1911. NEW ZEALAND.

STATE COAL-MINES

(REPORT ON THE WORKING OF) FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1911.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly in accordance with the Requirements of Section 118 of the Coal-mines Act. 1908.

The General Manager, State Coal-mines, to the Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

Sir.—

New Zealand State Coal-mines Office, Wellington, 27th June, 1911.

I have the honour to submit the annual report and balance-sheet of the New Zealand State Coal-mines for the year ended the 31st March last.

The gross output of the mines for the year was 281,525 tons, which, after allowing for mine consumption and waste, left 260,803 tons for market, being a decrease of 20,827 tons when considered against the figures of the preceding yearly period.

against the figures of the preceding yearly period.

The Point Elizabeth Mine produced 209,253 tons of marketable coal of the following grades:
Screened, 59,754 tons; unscreened, 79,399 tons; bunker, 14,599 tons; small, 55,501 tons.

The following table shows the tonnage disposed of:-

Sold to	Screened.	Unscreened.	Bunker.	Small.	Total.
Depots New Zealand railways Other Government Departments Private consumers and shipping companies	Tons. 28,738 20,098 819 9,934	Tons. 28,254 29,389 3,989 17,721	Tons. 1,419 11,703	Tons. 5,901 159 49,161	Tons. 62,893 49,487 6,386 88,519
Tons	59,589	79,353	13,122	55,221	207,285

There is a falling-off in the hulk sales, but this was on account of the large quantity of steam-coal required in the previous period to assist in maintaining communication with Australia during the Newcastle strike.

The sales from this mine are within 164 tons of those of the previous year. It should, however, be noted that, as the workings are extended, so must the working-expenses increase. The demand for the coal has not diminished, and far exceeds the output of screened and unscreened, but considerable difficulty is experienced in disposing of the very large quantity of small coal made from the screened supplied to railways.

The Seddonville Mine produced 51,550 tons of marketable coal of the following grades: Screened. 14,703 tons; unscreened, 3,650 tons; bunker, 9,535 tons; nuts. 4,345 tons; small. 19,317 tons.

The following table shows the tonnage disposed of:-

Sold to	Screened.	Unscreened.	Bunker.	Nuts.	Small.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Depots	279	1,014		1,077	1,348	3,718
New Zealand railways	13.698	977		2,839	7	17,521
Other Government Departments	165	239	65			469
Briquette-works					8,316	8,316
Private consumers and shipping companies	127	1,484	8,968	470	9,853	20,902
Tons	14,269	3,714	9,033	4,386	19,524	50,926

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The briquette-works manufactured briquettes and eggettes, which were disposed of to-railways, 7,343 tons; depots, 1,129 tons; other Government Departments, 4 tons; private consumers, 88 tons:

The decrease of 23,254 tons in the sales from Seddonville is accounted for by the paucity of hard coal in the present workings, and that in the previous year a great deal of soft coal was sold for bunker purposes, on account of a scarcity of this class of coal having been caused by the Newcastle strike. Development is proceeding, and it is expected that more hard coal is likely to come to hand shortly.

The briquette-works: The demand for briquettes and eggettes has been increasing, but these works are only auxiliary to the mine, inasmuch as they provide a channel for the utilization of small

coal, and are only worked when there is an overplus of that class at Seddonville Mine.

Of the total quantity of coal handled, the Railway Department had 33,796 tons screened, 2,839 tons screened nuts, 30,366 tons unscreened, and 7,343 tons briquettes and eggettes, but only 7 tons of small; whereas other consumers had 96,893 tons steam and small coal. is sold freight paid to Wellington or elsewhere, but the steam and small is mostly sold f.o.b. Greymouth. The sum of £59,206 7s. was paid for steamer freight.

Coal supplied to depots shows an increase notwithstanding the warm, dry weather experienced

SIR.---

All circumstances being considered, the mines have had fairly regular work.

The development-works at the Point Elizabeth No. 2 Mine are being pushed on, and it is hoped that coal will be available for market within the current year, or shortly after.

The ways, working-plant, &c., about the mines are being maintained in good order.

1 am pleased to be able to report that the officers and men connected with the various branches of this industry have all worked energetically and well.

