

*Buller Coalfield.*

*Coal Creek Mine, Mokihinui.*—All the output during 1921 was obtained from the new area near Coal Creek, 60 chains from the railway-line. The main heading has been driven 14 chains in good coal. The back heading has reached the Taipo outcrop. During the slack time—from September to December—no coal was produced, and the party reopened the old Knights of Labour workings. Two small shafts were sunk from the surface to ventilate these old workings. To prove if another seam existed below the present workings, a percussive borehole was put down—about 2 chains west of the head of the jig—for 100 ft., but without success.

*Dove and Party's Mine, Seddonville.*—In April the main level holed through into the old Cardiff workings. These old workings were sealed off in 1901 owing to a fire in the southern section. A dam was placed in the Cardiff main drive, and the present workings are above the level of the water retained by this dam. Although at first rather warm the temperature gradually subsided, and a considerable portion of the output was afterwards obtained from the loose coal in these old workings.

*St. Helens Mine.*—This is another small mine which has suffered owing to the slump. Owing to stone bands in the seam, care is needed to keep the coal clean.

*Chester's Mine.*—A little development work in the top seam, 3½ ft. thick, has been done during the year. A small bin has been erected near the traffic road, and coal is carted from the bin to the railway-station siding at Seddonville.

*Woodford and Party's Mine.*—A small party commenced mining operations early in the year on an outcrop near the railway-line between Seddonville and Mokihinui Mine. The seam is only about 2½ ft. in thickness.

*Mulholland and Party's Mine, near Chasm Creek.*—This party has two coal leases; one includes the bridge section workings of the old Cardiff Mine, and the other is to the south-east, across Chasm Creek. The output for the year has been produced from the latter area. The coal is variable in hardness, but fairly clean. To work the bridge area two wire ropes were stretched across Chasm Creek—a span of over 14 chains. From here the coal will be conveyed—by a surface jig and horse haulage—for a mile to the Seddonville bins.

*Mokihinui-Westport Coal-mine, Seddonville.*—This party's lease is north of Mulholland's mine, and they have put in a well-timbered drive about 3 chains. Owing to a "roll" the coal thinned, but coal 8 ft. thick has been proved ahead. An aerial has been constructed across Chasm Creek, and small bins erected near Dove's mine.

*McLellan and Straker's Mine, near Ngakawau.*—This mine is situated near the south bank of the Ngakawau River and half a mile east of Hector Railway-station, at an altitude of 420 ft. above the river. The coal is soft and friable, but an analysis proved it to be of high calorific value. One drive is in about 3½ chains, and preparations are being made for conveying the coal by an aerial across the Ngakawau River.

*Rocklands Mine, Buller Road.*—Worked intermittently for local sales. A lease has recently been granted over an area which includes the old Whitecliffs Mine.

*Waimangaroa-Westport Coal-mining Company's Lease.*—A percussive-drill borehole was put down near the southern boundary of the area known as Cook's lease. It was stopped at a depth of 289 ft., having entered broken ground.

*Moyuikan's Coal-prospecting Area.*—Near the traffic road from Waimangaroa to Denniston a narrow heading has been driven (in coal) for 54 yards, and a crosscut (in stone) for 8 to 10 yards from the face of the heading, to prove if a lower seam existed. The coal is very soft, and low in hydrocarbons. A small bin was put up, and the coal conveyed to Waimangaroa Junction Railway-station by Ford motor-trucks. Owing to the poor quality of the coal work ceased in October.

*Westport-Stockton Colliery.*—Owing to the trade depression pillar work in the old mine ceased on the 26th October, and operations will be confined to the E field until trade revives. The No. 2 section workings, E field, going west, entered faulted ground and were stopped; also the coal in the places going north became thin and unworkable. The No. 5 section workings have reached the Matipo outcrop. The high coal pillars in J dip section are being worked, and the pillars near the old fire area have been extracted for some distance from the fire. About 10 acres of coal lies in a syncline between the Nos. 2 and 6 sections, and a dip has been commenced to win coal from this area. Almost all the miners employed in No. 6 section are working six-hour shifts, owing to the places being wet. Two fatalities occurred at the Stockton Mine during May, particulars of which are given elsewhere.

*Millerton Colliery.*—Pillar-extraction continued during the year in the Mangatina, south pillars, north-east pillars, No. 1 dip, and old dip sections. Pillaring also commenced towards the end of the year in the third west dip section. A few solid places are being driven towards a small block of unworked coal near the Mine Creek pack-track. Some pillars were left in this locality when the deviation of the main haulage-road was effected about fifteen years ago. In the top section of the fourth west some steep faults have been met, running north-east and south-west. Safety-lamps are still used in the old dip and No. 2 dip workings.

*Ironbridge Colliery.*—Pillars continue to be worked in the Shaft, Kruger's, and Kiwi sections of the Ironbridge Mine. In the Deep Creek section a series of small detached areas of coal are being exploited. An endless-rope haulage has been completed for 54 chains—about half the distance from the main haulage to the coal-faces—and the management intends to extend this haulage at an early date. The pillars in the 2-acre block on the west side of this haulage-road have been extracted. A few miners are employed in development work in the 47-acre block. A main heading will later be driven, going north-west from the 47-acre block to Kiels Flat. The average thickness of the coal in the Deep Creek section is 10 ft. The ventilating-fans and the pumps in the Ironbridge Mine are now driven by electric motors. The Kiwi fan, having 240 revolutions per minute, is driven by a three-phase 50-cycle 400-volt induction motor of 40 brake horse-power running at 500 revolutions per minute. The high-tension circuit of 3,300 volts is transformed outside the fan-house. A brick transformer-station has been built underground, a few chains from the junction of the Kiwi and main haulage roads. Two fatalities occurred underground at the Ironbridge Mine during the year, and a linesman was instantly killed by falling from a transmission-pole near the power-house. Reports of these fatalities are given elsewhere.

*Coalbrookdale Mine.*—Waratea Jig Section: The coal in the heading going south-west off the Waratea jig section and also in the places south of the heading became split up by stone bands, and, thickening, they eventually took the place of the coal. The floor continued unbroken. It appears to be the continuation of the "want" between the Waratea Extended section and the old workings. Hand-boring was resorted to in the hope of proving an upper seam, but without success. The main headings in the Waratea jig section are still in hard clean coal, and development is proceeding apace.

Waratea Extended and Cascade Sections: A crosscut going north-east has been driven through stone in the Waratea Extended section. Boring has been done, and after passing through 20 ft. of stone 11 ft. of coal was struck. When electric power is available a dip will be commenced to work the coal. Pillaring in the Waratea Extended and Cascade sections was continued during the year.

*Nelson District.*

*Puponga Mine.*—The rise section pillars becoming exhausted, this party of co-operative miners recommenced operations in the dip section by the extraction of the upper west pillars. Owing to the Terakohe Cement-works being idle there is at present no sale for the slack coal, and it is being stacked along the surface haulage-road. The prospecting between the dip and rise sections was abandoned owing to unfavourable results.

*North Cape Mine.*—During the past year the thin coal on the east side of the main dip has been worked on the longwall system, but owing to the very bad roof any further mining must be done by bord and pillar. Mining ceased on the 8th November, owing to a dispute between the management and miners; but, as very little coal remains to be won, it is very doubtful if operations will recommence. Two diamond-drill boreholes have been put down on the North Cape area, one 5 chains ahead of the face of the dip and the other about 40 chains north of the North Cape Mine entrance. No workable seam was proved in either borehole.

*Stone's Mine, Central Takaka.*—A small output was obtained from bord-and-pillar workings during the year.