

Westport-Cascade Mine, Cascade Creek.—Three pairs of miners were continually employed on pillar-extraction in Durkin's Section. Pillar-extraction in Moynihan's Section was discontinued early in the year. Pillar-extraction commenced early in the year in the Mill Creek Section, three miners being employed. A further four miners were continually employed on development work south of the first panel in the Mill Creek Section.

Westport Coal Co., Ltd., Denniston Mine.—Pillar-extraction continued in Forsyth's Section. Development was continued in an area to the rise of the 9-Box Jig Section, but the work proved disappointing owing to the low coal, exceptionally bad roof conditions, stone bands, and intrusions. In the Waterloo Section prospecting work was continued in low coal, but as this low coal decreased again in thickness, extraction of the remaining pillars was commenced. In the Extension Section, splitting and extracting of pillars was continued with three pairs of miners.

Aerial Ropeway to Cook's Lease.—Excavation for the foundations of the pylons was commenced. This aerial when completed will transport the coal from Cook's Lease area to the terminus with the main rope road at Burnett's Face.

Concrete foundations for the bins at Wooden Bridge have been laid where the coal will be transferred from the aerial to the endless-rope haulage road to Denniston.

A temporary bi-cable aerial is being erected for the transfer of material to this work.

Westport Coal Co. Ltd., Millerton Mine.—Mangatina Area: Two pairs of colliers were employed on pillar-extraction until November, when all the available coal was extracted and the area abandoned.

Mine Creek Area: Seven pairs of colliers were employed at the beginning of the year in the 3rd West, 6th West, Pollock's Level, and North-east Sections, all on pillar-extraction. The number of colliers was later reduced to five pairs.

Old Dip Area: The year commenced with five pairs on pillar-extraction in the Settlement Area and two pairs on development work in the lower Old Dip Area. To suit operating conditions, colliers were transferred, placing four pairs on pillar-extraction in the Settlement Area, one pair splitting a block of coal prior to pillar-extraction in the upper Old Dip Area, and in the lower Old Dip Area two pairs of colliers were engaged on pillar-extraction.

On the western side of the lower Old Dip, one pair was engaged in opening up and forming pillars in a small block of coal left during the first working in this area. The policy of forming artificial panels by concrete stoppings was continued to control the fire hazard, with satisfactory results.

Stockton State Colliery, Ngakawau.—Fly Creek Section: Operations were confined to pillar-extraction in the South Section. Very wet conditions continued in about 80 per cent. of the working-faces. In the old mine area extraction was completed in No. 2 Section and continued in Nos. 4 and 5 Sections.

Webb Mine (D. Hill): Development advanced a distance of 26 chains from the main entrance in good-quality coal. Three panels were formed to the south. Development was completed in the old workings in this area and pillar-extraction commenced from the boundary of the barren belt on this area.

South-west and adjacent to the Webb Mine a fairly large area of coal suitable for opencasting has been proved.

"E" Hill Opencast Mine: During the year, 140,000 tons of good coal was produced. A new 5-yard electric shovel simplifies the stripping problem and allows a regular high daily output to be maintained.

Harris' Mine, Karamea.—This mine remained closed during the year.

Comet Mine, Inangahua.—Very little output was won, and the mine closed down for the greater part of the year.

Paine Bros.' Mine, Buller Gorge.—The output was won from pillar-extraction, the overburden being removed by bulldozers and the coal mined by hand methods.

Rakui Mine, Buller Gorge.—Splitting and extraction of pillars was continued throughout the year in coal averaging 7 ft. to 16 ft. in thickness. The coal is obtained by hydraulic means.

Heaphy's Opencast Mine, Buller Gorge.—This mine commenced coal-production during the latter part of the year. The coal is of good quality and ranges up to 25 ft. thick with very little overburden and is mined by hydraulic means.

NELSON DISTRICT

Owen Colliery, Owen River.—The output for the year was obtained solely from development with two levels in low coal 1 ft. 6 in. to 2 ft. thick.

Six-mile Mine (J. Gillespie), Murchison.—The output was won by four men working a vertical seam of irregular thickness from 6 in. to 12 ft.

Strathmore Mine (R. E. F. O'Rourke), Murchison.—A small output was won from a 4 ft. seam of good-quality coal.