

shaft that was put down at Brunner, will strike the Dobson Bluff seam again, where there is an apparent upthrow, remains yet to be proved. The whole of the coal from the Kaitangata Mine is of a bright black appearance, and makes a splendid household coal, burning away to a fine ash and keeps alight as long as any particles remain unconsumed.

The Castle Hill Colliery adjoins the Kaitangata Mine and belongs to an English company. The works have been several years in progress, but are now nearing completion. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 430ft., when a stratum of fine sand full of water was met with, which increased the cost and difficulty of sinking so much that all works were suspended in this direction, as it looked at that time that the coal was dipping at such a high inclination that the shaft would have had to be sunk to a great depth before reaching the coal. A dip-incline heading was then constructed, going back under the hill for a length of 2,100ft., on an inclination of 1 in 4½, where it struck the coal at a vertical depth of 460ft. below the level of the top of the shaft, and the mine is now being opened out from this both to the rise and to the dip towards the shaft, where it is expected to get a better quality of coal than was first cut at the end of the dip bending from the surface. A chamber with brick lining has been constructed below, in which is erected a large three-throw pump, which is worked with a flexible-wire-rope belt. The haulage, which is on the endless-rope system, is completed, and the air-shaft and ventilating-furnace have been constructed on the most modern system, and in a thorough substantial manner. The whole of the machinery and plant are of the best description, and well-erected and fitted up with all the most modern appliances in use at collieries. Shaking-screens have been erected to separate the coal into four different classes. A branch railway has been constructed to the Kaitangata line, and arrangement made with the Kaitangata Company to carry the coal on its railway to Stirling, where it joins on to the main line of railway from Dunedin to Invercargill. At the mine a large siding has been constructed for the storage of empty and full railway-wagons, with trappers and everything complete. When once the whole of the works are completed and the mine properly opened out a large output may be expected if the company can find a ready-market for the coal, which is of similar quality to that in the Kaitangata Mine, although it has not quite so bright an appearance. During the last year 9,275 tons of coal were raised, and sixty men were employed about the mine and works.

SOUTHLAND.

The Hokonui Mine is in the locality of Winton. The mine is worked from a dip-incline plane, but recently a bore has been put down with the view of testing the depth that will have to be sunk. The strata gone through in the bore is said to be a compact laminated mudstone, and fine layer of sand. The depth to the coal at this place is about 350ft. During the last year 12,690 tons of coal was raised, which is brown coal of a good quality, and finds a ready market in Southland for household and industrial purposes.

The only other mine in the district is the Nightcaps, where the output has been over 10,000 tons for the year. It has been worked now for a considerable number of years, with a fair output. The coal is of fair quality and of a good thickness for working. During the past year 10,738 tons were raised, and there were twenty-eight men employed.

The following statement will show the mines in the colony where the output has exceeded 9,000 tons for the past year, with the number of men employed in and about the mines, and the average output for every man employed :—

Name of Mine.	Output for Year 1894.	Number of Men employed.	Average Out- put per Man for the Year.
	Tons.		Tons.
Westport Colliery	215,770	336	642
Grey Valley Brunner	121,185	308	393
Kaitangata	67,091	173	388
Taupiri Extended	30,426	61	498
Blackball	27,060	96	282
Allandale	19,442	41	474
Walton Park	19,282	53	364
Shag Point	15,082	89	169
Taupiri Reserve	13,877	42	330
Kiripaka	13,655	32	427
Hokanui	12,690	32	397
Hikurangi	11,801	24	491
Waikato	11,278	29	388
Nightcaps	10,738	28	383
Mokihinui	10,742	59	182

It is evident from the output and the number of men employed at the Shag Point and Mokihinui Mines that a large amount of dead work has been done, either in the construction of new works or in the development of the mine.