

Saddle Hill No. 2 Colliery, Saddle Hill (Christie Bros., owners; Robert Hill, mine-manager).—(23/12/10): The creep which affected the far-in workings is still manifest, but, roof and floor having met, there is less cause for apprehension regarding longevity of the mine. Roadways are brushed in head coal, and pillars extracted as formerly. Some heating which had arisen in the crushed coal and fallen ground had been disposed of by filling the stuff away. Owing to the fan for ventilating purposes, there has been no difficulty with the ventilation of the mine-workings, which is and has been highly satisfactory. The mine is in good working-order, and care is exercised for prevention of accidents. Rules posted; plan and report-books kept to date.

Lauriston Colliery, Brighton (James Walker, owner; Robert Walker, permit, manager).—Workings in good order, and ventilation adequate. The seam to the rise is intercepted by the fault or "want," and coal is being stripped off the near side. So far no effort has been made to pierce the fault, there being a sufficiency of coal in view for present requirements.

Brighton Colliery, Brighton (D. L. McColl, owner; A. McColl, permit, manager).—The tunnel continues to give trouble, owing to side and roof pressure, and timber renewals require to be frequent. The new mine drive not yet begun is expected to be commenced shortly, and the old drive will then be used as a drain. Seam low, 4 ft. Working-places in safe condition. Ventilation good.

Waronui Colliery, Milton (Bruce Railway and Coal Company, owners; J. R. Wilson, general manager; James Carruthers, mine-manager).—(28/10/10): Ventilating-fan at 250 revolutions, circulating 16,625 cubic feet of air per minute, Wg. $1\frac{5}{16}$ in. The new easterly dip is in coal a distance of 750 ft.; seam, of good quality, is 18 ft. in thickness. A new electric plant is being laid down for dip pumping and haulage. The mine is in good order, and requirements of the Act are generally well observed.

Lakeside Coal-pit, Lovell's Flat (G. E. Royds, owner).—Pit worked for private and local requirements. Thirty tons produced during the year.

Taratu Colliery, Taratu (Taratu Coal and Railway Company, owners; G. R. Cheeseman, general manager; Thomas Shore, mine-manager).—(27/10/10): Ventilation good, and working-places in good order. The roof in dip-going places is not self-supporting, and measures are required for dip haulage and pumping, so that extraction of coal may be kept to the floor or pavement, by which means alone the roofing may be expected to stand. Rules posted; report-books and plan to date. Black damp has not been reported, and firedamp has not been seen in the colliery. At one place, under a fall in old No. 10 bord where there was heating, the fallen coal and clays are being filled away.

Port Arthur Coal-pit, Kaitangata (Morrison Bros., owners; Robert Penman, permit, lessee).—There were 270 tons of coal raised from this small pit during the year.

Hawthorn Den Coal-pit, Kaitangata (Thomas Cunningham, owner and permit-holder).—(30/11/10): No one about, and seemingly not much doing here at present.

Wangaloa Coal-pit, Wangaloa (Joseph Smith, owner).—(30/11/10): No one about, and indications point to a decreased output from this small mine, which is worked to supply the requirements of settlers in the district.

Kaitangata Colliery, Kaitangata (New Zealand Coal and Oil Company (Limited), owners; O. G. Lockhart, secretary, Dunedin; W. Carson, mine-manager).—(14/12/10): The new ventilating-fan (electrically driven) is 10 ft. diameter; with 18 amperes, at 180 revolutions, a volume of 32,500 cubic feet of air per minute is circulated, Wg. $1\frac{3}{16}$ in. The fan is substantially erected, having cast metal casing, and is giving increased efficiency at three-quarter speed. Early in the year a fire broke out in the engine-room on surface, causing damage to the winding-engine, air-compressing engines, and dynamo; pending repairs temporary arrangements were made whereby only slight loss of working-time was made. Owing to shortage of water locally for fire-prevention and other purposes a storage-dam is being made, which will command the surface works and will be supplied by pumping from the Clutha River. As the north-side section has proved unprofitable, owing to the thinness and troubled nature of the seam, also difficulty and cost of maintaining roadways and air-courses owing to poor roof, it has been decided to withdraw from this quarter, when it will be stopped off permanently. Ventilation generally will then become greatly relieved, as, owing to length of airways of contracted areas in this section, friction of air is considerable and proper circulation rendered difficult. Development is proceeding steadily to south and east in No. 5 dip, south extension, Oliver's dip, and Nos. 20 and 21 dips, in coal of good quality. The usual method is continued of working out comparatively small sections, taking pillar and head coal and leaving coal-barriers, afterwards closing with permanent ash or sand fire-stoppings. As previously indicated, the angle of dip and rise of the seam has undergone a radical alteration from steep to comparatively flat or undulating floor, thus taxing the ingenuity of the management to provide efficient haulage. A "creep" which set in in McGhie's level section caused a good deal of dislocation in the conduct of work and the ventilation, but the effects of same are now practically subdued. Firedamp in small quantity is occasionally met with in certain rise places, and usually in solid workings, more especially where "rolls" occur. Brattice is freely used, and such places kept clear by ventilation, failing which workmen are withdrawn temporarily; reports of these occasions are not numerous. Shot-firing is allowed in terms of special rule 25 in the appendix to the Act. Experiments have been made with low-flame explosives recommended, with more or less success. A borehole underground at 4,000 ft. from mine-mouth was put down 160 ft. The quantity of water and gas given off indicated the likelihood of the occurrence of another coal-seam. Several complaints were investigated during the year, with remedial results in some instances. Ventilating-fan on surface at upcast air-shaft (which is also the second outlet), also machinery and appliances, are kept