

SERIOUS NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

Tui Waikato, a trucker employed at the McDonald Colliery, received a fracture of the right leg when caught between two full skips. The second skip, which he thought he had secured on a flat, followed him down a grade.

Arthur Walters, a surface worker employed at Whatawhata Colliery, received a fracture of the left arm when it was caught in the rope of a capstan winch he was using.

J. Brown, a rope-boy on the surface at Rotowaro Colliery, on 12th August received a fracture of the right radius due to being struck by a sprag he was inserting into the wheel of a moving skip.

James White, a pumpman employed at Kamo Colliery, on 23rd July, received a cracked pelvis while pipe-fitting in the main layby of the mine. White was leaning over a race of skips to put a pipe into place when passing skips on the other line caught the electric-lamp battery on his belt and jammed him, causing the injury.

On 1st November L. Davies, a clipper employed at Renown Colliery, received an injury, later described by the doctor as a "greenstick" fracture of the right tibia, through being caught between two full skips at the No. 5 West Diamond, No. 3 south headings. Davies was clipping, and a skip which he thought was secure followed round the curve behind him.

On 12th November Wynyard Panaho, a trucker employed at Waro Colliery, Hikurangi, sustained a transverse fracture of the right tibia due to slipping when turning a skip on a flatsheet.

On 20th November a miner, Francis Duggan, employed at Tatu State Colliery cut off his left thumb with an axe while trimming a wedge.

DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES (REGULATION 81, COAL-MINES REGULATIONS 1939)

On 27th March at 9 a.m. firestink with traces of smoke and vapour was found coming off a pillar-place in No. 3 jig, Alison No. 1 Mine. The place was sealed off.

On 2nd April the examining deputy reported firestink and smoke in a pillar place in Wilkie's Dip section, No. 3 Rotowaro Mine. The place was sealed with brick stoppings.

On 28th April a short-circuit occurred on a portion of the power-lines (V.I.R. cable in conduit) in E section, MacDonald Mine, igniting a short length of the cable. This length was afterwards renewed.

On 6th June a small inrush of water occurred in Brown's Jig section, No. 1 Rotowaro Mine, owing to a pillar fall to the surface adjacent to a small creek. The stream was diverted and the hole filled by bulldozer.

On 20th July a slight heating took place in No. 3 slope dip, Waro Colliery. The heating was controlled by the erection of stoppings, and has given no further trouble.

On 9th August a heating occurred in a coal filling at a jighead in the Bottom West section, Mangapehi State Colliery. Water was used to control the heating, and no further trouble has occurred, though a close watch is being kept for any rise in temperature.

On 20th August a small fire occurred in the No. 3 section, North Mine, Pukemiro Colliery. The affected area was promptly sealed off, and no further trouble has been caused.

On 27th August smoke was found issuing from goaf in a pillar place in No. 3 jig, No. 1 Alison Mine. Two stoppings were erected and sealed off the place.

On 6th November a fall in a barrier road in E section old workings, Glen Afton Colliery, was found to be heating. This was at once controlled by stoppings.

On 9th December on E rope road, Glen Afton Colliery, a roller frame was found to be smouldering. The frame was sent to the surface.

PROSECUTIONS

On 25th November a miner was prosecuted for using abusive language to and striking a mine official while acting as member of a deputation at a conference in the mine office. On the first charge, under Regulation 71, he was convicted and fined £2 10s., costs 10s. The second charge was suspended for twelve months by agreement, the case to be heard on seven days' notice should any further trouble be caused by the same man.

On 2nd December a mine surface worker was prosecuted under Regulation 64 (2) for introducing strangers into a mine without the manager's permission. He was convicted with costs, no fine being inflicted, as the case was brought as a warning.

WEST COAST INSPECTION DISTRICT (C. HUNTER and R. T. H. DALE, Inspectors of Coal-mines)

GREYMOUTH DISTRICT

Liverpool State Colliery, Renwani.—The greater portion of the output was obtained from pillar-extraction in the Morgan and Kimbell sections. Development is being carried on in the Morgan dip and Kimbell dip sections. The Morgan east dips have been advanced about 10 chains, and the headings off the east level about 8 chains to the rise. The east workings are dusty, and water has been laid on to allay the dust. A stone drive was started about the middle of the year to connect from the main haulage road to the Morgan Dip workings. This drive will cut off the long haulage at present being used from this section. The completed drive will be about 17 chains long and one-half of this has now been done.

Kimbell Section: Pillaring in the Kimbell east level has been carried on during the year, but owing to heating in November the section was sealed, practically all the available coal being extracted.

Plant Electrification: The electrification of the screening plant and the haulage winch from the timber-yards has been completed. The middle brake main haulage is also electrically operated. A substation at the power-house, with the necessary switch gear, has been erected.

Strongman State Colliery.—Development: This is being continued in the north No. 2 heading, No. 2 south, and No. 1 south dip. The No. 2 south heading has become extremely wet with bad roof conditions, and the seam has thinned to 8 ft. The fault encountered on the west side of No. 2 north heading, was passed through, and there are prospects of a good section opening out beyond the fault. All the coal, with the exception of that from two pairs of miners, was from development work. The number of miners was increased from forty-eight to sixty-six pairs, the additional men being from the James Mine, which closed down on the 27th July, 1943. In the main east heading, which has been standing on the Bob fault for some time, a start has been made to cross the fault. New Plant: An electric-driven compressor has been installed.

Blackball State Colliery, Blackball.—All the coal won was from developing places. A pair of headings was driven off No. 2 south level to meet No. 4 bore and extended a distance of 16 chains. The floor was extremely undulating, and the coal maintained an average thickness of about 10 ft. to 12 ft. Between the south heading and main drive a section has been developed with a "Jeffrey" coal-cutting machine and this section will eventually be used as a sump. The main drive was extended for about 10 chains, then stopped in about 4 ft. of coal. The driving of the main dip crossed a roll in the floor with a vertical height of about 12 ft. North of the main drive and 2 chains back from the face two levels have been developed for a distance of 5 chains. These levels were stopped as the roof was struck, resulting in a large inflow of water. About 1 chain from the face a pair of headings is being driven towards No. 1 north, from which it is hoped to develop a panel. During the year a "Sirocco" fan was installed, effecting a marked improvement in the ventilation.

Balderstone and Party.—The output for the year was obtained from splitting and extraction of pillars in Nos. 3 and 2 4 sections in the top-seam workings of the old Blackball Mine. A gangway between the portal of No. 1 tunnel and the