

RESCUE STATIONS

The new station at Granity came into use on 30th September, and the stations at Dobson, Ohai, and Rotowaro were in full operation throughout the year.

The numbers of trained men on the station registers are :—

				Previously trained.	Trained during 1947.	Totals.
Dobson	..	..	..	71	17	88
Granity	..	..	..	..	14	14
Ohai	..	..	..	19	11	30
Rotowaro	..	..	..	74	12	86
Totals	..	..	..	164	54	218

The services of trained teams were frequently asked for by mine-managers to deal with heatings and fires and to carry out examinations when sealed-off areas were broken open.

During the year emergency calls dealt with were : Dobson, 5 : Ohai, 7 : Rotowaro, 15 : Granity, nil. Although conditions were often potentially dangerous, the trained teams equipped with the rescue apparatus were able to deal with all these emergencies without mishap. On several occasions the work resulted in a saving of both coal and mining plant.

In addition to training new personnel, refresher courses were conducted for trained men at all stations excepting Granity. The organization was extended by the establishment of a subsidiary station at Benneydale, where five sets of Proto apparatus are now held to facilitate training of teams and also to ensure that immediate attention is given to the heatings which are experienced at the Mangapehi Mine. It is intended to establish a similar subsidiary station at Reefton.

HOUSING

During the financial year 1947-48, housing loans were granted to twenty-two employees to a total amount of £15,735.

Eleven loans were for the construction of new houses and eleven for the purchase of existing houses. The locations of the houses are : Runanga, 3 : Dunollie, 2 : Rapahoe, 1 : Blackball, 1 : Hector, 3 : Ngakawau, 1 : Stockton, 3 : Granity, 1 : Ohura, 1 : Ngaruawahia, 6.

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.
			£		£		£		£
31/3/39	..	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
31/3/48	..	11	11,380	11	4,355	..	..	22	15,735