata on the two sides of a diabase intrusion may represent differences in the altitude of the same geological horizon ranging up to 2,000 feet.

Geographical Distribution

The majority of the coalfields of Tasmania occur in the eastern and south eastern parts of the State. The coalfields not occurring in these parts are located in the north western portion of the central plateau, in the north western part of the State, and at the north-western extremity of the Midlands plain. Coal is apparently absent from the western and south-western parts of the State.

It was thought that coalfields extended continuously down the east coast from Mount Nicholas to Tasman Peninsula, but extended investigations by the Geological Survey have proved that the region is not continuously coal-bearing, but contains numerous small and isolated coalfields. The same features of isolated fields characterise the region ofrom Hobart to Catamaran and South-east Cape.

Isolated coalfields occur throughout the Midlands and the South Esk Valley.

(a) Permo-Carboniferous System

The number of seams in this system ranges up to four at least. They occur on two horizons corresponding to the Greta and Tomago of New South Wales.

The largest number of seams occurs in the Preolenna Coalfields, where four exist in the Greta Series and at least one in the Tomago. The thickness ranges up to 2 feet.

One or two seams occur in other fields, e.g. one at Barn Bluff, two at Mount Pelion, Mersey Valley, and Mount Cygnet. In the Mersey Valley the seams are 18 to 24 inches thick, and at Mount Cygnet 1 to 3 feet.

(b) Triassic System

These coals are found in the eastern Midlands and south-eastern parts and form the principal portion of the reserves of the State.

The maximum number of seams in this system is eight. These are present in the east coast fields where the maximum number can generally be regognised. They probably also occur in the fields of south-eastern Tasmania, but cannot be so readily detected. The range in thickness is from 1 to 16 feet (including bands, etc.) and the seams as mined usually range from 3 to 8 feet thick.

(c) Tertiary System

The Tertiary coals occur at numerousllocalities but their known thickness does not exceed 10 feet and little attention has been paid to them. They are all of the brown coal or lignite type.

Reserves

In the absence of forward programmes of exploration to determine reserves, proved reserves are limited to small areas in the immediate vicinity of mine workings and the calculable volume is not large.

Probable reserves are large when estimated on information available from mines, bores and the geological structure.

Total reserves based on the scheme adopted by the Twelfth International Geological Congress in 1913 are:-

Actual .. .. 123,000,000 tons
Probable .. .. 121,000,000 tons
Possible .. .. Small to large.

In a review of coal available for industrial purposes, in 1921, the Geological Survey produced the following tabulation of proximate reserves:-

Coalfield	Coal Seams		Extent	Quantity Available for Profitable Extraction under present Economic Conditions
	Number of Seams	Aggregate Thickness ft.	Area in Acres	Tons
Mount Nicholas	2	9	4,300	54,200,000
Fingal	3	11	1,700	26,400,000
Dalmayne	3	15	700	14,750,000
Douglas River	1	4	460	2,150,000
Mount Paul	1	6	640	4,585,000
Denison River	1	2	450	1,055,000
York Plains	1	3	40	140,500
Colebrook	2	4.75	250	1,390,000
Avoca	4	18	160	2,430,000
Catamaran	2	7	230	1,090,000
Sandfly	6	17	800	5,185,000
Cygnet	2	3.9	280	700,000
Lawrenny	4	10	250	2,680,000
Mersey	1	1.8	450	133,000
Longford	2	7	45	147,000
Buckland	3	9	40	282,000
Preolenna	4	6.5	760	4,895,000
Barn Bluff	2	2.75	5,000	8,800,000
Total	-	-	-	131,620,500

Modification of estimates would necessarily follow altering industrial conditions and expansion or contraction of seams and areas available for exploitation.

