

BLACKBALL COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.—This colliery was taken over by the State Coal-mines on 7th July, 1941, and the total gross output from that date to 31st March, 1942, was 25,950 tons 3 cwt. After making allowances for coal used on works, there remained for disposal 25,772 tons 13 cwt., which is accounted for as follows :—

	Tons	cwt.	qr.
Shipped	11,754	1	0
Railed Canterbury	4,298	1	0
Local sales	5,966	15	0
Mine sales	221	0	0
Sales to workmen, and free issues	311	0	0
Stock in bin and yard	3,170	5	0
Stock on wharf	51	11	0
	25,772	13	0
Used on works	177	10	0
Waste .. .. .	..	..	..
	25,950	3	0

During the period 7th July, 1941, to 31st March, 1942, the mine worked on 148 days. The possible working-days, excluding Saturdays, was 192. The difference between the days worked and the possible working-days is accounted for as follows: 32 days, no orders; 3 days, flooding in mine; 1 day, burnt-out motor; 7 days, Christmas holidays; 1 day, Labour Day.

Employees.—In connection with coal-winning, the average number of persons employed in and about the mine was 82 men and 3 boys, made up as follows—Underground: Hewers, 31; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 27. On the surface: 24 men and 3 boys.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure in connection with coal-winning for wages, stores, mine timber, and compensation, &c., amounted to £28,818.

Coal-hewers' Average Daily Earnings.—The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) were £2 3s. 4d. per day, and after deducting stores (explosives) their net return was £1 19s. 3d.

Daily Output.—The average daily output was 175 tons 7 cwt. and the coal-hewers' average daily output was 5 tons 19 cwt.

Deficiencies.—The total amount paid under the minimum-wage clause was £20 9s. 5d.

Serious Accidents.—No accidents of a serious nature occurred at this colliery during the period 7th July, 1941, to 31st March, 1942.

Mine Workings, Main North Level.—During the period the main north level had been driven a distance of 600 ft. when the seam commenced to dip. Development was continued to a distance of 250 ft.

Development Work.—South Level: Development was temporarily stopped after the level was driven a distance of 770 ft. in a south and south-easterly direction.

Main Dip: The main dip has now been advanced a total distance of 300 ft. from the north level. The coal is of poor quality, and numerous breaks in the roof have allowed a considerable influx of water into the workings.

I have, &c.,

C. J. STRONGMAN, Superintendent.

REPORT ON THE NORTH ISLAND STATE COAL-MINES.

The DISTRICT MANAGER, State Coal-mines, Mangapehi, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department, Wellington.

SIR,—

23rd April, 1942.

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of the State coal-mines (North Island) for the year ended 31st March, 1942.

MANGAPEHI COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.—The gross output for the year was 40,826 tons 5 cwt., and after deducting mine consumption and waste and allowing for stock in bin at the 31st March there remained for disposal 38,859 tons 17 cwt. 2 qr., which is accounted for as follows :—

	Screened, House, Kitchen, &c.	Unscreened and Through.	Slack.	Total.
	Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.
Sales to Railway Department ..	13,647 6 3	18 19 0	..	13,666 5 3
Sales to depot and local sales ..	7,599 14 3	13 15 0	17,403 13 0	25,017 2 3
Sales to workmen, and free issues	176 9 0	..	..	176 9 0
	21,423 10 2	32 14 0	17,403 13 0	38,859 17 2
Used on works .. .. .	..	724 0 0	..	724 0 0
Waste .. .. .	..	1,182 7 2	..	1,182 7 2
Stock in bin .. .. .	..	60 0 0	..	60 0 0
	21,423 10 2	1,999 1 2	17,403 13 0	40,826 5 0

The total output from this colliery since taken over by the State Coal-mines is 53,965 tons 5 cwt.

During the year the mine worked on 235 days 5 hours out of a possible 249 days, excluding Saturdays and union holidays. The difference between the days worked and the possible working-days is accounted for as follows: 1 day, dispute *re* boardinghouse; 3 hours, dispute *re* drinking-water in mine; 2 days,