

WAIKATO COAL-MINES CONTROL

The Waikato Coal-mines Control Board, established under the provisions of the Waikato Coal-mines Control Emergency Regulations 1942, and charged with the control of the mines owned by Glen Afton Collieries, Ltd., Pukemiro Collieries, Ltd., Renown Collieries, Ltd., and Taupiri Coal Mines, Ltd., met at regular intervals during the year and continued to exercise a superintendence over various matters affecting these mines.

The existence of a Board representative of both owners and miners to which an appeal could be made on any matter affecting the mines appears to have created a great measure of industrial security since, apart from the railway strike in January, 1945, there have been no prolonged stoppages of the mines in question.

The following table shows the production from the Waikato controlled collieries over a period of ten years :—

Year ended 31st December.	Glen Afton.	Pukemiro.	Taupiri.	Renown.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1936	235,782	117,940	155,785	106,466	615,973
1937	223,301	112,036	158,288	114,893	608,519
1938	218,951	102,751	160,463	107,202	589,367
1939	211,768	110,987	176,020	121,164	619,939
1940	208,684	127,849	184,995	144,646	666,174
1941	222,333	134,242	203,298	128,297	688,172
1942	224,489	125,989	207,738	131,637	689,853
1943	241,709	138,530	219,643	141,974	741,856
1944	204,387	128,970	212,370	147,619	693,346
1945	189,797	116,696	195,205	130,937	631,645

The peak year of 741,856 tons occurred in the first complete year of control, but production has since receded, though it remains above the 1939 level.

The regulations provide for the guaranteeing by the State of the profits of the companies based on the average figure of three years prior to control. Some difficulties were experienced in settling the amounts that were to be paid, since the companies' claims were not entirely acceptable to the Government, but negotiations have been completed and full settlement made of all claims lodged to date.

Since the profits of the companies are guaranteed, the full district rate of subsidy has not been paid, for such a procedure would simply have involved reduced payments under one item in War Expenses Account and increased payments under another.

The total amount paid in respect of claims under the Control Regulations to the end of the respective financial year ending in 1945 of each company has been £241,895.

CARBONIZING AND BRIQUETTING

The production of the low-temperature coal carbonizing and briquetting plant at Waikato Carbonization, Ltd., at Rotowaro, during the year 1945 was :—

Raw coal carbonized	21,548 tons.
Carbonized coal produced	12,029 tons.
Average percentage of carbonized coal to raw coal	49 per cent.
Carbonettes manufactured	9,784 tons.
Tar and oil treated	219,677 gallons.
Pitch produced	180 tons.
Creosote produced	160,998 gallons.
Char sold for producer-gas plants	3,449 tons.
Char sold for other purposes	38 tons.

During the year Smokeless Fuel and Briquettes (Canterbury), Ltd., produced 34,000 gallons of tar. No briquettes were made.

No decision has yet been taken on the proposal to establish a plant to briquette Strongman and Blackball slack.