

From the east headings a pair of development headings has been driven west 12 chains, and from these a connection has been made to the main mine entrance by a stone drive 5 chains long. The main drives have also been continued to the south for a distance of 18 chains from the mine entrance. The coal here is of good quality and has increased in thickness to 9 ft. The endless-rope haulage has been extended into the main drive.

During the year a large bathhouse of good design was completed at No. 3 Mine and is now in use. Access to the mine by road was provided late in 1942, but some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a bus service. The company now runs a service from Glen Massey to the No. 3 Mine.

*Renown Colliery.*—No. 1 Mine: The top-seam section near the mine mouth, which has been standing since development was completed in May, 1929, was cleaned up and retimbered late in November. Pillar-extraction has now commenced. This seam averages about 6 ft. in height.

Pillar-extraction in the No. 2 north section continued throughout the year, a steady output being maintained from this section.

The withdrawal of pillars at the rope end of No. 3 south haulage and in panels to the west of the haulage has also continued steadily. In this locality the No. 4 east headings were connected to headings driven from the New Drive workings (No. 2 Mine) late in November. The handling of coal from the east workings to the surface will be greatly simplified when haulage through this new route is connected up.

No. 4 south headings have been extended to a distance of 21 chains from the main drives and development of No. 2 panel has been completed. Owing to thinning of the seam, it is unlikely that further development in this direction can be expected.

No. 2 Mine: The main headings have now been driven 38 chains from the mine entrance. Good-quality coal 14 ft. thick has so far been met with, and bores ahead of the drives show that the thickness of the seam is likely to continue for a considerable distance into the new field.

An airshaft has been constructed to serve this mine and has been completely lined with concrete. A propeller fan has been installed and is in use.

*Pukemiro Colliery.*—North Mine: Pillar-extraction continued throughout the year, giving employment to an average of sixteen pairs of miners. The pillar section at the head of the stone drive was worked out early in the year, and a section to the west of this drive was worked in addition to two sections to the south of the main drives. The coal is of good quality, and though mining conditions are difficult owing to the height and width of the first workings many years ago, and the long narrow pillars then left, the management have been successful in obtaining a fair proportion of the pillar coal and in producing from this mine nearly half the total output of the colliery.

South Mine: In the Taupiri section the panel between the west dip headings and the main Taupiri headings has been completed, and from this three headings have been driven to the east to test the seam in this direction. By the end of the year they had reached a point 16 chains east of the west dip headings. The coal has been of good quality, but at the faces which are now beyond the line of the Taupiri section main headings and are approaching the limit of workable coal as established to the east, the coal has become dirty, and horizontal stony intrusions are showing.

Pillar-extraction has continued in the south of the Taupiri section and also in the mid section and Nelson's Jig section. The Rope End pillaring has practically been completed, only two places still being worked at the end of the year.

In the No. 1 right haulage, the headings parallel to and south of the main road have been completed to the next development roads below Horne's. A heading beyond this point will require to be dealt with before further development is possible.

*Glen Afton No. 1.*—Pillar-extraction of E3 panel was completed in December, 1943, and development of the two panels on each side of the rope road, but in the State area, was proceeded with. The main headings were also advanced and have now reached a distance of 8 chains beyond the State boundary.

Extraction of a small section of pillars north-east of the end of L haulage was completed in July. The stone dip in L section was continued to a distance of 11½ chains from L haulage. The coal-seam is known to be only a few feet below the drive and should be reached very soon.

Preparations were begun in August to extract pillars in H section, and a haulage was installed in the old E rope road. Pillar-extraction was begun in December and is proceeding.

An improvement to the mine ventilation has been made by retimbering and increasing the size of the main return, particularly near the fan. This work is being continued.

The stoppings at F section were improved and strengthened, and arching of the travelling-road with concrete has resulted in a general cooling of the stoppings.

*Glen Afton No. 2 (McDonald Colliery).*—Korfman Section: To the west of H section main headings, development of H3 left panel, against the boundary, has been almost completed, while to the east H2 right panel has been almost completed, and H3 right panel, against the boundary, is completed and pillar-extraction has been started from the north-east corner.

From the main drives below H section headings, three companion drives are being extended in the seam across the State boundary into the Glen Afton lease. They have reached a point 11 chains from the main haulage.

Three small panels are being developed from the tail-rope headings at the boundary end of E section main headings, while in E4 right panel some pillars have been split beneath surface swamps at the north-east corner of the panel.

No. 4 Mine: To the west of the main haulage panel, development has been completed and pillar-extraction is proceeding.

In the Tail-rope section pillar-extraction has commenced from the line of outcrop to the south-east of the main headings and from the barrier to the north-west. The main drives are being extended to develop a small area of coal still unworked against the barrier to the north-east.

*Taupiri East Colliery.*—The output for this colliery was obtained until October from pillar splits and top coal in a small Crown lease south-west of the main haulage. On completion of this, pillar-extraction was resumed east of the main haulage.

*Whatawhata Campbell Colliery, Whatawhata.*—The output from this colliery has been somewhat increased during the year owing to development of the new south drives in good coal up to 10 ft. thick. An area of approximately 7 acres has been proved by this development, which is being continued to the south and east.

*Waikato Extended Colliery (Roose Shipping Co., Ltd.).*—An area some 3½ chains long has been worked by opencasting to a width of 1 chain. The coal-seam under a ridge to the east of the opencast was tested by driving and found to thicken to some 16 ft. However, it is rising fairly steeply in this direction and will probably outcrop near the top of the ridge. The cover is 6 ft. to 8 ft. thick.

*Glen Afton Potteries Opencast.*—Coal for firing the kilns has been obtained as required from an 8 ft. seam on the company's property. This has been stripped and is worked opencast. Quarrying of clay and fireclay has also been carried on throughout the year.

*Huntly Brickworks.*—Fireclay for use in brickmaking has been worked continuously from two faces 40 ft. high.

*Dally's Mine, Kawhia.*—No work has been done at this mine during 1943.