Attached are the reports of the Managers at Point Elizabeth and Seddonville, giving necessary

detailed information.

As forecasted in my report last year, I have to state that the cost of winning and hauling coal to the bins is now so high that it has been found necessary to raise the price of coal to consumers. As this increase was made towards the end of the year its effect upon the sales is not yet very apparent, but during the current year it should provide a reasonable margin to cover working expenses, depreciation, and contingencies. I have, &c.,

W. C. Gasquoine, General Manager.

The MANAGER, Point Elizabeth State Coal-mine, to the Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

Collieries for the year ended 31st March, 1911.

Greymouth, 12th May, 1911. I have the honour to submit my annual report on the working of the Point Elizabeth State

No. 1 COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.

The gross total output for the year was 221,990 tons, of which the separate sections, Nos. 1 and 2 of the colliery, yielded respectively 101,127 and 120,863 tons; and after deducting mine consumption and waste there remained available for market 209,253 tons. The colliery worked on 230 days; thus the net average daily output was 908 tons, or 17 tons per working-day greater than for the year 1909-10. The balance of the possible working is accounted for as follows: Pay Saturdays, 26 days; other union holidays, 18; cavilling, 2; bar-blocks, 11; want of shipping, 17; time lost through fatal accidents, 8; the King's death, 1: total, 83 days.

The gross total output since the starting of the colliery in 1904 amounts to 1,322,131 tons.

The employees averaged 474 during the year, made up of—coal-miners, 201; truckers and other adult labour underground, 169; youths, 7; surface labour—adults, 71; boys, 26.

The colliery worked an average of 4.42 days per week, and the payments on account of wages,

exclusive of stores and compensation, amounted to £69,221 4s. 7d.

Underground Exploration.

The bulk of the output has for some time been obtained from the extraction of pillars in both sections of the colliery; but exploration by boring has proved that the bottom seam (a small area of which was found in No. 1 section and worked out) extends over a very considerable area in the No. 2 section, mainly to the rise of the present upper levels. The thickness of this seam varies from 4 ft. to over 6 ft., with an average of about 5 ft.; and the workings already opened out in it are capable of producing 250 tons daily. The effect of this development means the continuance of output from this section of the colliery for a much longer period than previously calculated, and, as the bulk of the area in which this coal is found is on the rise of present water-level, the coal will be won without pumping.

Surface Works and Surveys.

The whole of the plant, machinery, and buildings have been maintained in good order and condition. The new air-compressor and boilers which were procured to enable the increased water to be dealt with have worked continuously since their installation, and the difficulty has been effectively overcome.

With the object of locating other areas of coal in positions conveniently situated for working and conveyance to the present bins and railway-sidings, a considerable amount of survey-work has been done during the year; but still further exploration is requisite before a decision can be arrived at on a matter of such importance. The broken character of the country renders the work difficult and results uncertain.

Accidents.

Under this heading it is to be deeply regretted that four fatalities occurred in connection with the operations of the colliery, on all of which special reports have been presented.

General.

Referring again to the quantity of coal produced and time worked during 1910-11, it will be seen from the figures supplied that the tonnage available for market was 209,253 tons, or 1,804 tons more than for 1909-10, although the time worked was less by twelve days. The reduction of working-time experienced during the year has had a serious effect, not only on the output, but on the general average cost of production, which is much increased, for it must be noted that the maintenance of the mine must be attended to, whether working or not.

Harbour and Shipping Facilities.

The working of the mine was interrupted for eleven days owing to the difficulty experienced by vessels working the port of Greymouth. Such interruptions are, it must be admitted, inseparable from the working of such harbours. This being so, special facilities in the way of suitable vessels for the carriage of coal, also sufficient rolling-stock and cranes, should be provided for the rapid handling of the product of the mines and the general trade of the port, so that vessels may be given the greatest possible despatch when the port is workable.

POINT ELIZABETH No. 2 COLLIERY.

