

- (5.) The working-cost of a colliery on this area should be comparatively low owing to the drainage and haulage expenses being inconsiderable. There is also a plentiful supply of mining-timber on the property, and the coal being situated on the State Coal Reserve no royalty or rental will require to be paid.

Plan of the area on which prospecting has been carried out will be found attached, showing positions of boreholes, outcrops, &c.

LIVERPOOL COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.

The gross total output for the year was 128,384 tons 2 cwt., an increase of 187½ tons when compared with the figures of last year. After deducting mine consumption and waste, and allowing for stock in hand at the beginning of the year, there remained for disposal 129,475 tons, which was disposed of as follows:—

Export—						Tons. cwt.
Screened coal	..	..	..	..	..	2,594 7
Unscreened coal	..	..	..	..	..	108,044 19
Bunker coal	..	..	..	..	..	156 3
Small coal	..	..	..	..	..	1,004 14
Total ..						111,800 3
Local sales—						
Unscreened coal	..	..	..	..	..	9,464 0
Small coal	..	..	..	..	..	2,149 14
Total ..						11,613 14
Mine sales—						
Sold to workmen (unscreened)	..	..	..	..	..	225 15
Used on works (unscreened)	..	..	..	..	..	3,155 0
Stock in bin (unscreened)	..	..	..	..	..	537 1
Total ..						3,917 16
Stock on wharf—						
Screened coal	..	..	..	..	..	466 6
Unscreened coal	..	..	..	..	..	236 8
Small coal	..	..	..	..	..	151 12
Total ..						854 6
Waste ..						1,289 11

The gross total output from this colliery since its inception amounts to 614,022 tons 7 cwt.

The colliery worked on 208½ days, and the average daily output was 615 tons 15 cwt., a reduction of over 33 tons per day as compared with the figures for the previous year.

The difference between the time worked and the possible working-time is accounted for as follows: (a) Pay Saturdays, 27 days; (b) union holidays, 18; (c) levy strike, 5; (d) ropeboys' strike, 1; (e) stop-work meetings, 2; (f) influenza epidemic, 6; (g) stop work through no medical officer, 5; (h) want of shipping, 21; (i) bar unworkable, 12; (j) cavilling, 2½; (k) river in flood, 2; (l) no work on wharf owing to heavy rain, 2: total time lost, 103½ days.

There were employed in and about the mine in connection with coal-winning 242 men and 23 boys, made up of 107 coal-hewers; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 91; on the surface, 44 men and 23 boys. In addition to those employed in connection with coal-winning there were on an average 21 men and 1 boy employed on property and development work, making a total of 263 men and 24 boys.

The total payments made on wages account in connection with coal-winning, including stores, mine-timber, and compensation, amounted to £56,229 8s. 11d.

The coal-hewers' average daily earning (gross) was 23s. 3·86d., and the net return to each man was 21s. 2·38d., an increase of 1s. 4·84d. per day over last year.

Underground Development.

The underground workings of this colliery are divided into three sections, Nos. 1, 3, and 3A, and the principal operations for the year have been confined to sections 1 and 3.

No. 1 section: Development work in the upper seam has again been confined to the headings in a northerly course, also to a small area in what is termed the Crosscut section. In each case the areas operated on are so small, and the seam pinching out as the headings advance, that it is only a matter of a few months when all development work in this section will be completed.

The Morgan seam, which is connected with the upper seam by means of a cross-measure drift, has been worked continuously throughout the year, and operations were confined to the extending of the levels in an easterly and westerly course. The east level has been driven 14½ chains, and the west level 10 chains from the cross-measure drift. The seam is well developed, and, although only