Remarks on the State Coal-mines Accounts for the Year ended 31st March, 1916.

The total capital expenditure on State Coal-mines Account to the 31st March last was £344,664 16s. Of this amount £175,568 18s. 6d. has been written off in depreciation, equal to 50·93 per cent.

The railway has cost to date under review £255,056, making a grand total expenditure in connection with the mines of £599,721. The payments to the Railway Department from the State Coal-mines, Greymouth, for haulage since the inception totalled £201,126 to the 31st March last. This represents 78·85 per cent. on the cost of the railway.

The amount expended on the Liverpool Colliery to the above date was £168,220, the additional amount for the year being £8,218, as against £16,400 for previous year.

The total tonnage and value of sales from the mines and depots to the 31st March last are as follows:—

	Tons.	£ s. d.
Point Elizabeth Colliery	1,957,756	1,609,400 17 11
Liverpool Colliery	216,535	187,885 14 7
Seddonville Colliery	520,848	366,380 9 7
Grand total output sales	2,695,139	£2,163,667 2 1
Wellington Depot	290,948	371,090 2 5
Christchurch Depot	255,103	313,900 8 2
Wanganui Depot	61,048	98,398 13 11
Dunedin Depot	55,923	72,759 6 1
Grand total depot sales	663,022	£856,148 10 7

Point Elizabeth Colliery.—The sales increased at this mine by 8,916 tons, with a value of £7,144. The cost of production, including royalty and special rate, was 7s. 0·06d., or 1s. 0·55d. per ton less than last year. The cost of trading was 8s. 3·74d. per ton, 8·79d. lower than last year. Of this amount interest and depreciation account for 1s. 7·62d. per ton. The sales averaged 16s. 7·88d., or 0·58d. per ton less than in the previous year.

Liverpool Colliery.—A substantial increase in sales took place here—viz., 31,386 tons, with a value of £10,877. This mine is in full working-order now, and a further increase may be looked for in the coming year. The cost of production was, including special rate, 7s. 5·54d., or 4·13d. per ton less than last year. The cost of trading was 11s. 0·78d. ,or 1s. 6·24d. per ton lower than last year, and of this amount depreciation, interest, and loan charge account for 2s. 7·01d., less by 7·23d. per ton than in the previous year. The average price obtained was 16s. 9·60d. per ton, 1s. 3·66d. lower than last year. The loss equals 1s. 9·02d. per ton.

Wellington Depot.—The sales at this place increased by 14,882 tons, valued at £10,487. The total cost of trading was 4s. 9·73d., or 11·04d. per ton less than last year, due to larger quantities being handled. The average price realized was 21s. 9·69d., short by 2s. 9·40d. per ton on last year's figures: this is due to increased small-coal trade.

Christchurch Depot.—There was an increase in sales here on the past year of 5,638 tons, and value £7,308, mainly due to contracts. The cost of trading was 6s. 5·06d., or 1·56d. per ton in excess of previous year. The average price obtained was 25s. 6·69d., 0·74d. more per ton than last year.

Wanganui Depot.—A decrease in sales resulted at this depot of 112 tons and a value of £830. The difference between tonnage and value appears peculiar on the face of it, but is explained by the heavy falling-off in household coal as against increased sales of small coal. The cost of trading was 8s. 9·27d., less by 6·36d. per ton than last year, and the average price obtained 31s. 11·24d. per ton, 1s. 9·06d. short of previous year. The loss amounts to 11·81d. per ton.

Dunedin Depot.—An increase of 1,032 tons, with a value of £782, took place here. The cost of trading was 6s. 1·35d. per ton, being 8·92d. less than last year; and the average price obtained was 24s. 1·44d. per ton, or 11·95d. less than previous year.

3rd July, 1916. L. H. Eilers, Accountant.