

48 days' work, basing the average output at 536 tons 14 cwt., represents a loss in output from this colliery for the year of 25,761 tons.

Employees.

The average number of men and boys employed in and about the mine were as follow: Underground—Coal-hewers, 68; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 62; boys, 3. On the surface there were employed 40 men and 16 boys, making a total of 170 men and 19 boys.

The total payments made on wages account, exclusive of stores, mine-timber, and compensation, amounted to £35,239 18s. 5d.

The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) was 23s. 10·3d., and the net average return to each man was 23s. 2·02d., a net increase of 3s. 5·74d. over the previous year.

Underground Development.

The whole of the output for the year was obtained from coal won from pillar-extraction from both sections (Nos. 1 and 2) of this colliery, the latter producing approximately two-thirds of the output.

In the No. 1 section work is now confined to bringing back dip pillars, of which very few remain to be won. At the present time eight pairs of miners are employed on the day shift, and four pairs on the afternoon shift, but owing to the limited area it will be difficult to employ this number of miners much longer. In the course of the next few months this section will be completely exhausted, and in order to maintain a reasonable output from this colliery it may be necessary to work the No. 2 section on two shifts, where at the present time twenty-one pairs of miners are employed, eighteen on the day shift and three on the afternoon shift.

The probable life of this section under the present system may be safely estimated at eighteen months, but if the double shift is adopted after the closing-down of the No. 1 section the output would be so small that the question of closing down this colliery altogether would no doubt be considered within the next twelve months.

During the early part of the year pumping operations were carried on in both sections. In the No. 1 section, where the Rees Roturbo electrically driven pump was installed, pumping was carried out on one shift only, but in the No. 2 section, where an air-driven pump was installed three shifts were employed. Since last September, however, there has been no pumping in the No. 1 section, as the water in the mine arrived at the same surface level as a borehole near Coal Creek; this borehole now acts as an outlet for the water from the dip workings of this mine.

Immediately the electrically driven pump was dispensed with in the No. 1 section it was installed in the No. 2 section, replacing the air-driven pump, thus enabling pumping operations to be carried out on one shift.

Exploratory Work.

Work done under this head was confined to putting down one borehole with the diamond drilling plant at Rocky Creek. The object of drilling in this locality was to ascertain whether the present seams now worked at the Point Elizabeth Colliery extend in that direction. In this hole several small seams varying from 3 in. to 6 in. were passed through, and at a depth of 625 ft. the hole was abandoned, the drilling plant being inadequate to drill any deeper.

Surface Works.

The whole of the surface plant, machinery, and buildings were maintained in good order and condition throughout the year.

LIVERPOOL COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.

The gross total output for the year was 128,196 tons 11 cwt., a decrease of 4,817 tons when compared with the figures of the previous year; and after deducting for mine consumption and waste, and allowing for stock in hand at the beginning of the year, there remained for disposal 124,782 tons, which was disposed of and accounted for as follows:—

Export—					Tons cwt.	
Screened coal	...	...	...	...	32,159	17
Unscreened coal	...	...	...	...	29,419	19
Bunker coal	...	...	...	...	7,316	16
Small coal	...	...	...	...	42,884	18
Total	...	...	...	...	111,781	10
Local sales—						
Screened coal	...	...	...	...	567	6
Unscreened coal	...	...	...	...	6,765	4
Bunker coal	...	...	...	...	253	14
Small coal	...	...	...	...	5,179	17
Total	...	...	...	...	12,766	1
Mine sales (unscreened)	...	...	...	...	6	14
Sold to workmen (unscreened)	...	...	...	...	139	6
Used on works	...	...	...	...	2,875	0
Waste	...	...	...	...	739	11
Loss due to averaging weights through no weighbridge	...	...	...	...	250	0