Production from 1922 to 1944 inclusive, has been:

Coalfield	Tons
Mount Nicholas	2,128,949
Fingal	28,953
Dalmayne	9,711
Seymour	6,213
York Plains	18,723
Avoca	72,158
Catamaran	115,667
Sandfly	13,921
Cygnet	1,243
Strathblane	271
Lawrenny	12,692
Mersey	92,610
Preolenna	973
Total	2,502,084

Analyses and General Characteristics

The characteristics of the coal depend principally upon the system of rocks from which it is derived, or in other words, as to whether it is a Permo-Carboniferous, Triassic or Tertiary coal. In addition, there are differences in the coal from different seams in the one system and even in the one seam from place to place.

(a) Permo-Carboniferous Coals.

These occur at Barn Bluff, Preolenna, Mersey district and Mount Cygnet. The coals are generally of the bituminous type, with a tendency towards the variety known as cannel. They contain in the former two districts lenses of more typical cannel coal or oil shales known as pelionite and kerosene shale. In the Mersey district the coals are more typically bituminous. In the Mount Cygnet district the coals have been somewhat metamorphosed and are now of semi-anthracitic types.

Typical analyses are:-

Analyses of Permo-Carboniferous Coals

	Moisture	Volatile Matter	Fixed Carbon	Ash	Sulphur
Preolenna	1.52	32.46	52.30	13.72	5.87
Illamatha	8.60	42.92	41.40	7.08	4.81
Tarleton	10.42	43.02	42.56	4.00	3.48
Mount Cygnet	1.10	10.36	66.04	22.50	0.41

The outstanding feature of the analyses of the coals from Northern Tasmania are their relatively low ash content, their high content of volatile matter and correspondingly low fixed carbon content, and their high content (4 per cent. to 5 per cent) of sulphur.

Calorific Value:

The calorific values (gross) are:-

Preolenna - 12,204 B.T.U.; Illamatha - 12,370 B.T.U.; Tarleton - 12,360 B.T.U.; and Mount Cygnet - 11,336 B.T.U.

Except for the disability of a relatively high sulphur content and excluding Mount Cygnet, the coals are well suited for steam-raising, gas-making and domestic purposes.

(b) Triassic Coals

These coals are generally of one type - the semi-bituminous - but show variations from district to district. In a few districts, e.g. York Plains, the coals approach the anthracite type but with a large ash content.

Analysis:

The range of analysis of the usual type isP- Moisture - 1 to 4 per cent; volatile matter - 18 to 30 per cent; fixed carbon - 42 to 60 per cent; ash - 9 to 30 per cent; and sulphur - 0.2 to 0.6 per cent.

The semi-anthracitic types have the content of volatile matter as low as 8 per cent and the fixed carbon as high as 65 per cent.

Calorific Value:

The calorific value ranges from 9,100 B.T.U. to 13,190 B.T.U. (gross).

Uses:

The coal is generally non-coking which restricts its value for gas-making. The ash content is rather high, but in spite of this the calorific value is fairly high, and the coal is, therefore, suitable for steam-raising purposes and hop-kiln practices.

The coals have ignition points from 125°C upwards, over 60 per cent being over 150°C. They are, therefore, safe under dangerous conditions and could be used in the pulverised form. The best results would probably be obtained from the coal in this form.

(c) Tertiary Coals.

These are all of the brown coal or lignite type.

Analysis of Tertiary Coals

	Moisture	Volatile Matter	Fixed Carbon	Ash
Macquarie Harbour	20.8	33.45	33.5	12.25
Rosevale, West Tamar	15.1	39.1	29.2	16.6

Calorific values have not been determined.

Uses:

The brown coals might have similar uses to those of, say, Victoria, but the thinness of the seams has not encouraged investigation.

Development

In the majority of coalfields the seams outcrop at the surface in country of high relief. This permits of the coal being worked by adits or dip-adits, with consequent economy in haulage, drainage, etc., and, therefore, low cost of extraction. With few exceptions, all working mines are using this method of mining.

In a few districts the seams occur below the surface in country of low relief, where shaft mining would have to be used.

Timber suitable for mining purposes is usually abundant in the coal districts.