In my report for 1909-10 reference was made to the location and development of this colliery, and I have now to state that during the year ended 31st March, 1911, the works have made good progress. The construction of the tunnels for the endless-rope haulage-line being carried out under contract have been extended by 2,992 ft., making a total distance of 4,702 ft., and leaving approximately 1,320 ft. to be driven to complete this part of the line. The earthworks and trestle bridges are also making good progress, and the main levels are being driven into the coal-seams in preparation for the output of coal when the development-works are completed.

Coal-storage Bins.

The material for the steel understructure for the bins has come to hand, and is being drilled and otherwise prepared at the No. 1 Colliery workshops.

Coal-tubs.

The plates for these (1,000 sets), for which a contract was let to Messrs. Johnson, of Invercargill, are now being delivered, and will be put together on the ground.

The railway (which is an extension of that constructed and hitherto in use for the traffic from the No. 1 Colliery) is now approaching completion, and the locomotive is being run over it with material as required by the officers of the Public Works Department. This may be taken to indicate that it will soon be available for the transport of heavy material for the coal-storage bins and other works, much of which could not otherwise be delivered except at ruinous cost. The principal works still to be completed are—(a) Endless-rope haulage-line tunnels, about 1,300 ft.; (b) two trestle bridges on haulage-line; (c) laying permanent-way on haulage-line; (d) erection of coal-storage bins, screens, picking-belts, &c.; (e) erection of hydraulic brakes (two); (f) the installation of electric-light plant for lighting the haulage-lines, bins, and mine-levels; (g) erection of permanent ventilating-fan. Given the convenience of the railway for delivery of material, and assuming that plant and machinery will come to hand as required, the whole of the works should be completed within ten months.

The colliery is being opened on a seam of excellent coal, the thickness of which was, at the start, from the escarpment, 20 ft.; but it has now, at 15 chains from the opening, thinned, owing to a roll in the coal-measures. This thinning is temporary, for the seam is again at its full thickness in the adjacent valley. The colliery will have natural drainage and other features tending to economical working.

Accidents.

I regret to have to refer to some minor accidents which have occurred, and to one fatality during the year, a full detailed report of which has been presented.

The officers in all branches of the works have carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner, and the Inspecting Engineer has rendered me considerable assistance.

I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

JAMES BISHOP, Manager.

The Manager, Seddonville State Coal-mine, to the Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington. Sir.—: Seddonville, 23rd May, 1911.

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the workings of the Seddonville State Colliery for the year ended 31st March last.

OUTPUT.

The coal won from the mine during the year amounted to 59,535 tons, and after deducting mine consumption and waste there remained available for market 51,550 tons.

The briquette-works at Westport utilized 8,316 tons of fine small coal in the manufacture of briquettes and eggettes.

DAYS WORKED.

The mine during the year worked 221 days 4 hours, which is a considerable decrease in comparison with the number of days worked last year. The average time worked per week was therefore 44 days.

The miners' daily average earning for the year was 17s. per shift, being an increase of 6d. per day over last year.

The number of men and boys employed in and about the mine throughout the year averaged 104. There were no accidents of a serious nature.

PLANT.

The plant and machinery in and about the mine have been maintained in good and efficient workingorder.

UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT.

During the year very little development-work has been done. A small area in the West section, where five pairs of miners are employed, is being opened out, the coal proving to be of excellent quality. A dip heading was also started off the main dip heading in the direction of borehole No. 7 on the present haulage-road, where coal 16 ft. thick has been proved. This heading when driven a distance of 2½ chains struck a fault, which has been found to displace the seam considerably. In consequence of this, and of the large quantity of water given off, it was not profitable to extend the heading, as the small area available would not warrant any expensive work being undertaken to reach it. The chief work done in addition to the above has been the extraction of pillars and bringing back top coal in the Cave section.

EXPLORATION.

