

Plant.—During the year considerable alterations have been made to the plant. The new concrete bin has been completed and is now in use. A new drive for the creeper and an extra 600 ft. "Reavell" compressor have been installed. A new electric haulage winch has been installed on the dip extension, and the main endless-rope haulage, which was at the top of the stone drive, has been installed at the bottom of the main shaft. A start has also been made to improve the auxiliary winding arrangements.

DOBSON COLLIERY

Coal-winning.—The gross output for the year was 61,875 tons 19 cwt. After allowing for waste (993 tons 9 cwt. 2 qr.) there remained for disposal a net output of 60,882 tons 9 cwt. 2 qr.

Taking into account the stocks on hand at the beginning and end of the year, the following statement shows details of the coal disposed of during the year :—

1st April, 1943—				Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.
Stock in bin and yard	..	..	..	949 9 2	
Stock on wharf	..	..	..	654 8 0	
					1,603 17 2
Add net output for year	..	..	..	..	60,882 9 2
					62,486 7 0
31st March, 1944—					
Less stock in bin and yard	..	..	..	550 7 2	
Less stock on wharf	..	..	..	501 19 0	
					1,052 6 2
Total disposed of	..	..	..	..	61,434 0 2

Disposals

	Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.
Shipped	41,025 19 0	
Railed to Canterbury, Otago, &c.	10,391 10 3	
Railway sales	5,071 14 0	
Local and mine sales	3,712 11 2	
Sales to workmen and free issues	1,005 15 2	
Used on works	226 9 3	
		61,434 0 2

The gross output from the colliery since it was taken over by the State Coal-mines totals 68,957 tons 6 cwt.

Days worked.—During the year the colliery worked on 263 days. The possible working-days, including 15 back Saturdays, were 277. The difference between the days worked and the possible working-days is accounted for as follows : 1 day, Good Friday ; 1 day, Easter Monday ; 1 day, account fall of stone in main drive ; 1 day, account shortage of water for compressor ; 1 day, union meeting ; 1 day, dispute *re* recalling to camp of furlough men from mines ; 8 days, Christmas holidays.

Employees.—In connection with coal-winning, the average number of persons employed in and about the mine was 181 men and 4 boys, made up as follows—Underground : Coal-hewers, 57 ; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 96. Surface : 28 men and 4 boys.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure in connection with coal-winning for wages, stores, mine timber, and compensation, together with cost of fuel used on works and subsidies on railway tickets, amounted to £89,073.

Coal-hewers' Average Daily Earnings.—The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) were £2 0s. 1d. per day, and after deducting stores (explosives) their net return was £1 17s. 8d.

Daily Output.—The average daily output was 235 tons 5 cwt. and the coal-hewers' average daily output was 4 tons 18 cwt.

Deficiencies.—The total amount paid under the minimum-wage clause was £324 6s. 8d.

Accidents.—There were no serious accidents at the Dobson Colliery during the year.

Underground Workings.—All coal in this mine is being won from developing places.

Main Dip Section : Towards the end of the year the main dip development struck very irregular and disturbed country and was stopped.

No. 4 West Level Section : This section is nearing the Dobson or other fault.

No. 4 East : This section has been completed, and development in No. 5 East is rapidly approaching the steep rise towards Mount Buckley.

Plant.—The main endless haulage system has been extended to No. 5 level.

I have, &c.,

J. HADCROFT, Deputy-Superintendent.