

RESCUE STATIONS

The training of rescue teams continued during the year at the Dobson, Rotowaro, and Ohai rescue stations, and refresher courses for trained men were held at regular intervals.

In these districts trained teams, using the station equipment, have repeatedly assisted to bring underground fires and heatings under control.

Owing to the difficult building situation, it has, unfortunately, not been possible to complete the new Granity Station and bring it into active operation.

SOCIAL AMENITIES

During the financial year 1946-47 the sum of £5,029 was expended in the provision of improved social amenities for mining communities.

In the main, the expenditure was for the improvement of bowling-greens, tennis-courts, swimming-pools, and sports-grounds. In general, the social-amenities programme is severely restricted by the prevailing shortage of man-power and materials.

HOUSING

During the financial year 1946-47 housing loans were granted to twenty-three employees to a total amount of £12,417.

Three loans were for the construction of new houses, fourteen for the purchase of existing houses, and the remaining six for alterations or renovations. The locations of the houses are: Runanga, 5; Dunollie, 2; Stockton, 3; Ngaruawahia, 3; Taylorville, 5; Ohura, 3; Dobson, 1; Glen Massey, 1.

The following table gives details of loans granted for the last ten years:—

Year ended	Erection of New Houses.		Purchase of Existing Houses.		Repairs and Renovations.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
31/3/38 ..	3	1,200	..	..	1	390	4	1,590
31/3/39 ..	8	3,830	1	250	3	788	12	4,868
31/3/40 ..	9	5,225	..	..	1	250	10	5,475
31/3/41 ..	16	10,221	..	..	3	909	19	11,130
31/3/42 ..	14	9,088	..	..	1	120	15	9,208
31/3/43 ..	6	5,500	11	6,230	1	495	18	12,225
31/3/44 ..	10	10,335	15	6,788	3	1,025	28	18,148
31/3/45 ..	4	4,549	7	3,925	1	395	12	8,869
31/3/46 ..	2	2,000	7	2,748	2	560	11	5,308
31/3/47 ..	3	4,160	14	7,195	6	1,062	23	12,417

COAL-MINERS' RELIEF FUND

Receipts from the levy of ½d. per ton for the year ended 31st March, 1947, were £6,212, and expenditure for the year was £8,299.

Interest earned was £78, and the amount standing to the credit of the fund on 31st March, 1947, was £1,841.

At the close of the previous year the figures were: receipts, £5,706; expenditure, £9,219; interest, £165; balance as at 31st March, 1946, £3,851.