

Wairaki Coal-mine, Nightcaps (L. M. Dillon, lessee and permit-holder).—(22/11/10): Extracting pillars left at first working. Pumping by oil-engine underground, but no nuisance apparently created thereby, there being several openings to surface in this shallow pit.

H.B. Coal-mine, Nightcaps (R. McDowell and Co., lessees; R. McDowell, permit, manager).—(22/11/10): Extracting final stumps of pillars in ground previously worked. Powder-magazine approved for storage of six cases of 25 lb. each of compressed powder, 150 lb. in all.

New Brighton Coal-mine, Nightcaps (Crown lease; Reed, McKenzie, and Co., lessees; W. Kenzie, permit, manager).—(25/1/10): Eight men. Seam 20 ft., worked partly opencast and partly underground; workings kept in a safe and workmanlike manner. Powder-magazine approved for storage of six cases (each 25 lb.) of blasting-powder. Report-book kept; rules posted.

Willow Coal-mine, Nightcaps (J. O. Clapp, owner; R. McGregor, permit, manager).—(23/11/10): Opencast pit lately acquired by the new owner. Water drained by siphon, and opening out afresh. Active work will be started early in the following month.

Beaumont Coal-mine, Nightcaps (Crown lease; Moss Bros., lessees; W. Moss, permit, manager).—(23/11/10): Opencast seam worked to 15 ft. in depth only, stripping being removed in advance of working-face; average, 6 ft. in depth. Steam-pump used for drainage.

Wairio Coal-mine, Wairio, Nightcaps (Wairio Coal Company, owners).—(25/1/10): No work at this pit for some time. The proposed private branch line of railway from Wairio Railway-station to Morley Coalfield still shows no sign of fructification.

Mount Linton Coal-pit, Nightcaps (William Smith, lessee).—(23/11/10): Coal lease obtained from the freeholder. Portable hauling-engine and pump installed for working the seam, which is seen outcropping in the Morley Stream near at hand.

Mount Beaumont Station, Nightcaps.—An outcrop of coal is seen on the terrace near Morley Stream. Nothing yet done to prove the seam, which is easily capable of being prospected.

Bush Siding Coal-pit, Seaward Bush (Crown lease; F. W. Raymond, lessee; F. R. Bowden, permit, manager).—(19/11/10): Opencast pit not being worked at present, chiefly owing to dullness of trade. Seam 30 ft.; gravel stripping, 8 ft. to 10 ft., is kept fairly well back from coal-face.

Hogan's Lignite-pit, Orepuki (Crown land; Cornelius Hogan, licensee).—(22/1/10): Pit idle, and no work has been done here for some time.

Orepuki Shale-works, Orepuki.—(21/10/10): The colliery at the shale-works continues to be closed, and water is up. Boring with the Government diamond drill is suspended pending the arrival of Mr. Johnston, an expert from England, who is to visit and report on the works.

REMARKS.

Ventilation.

Improvement in ventilation continues to be manifested, several fans of the Hayes type having been erected at as many collieries.

In other respects, while the mines have been growing, airways are consequently longer, and still ventilation is maintained.

Accidents.

Two fatalities occurred, each at small mines in Canterbury, and entirely due to remissness on the part of the sufferers. In one case the owner entered the mine single-handed in the early morning, although warned the previous evening not to do so, and was suffocated with black damp coming from an incipient spontaneous underground fire. In the other case the victim, a certificated winding-engine driver, had apparently omitted to use the crossbar at the mouth of the shaft, and had absent-mindedly turned an empty box into the shaft, 70 ft. deep, the cage being at the bottom at the time.

No non-fatal accidents of a serious nature were reported to me as having occurred underground in mines during 1910.

Coal-miners' Relief Fund.

The contributions by coal-owners to the Coal-miners' Relief Fund amounted to £477 19s. 6d., while payments from the fund, aggregating £415 15s. 8d., have been recommended on account of accidents which have occurred in and about coal-mines in the district during the year.

I have, &c.,

E. R. GREEN,

Inspector of Mines.