

REEFTON DISTRICT

Alborn's Mine (previously Archer's), Capleton.—Pillar-extraction was carried out by three pairs of miners in the vicinity of the fault located to the south-east of the main dip. The east level was driven 8 chains from the main dip and across the lower side of Doran's old mine in 9 ft. of good coal.

Kleen Mine (Archer Brothers), Capleton.—The output was won from pillar-extraction in Nos. 4 and 6 rise levels in a vertical seam situated to the south-east of the main drive. No. 4 seam is being operated here in good-quality coal of an average thickness of 12 ft.

Coghlan's Freehold Mine, Capleton.—Coal-production was carried on throughout the year from extraction of pillars to the rise of the main level.

Waitahu Mine (A. D. Williams), Reefton.—During the year the coal-production was won from pillar-extraction to the rise of the main level and further development of two main levels to the north.

McKinlay's Mine (Waitahu Lease), Reefton.—Pillar-extraction was continued throughout the year in the main horse level. The slant dip was advanced a distance of 300 ft. from the horse level. Three levels were branched off to the north, the distances respectively being: top, 6½ chains; middle, 7 chains; bottom, 2 chains. The height of coal is 7 ft. 3 in.

Lewis and Party (Waitahu Lease), Reefton.—Development of two levels to the north was continued, the whole of the output being won from this class of work.

Pyramid Mine (Morrisvale Lease), Reefton.—All coal was won from pillar-extraction from the bottom level, and it is estimated that another six months' work will exhaust the mine.

Pyramid New Mine (Crown Lease), Waitahu. The dip has been extended for a distance of 8 chains from the surface. The upcast shaft is now being driven. A "Korfman" coal-cutting machine is being used at this mine and is giving satisfactory results, also a four-stage "Reesroturbo" pump was installed and is working satisfactorily. The ventilation is secured by an electrically driven fan and the air conducted through air-pipes of 11 in. diameter. The height of coal was 12 ft. and of good quality.

Burke's Creek Mine, Reefton.—Pillar-extraction was continued in the slant dip section of No. 2 seam. Due to a heating in the goaf, this section was sealed off, and during the sealing operations the mine stopped coal-production for one month. Work was resumed in July, and the slant dip was driven 350 ft. on a gradient of 1 in 2 to prove the coal-seam below the present horse level. A quantity of coal was won from two drives opened up in No. 4 seam in the creek to the north of the Burke's Creek Mine. After driving 5 chains the coal thinned and the prospecting dip was driven 1 chain in favourable coal. Work was continued at the end of the year in this area.

Morrisvale Opencast Mine, Reefton.—In the early part of the year a new road 66 chains in length was constructed from Burke's Creek to Morrisvale Mine and No. 4 seam was opened up on the opencast system. The overburden was removed by a bulldozer and the coal handled by mechanical shovel.

Burnwell Mine (D. Hamill), Reefton.—During the first half of the year pillar-extraction in the main level section was completed and the area sealed off. Development work was continued to the end of the year in solid coal south-east of the main level.

Central Mine (D. Hamill), Reefton. This mine was originally known as the "Venture" Mine and was dewatered by means of a centrifugal pump. All roadways were cleaned up and a second outlet made to the surface for ventilation purposes. A small amount of development was carried out and a dip branched to the north of the main level. The coal averaged 12 ft. in thickness, 9 ft. of which was taken in the first working.

Terrace Mine, Reefton.—Development work was continued in three main levels and a crosscut. The former reached a total distance of 33 chains in coal. From one of these levels a level stone drive was driven and contacted No. 2 seam at a distance of 500 ft. At the point of intersection of the seam a downthrow fault was encountered with a displacement of 17 ft. Coal improved beyond this point, and it is the intention to drive to the surface in the No. 2 seam.

Defiance Mine, Murray Creek.—All the marketable coal having been recovered, the mine has closed down in the meantime. Prospecting was carried out on the surface and the coal-seam was located about 7 ft. thick.

Butler's Section.—In this section prospecting work was carried out in the solid area to the dip.

Clele Mine, Murrigys. The output was won from pillar-extraction in Nos. 1 and 2 sections.

Nicholls' Mine, Capleton.—One and a half pairs of miners were employed on development work in two levels driving along the barrier adjoining the Waitahu coal base. The coal is of good quality of an average height of 5 ft. 6 in.

Banks' Opencast Mine (A. E. Eklund), Waitahu.—Coal-production by the opencast method was commenced in March. A bulldozer is employed to remove the overburden, and the coal is loaded by hand. The seam has an average thickness of 20 ft. and the overburden averaged 12 ft. An average output of 100 tons per day was produced at this mine.

Star Mine (Lewis and Party), Murray Creek.—A small party commenced operations by the opencast method up Murray Creek. The overburden here is being taken off by means of water and the coal loaded by hand.

Royal Coal Syndicate, Raining Creek.—A small quantity of coal was won during the latter half of the year. Three places were opened up for coal-production.

BULLER DISTRICT

Mitchell's Mine, Charleston.—Opencast operations were continued intermittently throughout the year. An output of approximately 600 tons was produced.

Warne's Mine, Charleston. This mine produced approximately 800 tons of coal by opencast methods. A water-race was installed, and towards the end of the year was being utilized for removing overburden and fluming the coal from the mine to the storage bin.

Bowater and Bryan's Mine, Charleston.—Opencast operations produced approximately 9,500 tons of coal. At this mine stripping was carried out by bulldozer and the coal loaded by mechanical shovel.

Nile-Hydro Mine (J. Powell), Charleston. Opencast operations were extended during the latter half of the year at this mine, the height of working averaging 15 ft. and overburden 6 ft. The overburden is sluiced off and the coal conveyed by means of water flume to the storage bin.

Allan's Mine, Charleston.—An output of 6 tons of coal was produced.

Brighton Mine, Brighton.—Two men were employed on coal-production in the latter half of the year. A new storage bin is in process of erection near the main highway. It is the intention to flume the coal from the mouth of the drive to the storage bin.

Glencroy Mine, Buller Gorge.—The output from this mine was won from pillar-extraction and a small amount of development work adjacent to the outcrop.

Coal Creek Mine, Seddonville.—The output was won from development work in the old Taipo section, and opencast operations were carried out towards the end of the year at outcrops of the Lawrence section.

Cardiff Coal Co., Ltd., Mokihini.—Development work was completed, and the output thereafter was from pillar-extraction on the inbye side of the mine.

Hydro Coal-mines, Ltd., Seddonville.—The output was won from pillar-extraction.

Charming Creek Westport Coal Co., Ltd., Ngakawau.—Ten pairs of miners were employed steadily throughout the year. In the latter part of the year six pairs were employed on pillar-extraction in No. 2 east section and four pairs on development in No. 3 east section. On completion of pillar-extraction in No. 3 east section two pairs of miners were transferred to the north headings and development in that direction continued throughout the year. In the latter half of the year development of No. 3 west section was resumed, with four pairs of miners being constantly employed. An output of approximately 160 tons per day was won throughout the year. An extension of the surface locomotive tram-line by 30 chains resulted in a reduction in length of the underground haulage, and a transfer was made of all surface equipment to the new mine entrance.

Westport Cascade Mine, Cascade Creek.—The output was won from pillar-extraction in Moynihan's and Durkin's south sections and development work in Mill Creek section. The latter area was opened up and a panel of approximately 4 acres formed. The coal is of excellent quality with an average height of 30 ft.