Working Mines and Present Production

The principal mines, together with their production for 1944, are:-

Tasmanian Coal Mines Showing Production for 1944

Mine	Tons	Value
Cornwall	83,811	67,339
Jubilee	18,125	16,660
Mount Nicholas	16,299	13,038
Stanhope	7,861	8,883
Fingal	3,154	1,476
Langloh	6,640	6,640
Dalmayne	2,330	1,463
Illamatha	1,874	2,563
Aberdeen	804	1,027
York Plains	781	1,170
Tarleton	589	802
Mount Christie	825	804
Sandfly	520	776
Black Beauty	28	32
	143,641	122,673

Markets and Chief Uses

Proximity to Markets:

At the present time the most important power markets are in the vicinity of Hobart and Launceston. The largest coalfields are not situated adjacent to these cities; nevertheless, the distances are not excessive. The actual distance by railway, road etc. to the nearest market would be from 25 to 85 miles.

Chief Uses:

The bulk of the coal produced in Tasmanian mines is used for general steam-raising purposes, the State Railways being the principal consumers. During the twelve months ended October 31st, 1944, Tasmanian railway systems used 76,413 tons of coal of which 50,397 tons was mined in Tasmania.

Other prominent users of Tasmanian coal during the same period were Paper Manufacturers, 21,147 tons; Carbide and Metal Production plants 17,053 tons; Cement and Brick works 15,649 tons; Textile factories 11,641 tons and Food processing plants 8,837 tons.

Notes on Mines

The Mount Nicholas group of mines (Cornwall, Mount Nicholas, and Jubilee), in 1944, produced 118,235 tons of coal of a total State production of 143,641 tons.

Those mines have always been the principal producers. Reserves are not known with any degree of accuracy but are adequate for long-term production and have been assumed to exceed 50,000,000 tons. The mines are partly mechanised, are generally well equipped and are capable of greatly increased outputs.

Except in the case of small mines working narrow seams on modified longwalling the bord and pillar system of mining is applied in Tasmanian collieries.

TABLE SHOWING PRODUCTION OF COAL FROM THE VARIOUS COLLIERIES DURING THE YEARS 1921-1944 INCLUSIVE

Area	Mine	Production (tons)
Mt. Nicholas area	Mt. Nicholas Coal Mining Company N.L.	566,923
Mt. Nicholas area	The Cornwall Coal Company	1,222,155
Mt. Nicholas area	Jubilee Coal Company	339,871
Mt. Nicholas area	Silkstone Collieries	Nil
Fingal area	Fingal Coal Mine	28,953
Dalmayne Area	Dalmayne Coal Mine	9,711
Seymour Area	Seymour Coal Mines	6,213
Douglas River Area	-	Nil
Steep Creek Area	-	Nil
Mt. Paul Area	-	Nil
Fosbrook Area	-	Nil
Schouten Island Area	-	Nil
Triabulla Area	-	Nil
Buckland Area	-	Nil
Prosser Plains Area	-	Nil
Saltwater River Area	-	Nil
Sandfly Area	Sandfly Coal Mine	13,921
Mt. Cygnet Area	Mt. Cygnet Coal Mine	1,169
Mt. Cygnet Area	Gordons Coal Mine	74
Mt. Cygnet Area	Heaney Mine	Nil
Bruny Island Area	-	Nil
Strathblane Area	Strathblane Coal Mine	271
Strathblane Area	Hastings Coal Mine	Nil
Catamaran Area	Catamaran Coal Mine	115,667
South Cape Area	-	Nil
Ida Bay Area	-	Nil
Lawrenny Area	Lawrenny (Langloh) Mine	12,692
Macquarie Plains Area	-	Nil
Plenty Area	-	Nil
Colebrook Area	Tasma Mine	Nil
Colebrook Area	Jerusalem Mine	Nil
Richmond Area	-	Nil
York Plains Area	York Plains Coal Mine	18,723
Mt. Christie Area	Mt. Christie Coal Mine	3,033
Mt. Christie Area	Buena Vista Coal Mine	Nil
Mt. Christie Area	Stanhope Coal Mine	69,022
Mt. Christie Area	Excelsior Coal Mine	103
Ben Lomond Area	-	Nil
Merrywood Area	-	Nil
Lewis Hill Area	-	Nil

