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brokeshire, it amounted to only 8,500,000 tons for the year, or 13.1 per cent. of the total output of the United Kingdom. During the ensuing fifty years the output increased more than fivefold, having risen in 1904 to 43,730,000 tons (produced from 608 collieries), or 18.8 of the output of the United Kingdom, made up as follows :

	Tons.
Admiralty quality coals	18,000,000
Non-Admiralty steams	15,000,000
Cardiff dry steams	2,100,000
Bunker, house, gas and manufacturing coals	6,000,000
Anthracite	2,630,000
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Total output	43,730,000

The production of South Wales coal since that date, in periods, is as below :

	1913. Tons.	1916. Tons.	1925. Tons.
Bituminous coal, including Admiralty qualities	51,996,913	47,762,508	44,609,522
Anthracite	4,833,159	4,318,201	5,566,544
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	56,830,072	52,080,709	50,176,066

Since the Great War the number of persons employed in the Welsh coalfields has increased to its present total of some 250,000 men. With the exception of the United States, where, owing to various well-known causes, coal is more easily worked, the number of tons of coal raised per person in Wales is in excess of that of the collieries of any other country. The outstanding feature of the Welsh coalfields, however, is the great foreign trade which has sprung up in Welsh coal, bringing prosperity to those supplying the overseas demand, and which has, besides, virtually created the Bristol Channel ports, from which it is shipped, some of which have had an entry of as many as 250 vessels within a single week. The exports of South Wales coal, coke and patent fuel amounted in 1896 to 18,600,000 tons, and during the nine years ending 1904 increased to 26,000,000 tons. In 1925 the export was 22,686,691 tons, being 44 per cent. of the coal exported