

Waimumu Coal-mine, Waimumu (G. W. Williams, owner).—(11/10/11): Now worked as an opencast pit, only one man at work.

Clarke's Coal-mine, Wyndham (Samuel Clarke, owner; George W. Clarke, permit).—Opencast pit. Gravel stripping kept well ahead of working-face.

Ota Creek Coal-mine, Ota Creek (E. Genge, permit).—Shallow opencast working.

Robin Hood Coal-mine, Pine Bush (Mrs. Couser, owner; W. Couser, permit).—Opencast pit, worked for local sales.

Graham's Coal-mine, Fairfax (P. S. Graham).—Shallow underground working on a small scale.

Ardlowie Coal-mine, Fairfax (E. Poole).—Opencast working, for lignite used locally.

Nightcaps Colliery, Nightcaps (Nightcaps Coal Company (Limited), owners; W. Barclay, mine-manager).—(13/12/11): A substantial iron change-house has been erected near the mine-mouth with two baths in separate compartments, hot and cold water laid on. No. 1 mine: Fire-stoppings are constructed on the line of waste. The temperature of air has been lowered to 59° in the warmest place, due to substitution of compressed air for steam at the haulage-winch-pumps and fan-engine. No. 3 dip has been driven 14 chains in the solid. The working-places are not yet developed. No. 4 dip recently set away is 200 ft. to the face. All underground workings are driven in the upper (18 ft.) seam. Nos. 2 and 3 seams are reserved for future working. No. 2 mine: Pillaring and extraction are being carried out in the middle and upper seams. A prospecting-shaft has been sunk in the floor; at 60 ft. this penetrated a 6 ft. seam of coal. A little heat is noticeable in places on the fringe of the waste. Substantial stoppings are inserted, confining the noxious gases to the gob. A large supply of mining-timber is available in the mine. The requirements of the Act are generally well observed. No serious accidents occurred during the year.

Wairaki Coal-pit, Nightcaps (L. Dillon, permit).—The new drive is being carried to the dip, and levels are being opened up. The seam is 7 ft. thick. An upthrow fault was proved at the face of the level. Ventilation is good.

H.B. Coal-mine, Nightcaps (R. McDowell, permit).—(12/12/11): Work is suspended, the coal-seam being now practically exhausted.

Beattie and Tinker's Coal-mine, Nightcaps.—A lignite license recently granted. No output has yet been produced.

New Brighton Coal-mine, Nightcaps (McKenzie and Co., lessees; J. McKenzie, permit).—(13/12/11): A magazine has been approved for the storage of blasting-powder. Headings have been driven to the boundary preparatory to return on pillars and head coal. The seam is 12 ft. to 20 ft. in thickness; the ventilation is good.

Wairio Coal-mine, Nightcaps (Wairio Coal Company, owners; M. McKenzie, permit).—(13/12/11): Preparations are being made for increasing the output.

Beaumont Coal-mine, Nightcaps (Moss Bros., lessees; T. Moss, permit).—(13/12/11).—An opencast pit on Ohai Stream, which is fulfilling district requirements.

Mount Linton Coal-mine, Nightcaps (William Smith).—(13/12/11): Opencast pit sunk on a highly inclined seam 20 ft. in thickness. A steam-driven centrifugal pump keeps workings unwatered. Stripping is well ahead of the working-face.

Bush Siding Coal-pit, Seaward Bush (I. W. Raymond, owner; F. R. Bowden, permit).—A reduced output is now being obtained from this opencast pit.

Hogan's Lignite License, Orepuki (C. Hogan).—The license has been renewed.

Orepuki.—Contrary to expectations, work was not renewed here during the year. The old mine is filled with water, and the surface plant is kept in good order.

REMARKS.

The condition of all horses employed under and above ground can only be described as good, and they appear to receive proper treatment and consideration. At Kaitangata Mine about thirty-five horses and ponies are usually employed.

The substitution of compressed air in lieu of steam for pumping and dip haulage at Nightcaps Colliery has had a marked effect in reducing the temperature, 59° Fahr. being the highest record in the warmest working-places within the mine.

ACCIDENTS.

A total of 101 separate accidents, affecting as many persons, were reported and inquired into during the year. Of these, five resulted fatally, three of the victims being miners killed by falls of head coal from unseen smooth partings in roof; the two others were roadsmen, fatally injured by falls of stone while setting timber to roof in roadways. Of the remainder, two might be termed serious accidents, and the balance were mainly reported in connection with claims on the Coal-miners' Relief Fund, four of which were subsequently disallowed. Full reports on the several serious accidents were subsequently submitted to you.

Fatal.

4th March, 1911.—McGillp's Coal-mine, Milton: Alexander McLuckie, thirty-nine, miner.—Killed by fall of coal from roof while dropping head coal.

15th May, 1911.—Kaitangata Colliery: John McGhie, twenty-nine, miner.—Killed by a fall of coal from side and low roof in pillar-workings.

20th July, 1911.—Freeman's Colliery: James R. Walker, thirty-two, miner.—Killed by a fall of coal and roof in his working-place. In connection with this fatal accident, Mr. A. S. Gillanders, mine-manager, was proceeded against, and pleaded guilty, and was fined £2 and