Area	Mine	Production (tons)
Mersey Area	Sp reyton Coal Mine	1,006
Mersey Area	Illamatha Coal Mine	27,801
Mersey Area	Tarleton Coal Mine	11,289
Mersey Area	Aberdeen Coal Mine	22,925
Mersey Area	Alfred Coal Mine	Nil
Mersey Area	Denison Coal Mine	Nil
Mersey Area	Sherwood Coal Mine	Nil
Mersey Area	Mersey Coal Mine	Nil
Mersey Area	Don Coal Mine	Nil
Mersey Area	Dulverton Coal Mines	29,589
Georgetown Area	-	Nil
Preolenna Area	Preolenna Coal Mines	800
Preolenna Area	S. W. Margetts Coal Mine	Nil
Preolenna Area	Muenna (Torbanhill) Coal Mine	173

COAL PRODUCTION FROM THE VARIOUS COALFIELDS OF TASMANIA

The Mt. Nicholas-Fingal-Dalmayne Coalfield

Mt. Nicholas Coal Mining Company N.L.

Active operations commenced during the year 1888. Although no early records of production are available, it is estimated that during the years 1888-1901 the average yearly output was 20,000 tons. From 1902-1944, 1,097,289 tons of coal were won, making the total output from the commencement of operations to the 31st December, 1944, 1,377,289 tons.

Cornwall Coal Company

The Cornwall Colliery was opened up in the year 1886, and up to 1920, 829,556 tons of coal were won. Production from 1921-1944 is shown at 1,222,155 tons, making a total output of 2,051,711 tons from the inception of mining to the 31st December, 1944.

Jubilee Coal Company

The Jubilee coal was discovered during the year 1887, and the first recorded production was in 1901. From that year to the 31st December, 1919, 1,436 tons of coal were won; 713 tons of this quantity was taken from the old Cardiff workings. The total production of the Jubilee Colliery from the inception to the 31st December, 1944 was 342,595 tons.

Silkstone Collieries

The only recorded production from the silkstone properties, other than a few trucks of coal taken as bulk samples, was in 1920 when 136 tons were produced.

Fingal Coal Mine

The first record of production from the Fingal Coal Mine was in 1922, and from that year to the 31st December, 1944, 28,953 tons of coal were won.

Dalmayne Coal Mine

The only recorded production of coal from Dalmayne is shown during the years 1939 to 31st December, 1944, that is 9,711 tons.

The Seymour-Douglas River-Denison River-Mt. Paul Coalfield

Seymour Coal Mine

Although work was being carried out during the year 1884, there is no record of early production from this mine. Office records, during the years 1924-1931 inclusive, show a total of 6,213 tons.

Douglas-Denison and Mt. Paul

Except for a few tons of coal taken, from time to time, as samples for testing purposes, no coal has been produced from this field.

Swansea-Schouten Island Coalfield

No recorded production.

Triabunna-Buckland Coalfield

No recorded production.

Tasman Peninsula Coalfield

Saltwater River

The coal bed was discovered in 1834, and it is estimated that 60,000 tons of coal has been produced from this area; no official records available.

Sandfly-Cygnet Coalfield

Sandfly Coal Mine

The Sandfly Coal Mine commenced operations in 1881. Early production figures are not available, and it is estimated that up to 1920, 20,500 tons of coal had been won. From 1921 to 1944 a total of 13,921 tons of coal is recorded, making a total output from inception to 31st December 1944 of 34,421 tons. The mine was idle during the years 1921-1933.

Mt. Cygnet Coal Mine

Estimated production to 1920 is 70,000 tons. During the year 1921, 1,169 tons of coal were produced. No further coal has been won.

