

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

1st April, 1948—			Tons	cwt.	qr.	Tons	cwt.	qr.
Stock in bin and yard	..	..	534	10	0			
Stock on wharf	..	..	838	9	1			
						1,372	19	1
Add net output for year	..	..	82,300	0	0			
Add surplus stocks	..	..	1,150	0	0			
						83,450	0	0
						84,822	19	1
31st March, 1949—								
Less stock in bin and yard	..	..	153	19	3			
Less stock on wharf	..	..	580	3	3			
						734	3	2
Total disposed of	..	..				84,088	15	3

*Disposals*

	Tons	cwt.	qr.
Shipped	56,837	12	0
Railed to Canterbury, &c.	13,077	5	0
Railway sales	2,672	10	0
Local and mine sales	7,736	0	3
Sales to workmen and free issues	3,765	8	0
	84,088	15	3

The gross output from the colliery since its inception totals 898,626 tons 12 cwt.

*Days Worked.*—The colliery worked 213 days out of a possible 242 ordinary working-days. In addition, the colliery worked 2 substituted statutory holidays, making the total days worked 215. The difference between the ordinary days worked, 213, and the possible number of working-days is accounted for as follows: 5 days, deaths and funerals of workmen; 22 days, strike; 1 day, dispute *re* trucking by miners; 1 day, timbermen dispute.

*Employees.*—In connection with coal-winning, the average number of persons employed in and about the mine was 249 men and 5 boys, made up as follows—Underground: Coal-hewers, 70; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 118. Surface: 61 men and 5 boys.

*Coal-hewers' Average Daily Earnings.*—The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) were £3 15s. 9d., and after deducting stores (explosives) their net return was £3 11s. 9d., an increase of 1s. 8d. per day when compared with the previous period.

*Daily Output.*—The average daily output was 396 tons 4 cwt. and the coal-hewers' average daily output was 6 tons 1 cwt., as compared with 407 tons 17 cwt. and 6 tons 13 cwt. respectively for the previous year. The total number of hewer shifts for the year was 14,038.

*Deficiencies.*—The total amount paid under the minimum-wage clause was £518.

*Accidents.*—On 29th April a shiftman was caught by a moving truck, sustaining a fractured leg. On 7th February a trucker was struck by a fall of stone, causing severe injuries to his right leg necessitating amputation.

*Stone-dusting.*—Work under this heading was continued during the year. The total number of samples taken from the Strongman Colliery and analysed was 455.

*Underground Workings.*—Main East Heading: Main heading advanced 3 chains. The average thickness of the coal is 10 ft. There are three pairs of miners in this section.

South Sections: Five pairs of miners have been engaged developing towards the Bob Fault. Average thickness of coal, 9 ft.