

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	..	..	1,769	7	2			
Stock on wharf	..	..	..					
Add net output for year			..			1,769	7	2
						61,778	5	3
						63,547	13	1
31st March, 1948—								
Less stock in bin and yard	..	..	1,286	9	0			
Less stock on wharf	..	..	45	2	0			
						1,331	11	0
Total disposed of			..			62,216	2	1

Disposals

			Tons	cwt.	qr.			
Shipped	..	..	35,441	7	2			
Railed to Canterbury, &c.	..	..	19,409	12	0			
Railway sales	..	..	4,115	19	3			
Local and mine sales	..	..	1,254	7	0			
Sales to workmen and free issues	..	..	1,994	16	0			
						62,216	2	1

The gross output from the colliery since it was taken over by State Coal-mines on 22nd February, 1943, totals 308,149 tons 13 cwt.

Days Worked.—The colliery worked 229 $\frac{3}{4}$ days out of a possible 241 ordinary working-days. In addition, the colliery worked 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ substituted statutory holidays, making the total days worked 231 $\frac{3}{4}$. The difference between the ordinary days worked, 229 $\frac{3}{4}$, and the possible number of working-days is accounted for as follows: 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ days, union meetings; 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ days, power failures; 1 day, dispute *re* loss of air drill; 1 day, funeral of late Hon. J. O'Brien; 1 day, dispute *re* beer boycott; 1 day, replacing of fan motor and belt; $\frac{1}{4}$ day, Westland parliamentary by-election; $\frac{1}{4}$ day, Brunner Centenary Celebrations; $\frac{1}{8}$ day, local-body-election day; $\frac{1}{8}$ day, union decision to commence seven-hour shifts.

Employees.—In connection with coal-winning, the average number of persons employed in and about the mine was 201 men and 6 boys, made up as follows—Underground: Coal-hewers, 53; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 114. Surface: 34 men and 6 boys.

Coal-hewers' Average Daily Earnings.—The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) were £3 4s. 5d., and after deducting stores (explosives) their net return was £3 1s. 5d., an increase of 4s. 11d. per day when compared with the previous period.

Daily Output.—The average daily output was 276 tons 14 cwt. and the coal-hewers' average daily output was 6 tons 1 cwt., as compared with 246 tons 12 cwt. 3 qr. and 6 tons 4 cwt. 2 qr. respectively for the previous year. The total number of hewer shifts for the year was 10,606 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Deficiencies.—The total amount paid under the minimum-wage clause was £41 19s. 8d.

Accidents.—In addition to numerous accidents of a minor nature, three serious accidents occurred at the Dobson Colliery. On 1st August, 1947, a shiftman was struck by a pipe-line which was forced apart at the joint by a fall of stone, and suffered a fracture of the skull. On 27th August, 1947, a pair of miners were struck by a fall of stone; one suffered a fracture of the right leg and the other a fracture of the right clavicle. On 11th February, 1948, a trucker was caught between a moving box and a prop and suffered a fracture of the T12 vertebrae.