

the concrete dam (put in in 1901, owing to an underground fire) has been removed. Two large falls are still to be removed before coal-production can be recommenced. So far, the fire, which is still burning near Chasm Creek, has not given the party any trouble.

*Bennett's Mine, Mokihinui.*—Three miners are working a portion of the Hutt seam near the end of the railway. The area was worked about twenty-five years ago, and some pillars still remain.

*Morris and Murray's Mine.*—This is a mine situated about midway between Seddonville and the Mokihinui mines, and the entrance is alongside the railway-line. The coal is about 6 ft. in thickness and rather soft. Two men are employed.

*Mulholland and Party's Mine.*—Most of the output has been produced from the Bridge section lease. The mine-tubs are conveyed across Chasm Creek (a span of 6 chains) by means of an aerial, and are then drawn to the top of the hill by a steam-winch. From thence the tubs are jugged down to the flat, and are drawn along the flat, and to near the Seddonville bins, by horse-haulage. The output is from sixty to seventy tubs (approximately 40 tons) per day. The lease on the near side of the Chasm Creek was not worked for most of the year, but during the last two months a pair of miners were producing coal therefrom.

A party of prospectors have proved a seam of coal, about 2½ ft. thick, near the Seddonville bins. It is about level with the railway, and should be cheaply mined.

*Mokihinui-Westport Coal Syndicate's Mine.*—In the upper section of this mine places have been driven in 5½ ft. of hard coal. Above this coal is from 1 ft. to 2 ft. of black shale, then soft coal above. The heading, driven straight into the hill from the outcrop, when about 50 ft. in entered troubled ground. The coal has gradually pinched, and is now only 12 in. in thickness. This party also have an aerial across Chasm Creek, but the mine-tubs do not cross this aerial. The aerial buckets hold about 8 cwt. of coal, and are worked by gravity. About 25 tons per day can be conveyed across the creek.

*Chester's Mine.*—The middle band of stone thickened, so only the coal below this band is now being mined. A dip has also been driven, but the coal proved very dirty and unsaleable.

*St. Helens Mine.*—The pillars off the lower level in the bottom seam are now being won in this small mine.

*Rocklands Mine, Buller Road.*—The output from this mine was rather larger than usual, as some coal is being conveyed by motor-lorries to Westport for household purposes.

#### Nelson District.

*Puponga Mine.*—The upper west pillars are almost exhausted. The area between the dip and rise sections (in which prospecting was done during the previous year) has recently been reopened, and three places are being driven there, consisting of two levels and an incline. The bottom level is in about 7½ chains, but the coal is rapidly thinning, now consisting of 12 in. of tops, 18 in. claystone, and 12 in. of bottoms. In the incline the top coal is 24 in. thick and the middle claystone only 3 in. in thickness. Preparations are in hand for reopening the B section, where the pillars are still standing and an area of thin coal can be worked.

*North Cape Coal-mine.*—This mine recommenced mining operations early in the year, and the slant dip was driven down to the fault. Places have been driven east and west from this dip. The coal on the west side near the fault is 3 ft. thick, but on the east side is only 18 in. in thickness. Later an attempt will be made to drive the dip through the fault. Prospecting has been done on a nearly vertical seam, found about a mile from the North Cape Mine, and a small shaft was sunk thereon for 40 ft. An incline is now being driven at an angle of 65° on another outcrop of this seam, which is about 8 ft. in thickness.

*Enner Glynn Mine, near Nelson.*—The vertical shaft was sunk to the 300 ft. level, and a crosscut, 100 ft. in length, driven from the shaft bottom to the coal-seam. A level was driven south 120 ft., but the seam thinned to 12 in. The level going north was only driven 60 ft. and the coal thinned there also. Only 188 tons were produced, and the mine closed down in October.

*Gladstone Mine, Motupipi.*—The opencast workings were abandoned and the old workings to the east reopened. Coal produced for local sale.

*Stone's Mine, Takaka.*—Only a few tons were mined during the year.

#### Inangahua District.

*Reefton Coal Company's Mine.*—Three pairs of miners employed on pillar-extraction in the No. 2 seam workings. No work done in the No. 4 seam workings.

*Morris and Learmont's Mine.*—The small output was produced from the No. 2 mine.

*Victory Mine.*—All the year's output was produced from the 4 ft. of coal above the clay parting in the bottom seam. The main heading, going south, is in about 6 chains, and the coal has thinned to 3 ft. The places going west are also in thin coal. A place, driven to the east, off the main heading, met troubled country when about 2 chains in. The coal thinned to about 18 in. The coal again thickened to 3½ ft. after driving 20 yards, but has again thinned to about 18 in. Another surface jig has been laid to a higher outcrop, and a place driven in the coal about 25 yards. The coal is dipping steeply, and, at the face of the drive, a place had to be broken off going about parallel with the outcrop.

*Phoenix and Venus Mines.*—Four men constantly employed on solid work.

*Big River Mine.*—Two men producing coal for power purposes from a soft seam.

*Merrijijs Coal-mine.*—A level has been driven, about 10 yards from the old workings, in a 6 ft. seam of clean coal. This party are extending their wooden fluming for another two miles, making the total length approximately four miles and three-quarters. From the end of the flume the coal will be carted to the Taipo-iti Railway-station, a distance of about one mile and a quarter.

*Empire Coal-mine, Burke's Creek.*—Only a small quantity of coal, produced during the early part of the year, was obtained from this mine.

*Woodlands Coal-mine, Burke's Creek.*—Three men have been constantly employed during the past year, but principally mining coal from places driven to the west off the dip drive. Coal 5½ ft. thick, with a very tender roof.

*Birchwood Coal-mine.*—A small output was produced from the mine early in the year.

No coal was produced during the year from the three small mines at Caplestone, nor from the Ferndale-Timaru Mine at Burke's Creek.

#### Fatal Accidents.

Three fatalities occurred in the West Coast Inspection District during the year, one on the surface and two underground.

On the 24th May a youth named Sydney Bartholomew, sixteen years of age, was killed by being jammed between an overturned tub of stone and the handrail on the viaduct leading from the Denniston bins to the stone-tip. The viaduct is about 2 chains long, and is down-grade for half-way and up-grade the remainder. The grades were about 7 per cent. Deceased was assisted by a tipper to push the tub of stone from the bins. Another tipper went on to the viaduct about fifteen minutes later, and found the tub anglewise across the rails, and almost completely overturned, being prevented from resting on its mouth by the body of the youth. No direct evidence could be obtained, but it is surmised that the deceased had been riding on the buffer, and the tub becoming derailed he was thrown ahead of the tub, which overturned forward and on to him.

On the 7th June a miner named William C. Merritt was killed by a fall of coal and stone in No. 5 section E field, Stockton Mine. He and his brother had been splitting a pillar, and had just holed through. They noticed that coal was fretting about 12 to 15 yards ahead. They went forward a few yards and listened. The place commenced to move and they ran back towards safety, but the fall caught the deceased and buried him. He was extricated about forty-five minutes later, but had died of syncope caused by the shock.

On the 8th July William E. Booth, a miner, having completed his day's work, was walking up the Cascade dip of the Coalbrookdale Mine. He was passing through a low place, 5 ft. 4 in. high, and he raised his head and struck the roof with it. He became paralysed, and succumbed to his injury three days later. A post-mortem revealed a fracture of the cervical vertebra.