

*Serious Non-fatal Accidents.*

On the 7th February a miner named E. Guy suffered a fractured fibula by slipping on a gangway at the Liverpool Mine.

On the 15th March the mine-manager of the Blackball Mine, Mr. J. Neilson, was crushed between a full tub and the leg of a set. Seven ribs were broken.

On the 3rd April Peter Dawson, a miner working at the Blackball Mine, had his right femur fractured. He stumbled over a shovel when jumping back from a fall of coal. He fell, breaking the bone.

On the 4th May, at the Enner Glynn Mine, Charles Bradford, a miner, was burned on the face and arms by an ignition of gas in his working-place.

On the 13th September, C. Hewitson, a shiftman, suffered a fractured fibula from a fall of coal and stone from the rib-side in a place in the Liverpool No. 3 Mine.

On the 18th October J. Braithwaite, a miner, also had a fibula fractured, in the Liverpool No. 3 Mine by a piece of the middle stone falling upon him.

On the 28th October, James Regan, a miner, working in O'Brien and Regan's Mine, Seddonville, was struck in the eye by a small piece of coal flying from his pick. He worked a few days, but subsequently had to go to the Westport Hospital, and the eye had to be removed on the 21st November.

On the 15th December, James King, deputy, and William Maher, underviewer, were burned on their faces and arms by an ignition of inflammable gas in the south pillar section of the Millerton Mine. A fall had occurred in an old bord and completely blocked the place. Methane accumulated at the top of the fall, and was ignited by King's carbide-lamp.

*Dangerous Occurrences requiring Notification (Regulation 81).*

A small fire was discovered on the Mine Creek haulage-road, Millerton Mine, on the 2nd February, but it was soon put out by buckets of water.

On the 28th February two miners ignited a small quantity of inflammable gas in the main level, No. 9 dip section, Blackball Mine. This is the first occasion on which gas has been reported at that mine, and a close inspection by four officials was made, but no further trace of gas was found.

On the 27th May heating was noticed in the third west pillars, Millerton Mine. Some of the heated coal was filled away and water was pumped on and extinguished the fire.

On the 2nd June the workings of the No. 2 seam, Ferndale-Timaru Mine, were discovered to be on fire. This mine had been idle for some months, and the section had been partly pillared towards the end of 1921. The fire reported on the 11th November, 1920, is presumed to have again broken out, and it had gained considerable headway before being discovered. Entrances were stopped off and water was led on. A Cameron duplex pump also helped to fill the lower workings with water. This fire appears to be now extinguished.

On the 19th June heating was discovered in the Extended section, Coalbrookdale Mine. The heated matter was filled out and the temperature then reduced to normal.

On the 26th July the contractors in the low-level tunnel, Morgan seam, Liverpool Mine, struck a "blower" of gas. The next day this "blower" increased in quantity and the men were withdrawn. A safety-lamp was extinguished by the gas near the roof 20 ft. back from the face. Another line of ventilating-pipes was connected to the fan.

In the south pillar section, Millerton Mine, two officials were burned by an ignition of inflammable gas on the 15th December.

A shiftman was burned on the 21st December in the No. 4 tunnel, Liverpool Mine, by an ignition of a small quantity of gas.

The underground fires at the Blackball Mine which occurred on the 19th August and the 24th November are referred to elsewhere in this report.

*Cancellation of Coal Leases and Coal-prospecting Licenses.*

Two coal leases held by the Seaforth Coal Company, near Collingwood, were determined on the 14th September owing to non-compliance of the terms of the leases. Ten coal-prospecting licenses were also cancelled—four at Reefton, two at Westport, two at Charleston, one at Greymouth, and one at Glenhope. Four licenses were surrendered during the year, and one coal lease.

*Prosecution.*

On the 20th March an underviewer was fined £1 and costs for a breach of Special Rule 17 by not seeing that two workmen were out of the mine.

*Boring at Dobson.*

To prove if workable coal existed in the southern portion of the area held by the Dobson Coal Company, boring was commenced in March, and so far three diamond-drill boreholes have been completed. The first hole proved 10½ ft. clean hard coal at 821 ft.; the second hole, to the east, proved 11 ft. of coal at a depth of 761 ft.; the third hole proved 20 ft. of coal at 1,055 ft.; the fourth hole is being drilled near Mill Creek.

*Onakaka Prospecting Operations.*

Finding that the Mataura seam of coal, near Collingwood, was suitable for producing blast-furnace coke, the Onakaka Iron and Steel Company engaged prospectors to prove the thickness and area of the coal available. The seam outcrops on the hills behind Kaituna, a few miles from Collingwood, and at an altitude of about 1,200 ft. above sea-level. One small drive, put in years ago, shows coal about 3 ft. thick. One of the drives, recently put in for about a chain, has proved the seam to be split up by stone bands. Near the floor is 20 in. of clean coal, then 18 in. of conglomerate, then another 20 in. of clean coal, then 6 in. of stone, and then another 6 in. of coal. Numerous other outcrops have been prospected. The country is very rugged, and the seam is from eight to nine miles distant from the ironworks.

*SOUTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (Mr. E. R. GREEN, Inspector).*

*Mount Torlesse Collieries.*—The working-places were well timbered and in safe condition. The working-places were well bratticed and free from smoke, and a fresh opening was being holed to the surface to maintain the ventilation. Pillar-working had been commenced back from the fault which had been met with, and in which a slight ignition of firedamp had caused burns of hands and face to the underviewer, G. Littlewood, who was in consequence off work eight days. The place was carefully stopped off, and gas had not been reported since. A new dip was being driven from the surface to pick up the seam at a lower level and thus open a new block of coal.

*Springfield Mine.*—A small output had been obtained from an outcrop of surface seam of coal.

*Homebush Colliery.*—The principal places of this company's colliery had been abandoned as worked out. Four men continued working at the surface section, where a small quantity of coal remained to be recovered from the dip.

*Bush Gully Mine.*—The colliery plant, with rails and sleepers of the private branch railway, had been removed to Coalgate for disposal by sale.

*St. Helens Mine.*—The working examined on the previous inspection was abandoned, and a prospecting-dip had been driven in which three seams, 3 ft., 5 ft., and 6 ft. respectively in thickness had been intersected. Timbering satisfactory. Natural ventilation good.

*Steventon Mine.*—A 6 ft. seam, dipping 1 in 2, with a strong stone roof, was being worked. The main heading was driven to the full dip of the seam for a distance of 5 chains, winning-places, driven at right angles on the strike of the seam, having 10 yard pillars between. Workings were in a satisfactory condition, and ventilation was good.