

Taking into account the stocks at the beginning and end of the year, the following statement shows details of the coal disposed of during the year :—

1st April, 1947—		Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.
Stock in bin and yard		1,194 18 0	
Stock on wharf		7 1 0	
			1,201 19 0
Add net output for year			55,585 5 0
			56,787 4 0
31st March, 1948—			
Less stock in bin and yard		1,432 17 0	
Less stock on wharf		..	
			1,432 17 0
Total disposed of			55,354 7 0

Disposals

	Tons cwt. qr.
Shipped	20,675 0 0
Railed to Canterbury, &c. ..	19,254 7 0
Railway sales	10,268 13 0
Local and mine sales	3,918 17 0
Sales to workmen and free issues ..	1,237 10 0
	55,354 7 0

The gross output from the colliery since it was taken over by State Coal-mines on 5th July, 1941, totals 342,343 tons 17 cwt.

Days worked.—The colliery worked $228\frac{5}{16}$ days out of a possible 241 ordinary working-days. In addition, the colliery worked 3 substituted statutory holidays, making the total number of days worked $231\frac{5}{16}$. The difference between the ordinary days worked, $228\frac{5}{16}$, and the possible number of working-days is accounted for as follows : 2 days, union meeting ; $7\frac{1}{2}$ days, dispute *re* dip yardage ; 1 day, funeral of late Hon. J. O'Brien ; 2 days, death and funeral of workman ; $\frac{1}{8}$ day, parliamentary by-election ; $\frac{1}{16}$ day, local-body election.

Employees.—In connection with coal-winning, the average number of persons employed in and about the mine was 170 men and 3 boys, made up as follows—Underground : coal-hewers, 51 ; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers 91. Surface : 28 men and 3 boys.

Coal-hewers' Average Daily Earnings.—The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) were £3 per day, and after deducting stores (explosives) their net return was £2 16s. 2d., an increase of 8s. 8d. per day when compared with the previous period.

Daily Output.—The average daily output was 248 tons 15 cwt. and the coal-hewers' average daily output was 5 tons 18 cwt. 3 qr., as compared with 232 tons 14 cwt. and 5 tons 14 cwt. 1 qr. respectively for the previous year. The total number of hewer shifts for the year was 9,691.

Deficiencies.—The total amount paid under the minimum-wage clause was £152 3d. 4d.

Accidents.—In addition to numerous accidents of a minor nature, 3 serious accidents, 1 of which proved fatal, occurred at the Blackball colliery. On 10th January, 1948, an apprentice electrician was fatally electrocuted whilst engaged in effecting repairs to a winch. On 12th September, 1947, an electrician suffered a sudden spontaneous pneumothorax whilst working over heated bitumen. On 5th November, 1947, a miner was struck by a fall of coal and suffered a fracture of the left leg.