With the object of proving the extent of workable coal in the Charming Creek area, several boreholes have been put down, the approximate positions of which are shown on the accompanying plan. Now that boring operations in the line first laid out have been completed, the following summary of results may be given: No. 1, which is situated in the central part of the field, proved the existence of a seam of coal 20 ft. thick at a depth of 90 ft. No. 2, about half a mile eastward of No. 1, was suspended at 315 ft. in coal-measures, but it is probable that the coal horizon has been passed through in this bore. Nos. 3 and 4, at the extreme western portion of the field, failed to find coal. 370 ft. struck gneiss, as also did the latter at 525 ft. No. 5, which is approximately 21 chains westward of No. 1, pierced a 20 ft. seam of coal at 75 ft. No. 6, which is 35 chains westward of No. 5, penetrated a seam of coal 2½ ft. thick at a depth of 226 ft., which is evidently the 20 ft. seam of bores 1 and 5 pinching out westward, gneiss being struck at 330 ft. No. 7, situated 28 chains south-east of No. 1, was suspended at a depth of 175 ft., the strata bored through not being coal-bearing. The boring, so far as it has gone, proves that the area of workable coal is somewhat limited, having a width of about half a mile from east to west. The length from north to south is as yet unascertained.

In order to thoroughly test the field it is necessary that several more bores be put down north or south of bores 1, 5, and 6. A site for bore No. 8 has been selected 20 chains north, midway between Nos. 1 and 5, and boring operations have been commenced.

GENERAL.

One great drawback experienced in connection with the working of this colliery is the difficulty of ing a profitable market for the amount of small coal produced. When rescreening for making nuts finding a profitable market for the amount of small coal produced. a large amount of small coal is run to waste, which, previous to the closing-down of the briquette-works at Westport, was utilized for the manufacture of eggettes and briquettes.

In reference to the reduced output, it is chiefly attributed to the shorter time worked and a reduc-

tion in the number of coal-hewers at the beginning of the present year.

In conclusion, permit me to say that the officers in all departments have discharged their duties in a most satisfactory manner, and the Inspecting Engineer has rendered valuable assistance in connection with the working of the mine and the prospecting of the new field.

l have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

I. A. JAMES, Manager

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE NEW ZEALAND STATE COAL-MINBS.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets at 31st March, 1911.

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Assets. Point Elizabeth Colliery and Development Property Account Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Machinery, plant, ropes, and rolling-stock—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Buildings at mine— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Cottages	Stores (stock on hand) Timber (stock on hand) Coal (stock on hand, at mine and wharf) Coal (stock on hand, afloat)	Point Elizabeth Colliery No. 2, Development	Account—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Machinery, plant, ropes, and rolling stock—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Buildings at mine— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Cottages at mine Timber Account
Liabilities.	ng fund 13,200 0	-	March, 1911 1,051 0 5	t						•		

BALANCE-SHEET OI Statement of L

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Liabilities and Assets at 31st March, 1910—continued	Assets. Seddonville Colliery and Development Property Account— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Depreciation	Machinery, plant, ropes, and rolling-stook—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Buildings at mine— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Depreciation	Cottages— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Depreciation	Stores (stook on hand) Goal (stock on hand, at mine and wharf)	Charming Creek—Boring and prospecting	Driquetee plant— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Depreciation	Briquette materials (stock on hand, Stores (stock on hand) Briquettes (stock on hand)	Hulks Property Account— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Depreciation	Wellington Depot Property Account Cost at 31st March, 1910 Sale of plant	Depreciation	Stocks on hand

Liabilities.

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Christohurch Depot Property Account—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Stooks on hand	Wanganui Depot Property Account— Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Stooks on hand	Dunedin Depot Property Account—Cost at 31st March, 1910 Additional outlay during the year	Depreciation	Stocks on hand	Wellington Office Furniture Account.—Cost at 31st March, 1910. Depreciation	Sundry debtors Suspense Account, Premiums 1911–12 Cash in hand and in the Public Account at 31st March, 1911 Less vouchers outstanding	
											6222, 683 8 6

R. McKenzie, Minister of Mines.

State Coal-mines Office, Wellington, 20th May, 1911. LOUIS H. EILERS, F.R.A., N.Z., Accountant.

Examined and found correct, except that,-

1. The sinking fund shown as a liability has not been established by being set apart from the moneys of the State Coal-mines Account.
2. There is no authority of law for the establishment of a Reserve Fund shown as a liability.

ROBERT J. COLLINS, Controller and Auditor-General.

Statement of General Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1911.

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â	Seddonville Colliery Briquotte-works			: :		: :	:	

Statement of Point Elizabeth Colliery Working Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1911.

