

No. 3 Mine entrance to a transformer at No. 3 Extended Mine, also a substation, while general repairs to mine rope-way bridges, haulage road, and screening plant, &c., are carried out as opportunity permits and during the Christmas period.

*Private Railway-line.*—Maintenance work has been carried on here continuously during the year. Due to the shortage of labour it was sometimes extremely difficult. However, the standard of work was good, and lately I have been able to increase the railway gang and engage two additional men to repair and paint the bridges, to comply with the Railway Department's request. During the recent dry spell we have had numerous fires occur at several of the bridges. However, they were generally of a minor nature and were immediately dealt with.

*Transport Trucks.*—We have three of the above trucks, which are used to transport the workmen from the mine to Ngaruawahia, and *vice versa*. During the earlier part of the year some difficulty was experienced in having these trucks serviced and repaired to keep them running. Arrangements were made by the Department to have the trucks serviced by a Hamilton firm, since when we have had no complaints. The state of the road from Glen Massey to Ngaruawahia is such that the upkeep of trucks is very expensive in tires and repairs. However, during the year, negotiations have been carried out with a view to having this service operated by a private bus company, and I understand they have been completed, with the likelihood of the service commencing in the very near future.

*Housing and Mine Buildings.*—During the year a contract was arranged to have the houses owned by the Department repaired, renovated, and painted when necessary, this work being supervised by the Building Supervisor. So far in this work £2,159 3s. 10d. has been expended, and I understand it is now nearing completion. In so far as the mine buildings are concerned, they were painted during the year and necessary repairs kept up, and several new buildings were erected at No. 3 Extended Mine—namely, substation, deputies' cabin, shelter-shed, small repair-shop for fitters, &c.—in addition, a new weigh cabin was built at No. 1 bins.

I have, &c.,

JOHN PENMAN, Manager.

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