Heaney Coal Mine

The only production from this mine is an estimated output of 2,000 tons of coal up to 1920.

Gordon's Coal Mine

The only production of coal from this mine was during the years 1939-1940 when 74 tons of coal were produced.

Bruny-Strathblane-Catamaran Coalfield

Bruny Island

No records have been kept of the production from Bruny Island. The total amount would not exceed 20,000 tons.

Strathblane Coal Mine

Coal was discovered at Strathblane about the year 1910. Up to 1920 only a few hundred tons of coal had been shipped from this mine. The coal was obtained in

the exploratory works carried on, from time to time, and was sufficient only for testing purposes. The only subsequent output was during the years 1929, 1932 and 1933 which amounted to 271 tons.

Catamaran Coal Mine

The discovery of coal at Catamaran dates back to 1900. The first recorded production was in 1905, from which year to 1918 the amount of coal won is shown as 3,527 tons. From 1919-39, when the mine closed down, 115,667 tons of coal was produced making a total production of 119,194 tons from this mine.

New Town Coalfield

No production.

Upper Derwent Coalfield

Lawrenny (Langloh) Coal Mine

Up to the year 1937 only a few tons of coal were taken for testing purposes. The output from 1938 to 31st December 1944 is 12,692 tons.

The Colebrook-Richmond Coalfield

Tasma Coal Mine

The mine has been worked for two short periods only and produced 2,737 tons of coal.

Jerusalem Mine

Considerable quantities of coal have been produced from this mine, but no records are available.

The York Plains Coalfield

York Plains Coal Mine

Small quantities of coal were produced prior to 1902, but no records are available. From 1902-1919 the output was 9,489 tons and from 1920-1944, 19,465 tons, making a total output from the mine, 28,954 tons of coal.

The Avoca Coalfield

Mt. Christie Mine

Mining operations commenced in 1904 and the output of coal up to 1920 was not more than 500 tons. The only other coal won from this mine was during the years 1940-1944, when an amount of 3,033 tons was produced.

Beuna Vista Coal Mine

No production.

Merrywood Coal Mine

No production to 1944.

Excelsior Coal Mine

One hundred and three tons of coal were produced during the years 1923-1931.

Stanhope Coal Mine

Active mining operations commenced in 1932 and the output of coal to 31st December 1944 is recorded at 69,022 tons.

The Mersey Coalfield

Spreyton Coal Mine

During the years 1911-1921 the output of coal was 8,044 tons. The only recorded production in subsequent years was between 1922-1924 and amounted to 1,006 tons of coal.

Illamatha Coal Mine

The recorded production of 7,790 tons of coal is shown for the years 1911-1921. The mine has been worked continuously from 1922 and produced 27,801 tons of coal.

Tarleton Coal Mine

The Tarleton Coal Mine commenced operations in 1931 and up to 31st December 1944 produced 11,289 tons of coal.

Dulverton Mines

A number of small mines working in this district during the years 1921-1944 have produced 29,589 tons of coal.

Aberdeen Coal Mine

The Aberdeen Coal Mine commenced operations in 1931 and up to 31st December 1944 produced 22,925 tons of coal.

The Mersey Coalfield is situated in the North Western Mining Division and a number of small mines were opened up, from time to time, and after a short existence were closed down. The total coal produced from the North Western Mining Division from 1920-1944 is 88,941 tons.

The Preolenna Coalfield

Preolenna Coal Mine

Production to 1921 shows only a few hundred tons of coal raised for testing purposes. During the years 1923,1924 800 tons of coal were won.

Muenna Coal Mine

Muenna Mine also known as Torbanhill produced 173 t ons of coal during the years 1926-1931.

Summary

Coal production in the respective mining divisions during the years 1920-1944 inclusive, is shown as follows:

	Tons
Northern & Southern.. .. .	178,107
Eastern	2,407,366
North Western	88,941

Since the inception of Coal Mining in Tasmania to December 1944, the output is recorded at 4,557,756 tons.