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To Stock of coal on hand at 31st March, 1910	110	:	:	1,537 10 9		By Sales of coal	:	:	:	:	162,395 19	O 6:	
Stock of timber on hand at 31st March, 1910	1910	:	:	105 14 7	1.643 5 4	Sales of timber Sales of stores	: :	: :	::	::	2,651 11	.4 .1 .7	
• Coal-winning — Wages	:	:	:	65,316 5 7		Stock of coal on hand at 31st March, 1911-	and at 31s	t March, 1	911—				165,472 4 10
Materials used Stores used	: :	::	: :	$\frac{4}{9}$, 871 16 10 3 , 227 7 8		At mine and wharf	barf 	::	: :	::	478.0 1 2,178.17 3	7.0	
:	:	:	:	332 8 10	73,415 10 1	Stook of timber on hand at 31st March, 191	n band at 3	lst March	, 1911	:	:	.	2.646 17 4 100 7 3
Stores sold	:	;	:	2,421 17 0	2,754 5 10								
Special rate	:	:	:	:	1,642 4 6								
Balance: Gross profit at mine	:	:	:	:	88,764 3 8								
					£168,219 9 5					-			£168,219 9 5

1911.
March,
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Colliery
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O Telegrams and postages	:	:	163 11 5	-						
	:	:	886 4 1							
Co Railway haulage	:	:	18,491 7 9							
	:	•	. 18 16 8							
Compensation for accidents and fund	:	:	4,113 18 8							
Railway freights	:	•	920 17 7							
General expenses	:	:	. 119 4 3							
Marine freights	:	:	46,469 6 0							
Hulks Working Account (proportion)	:	•	19							
Wharfage, &c.	:		9							
Bad debts	: :		=							
Depreciation: Mine, buildings, plant, and machinery	and machine	ery	3,127 10 5	-						
			1	89 596 15 1						
Balance: Net profits for the year	:	•	:	6,179 3 6						
				£88,775 18 7					-10	£88.775 18 7

Statement of Seddonville Colliery Working Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1911.

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•	:	:	: :	:	
	:	:	: :	:	
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	Dr. To Stock of coal on hand at 31st March, 1910 Coal-winning—	:	: :	Balance: Gross profits at mine	

Railway baulage 7,864 9 Insurances 5 0 6 Compensation for accidents and fund 110 10 10 General expenses 110 10 10 Marine freights 9,627 15 11 Hulks Working Account (proportion) 50 1 6 Wharfages, &c 283 16 4 Ballway freights 1,199 18 3 Depreciation: Mine, buildings, plant, and machinery 1,199 18 3
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ent of Briquette Plant Working Account for the Lear ended 31st March, 1911.	£ s. d. £ s. d. Cr.	996 10 10 At works		52 10 1	5,274 4 2	2,259 18 4	49,821 2 0
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ents	:::::	:	:			Balance: Loss	:	2,673 13
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					£4,983 11 10 £4,983 11 10			64,983 11 10
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Purchases, Beddonville coal and briquettes Purchases, firewood, coke, &c.	quettes	::	::	19 16				33,791 12
Cartage to depot Balance: Gross profits	::	::	::	::	25,228 1 3 746 19 10 8,415 4 10	Coal 1,491 16 Firewood, &c 126 18	16 0	1.618 14
	•				£35,410 6 9			£35,410 6
		Welli	ngton I)epot Profit a	nd Loss Accoun	Wellington Depot Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1911.		
Dr.				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Dr. Dalamater of management of the control of the c		8. d.
Salaries	::	. : : :	. :	<u>+</u> 0		Dy Dalance of Tracing Account: Gross pronts	:	8,415 4
Rents	:	:	:	678 0 0				
Interest and exchange	::	. :	: :	79 4 6		• •		
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General expenses	 : :	: : : :	: :	53 12 6				
Bad debts		:	:	13 1				
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State Coal-mines Office, Wellington, 20th May, 1911. Louis H. Eilers, F.R.A., N.Z., Accountant.

-Preparation, not given; printing (1,800 copies), £13.

Interest refunded



