

NELSON DISTRICT.

O'Rourke's Mine, Murchison.—Operations consist of working a highly inclined seam, 2 ft. thick, by driving a level in the seam and working the coal to the rise on a wide face. Props are set at suitable intervals.

Broxbourne Mine.—This is a small mine on freehold property at Motupipi. The output is used principally to burn lime, and a small quantity is sold in winter. The seam is about 6 ft. thick, highly inclined, and of fair quality.

Stone's Mine, Takaka.—This is a small mine on freehold property. The seam is about 3 ft. thick, and of fair quality. A fair demand exists for this coal in winter.

Marble Creek Mine was opened for a few weeks during the year to win a few tons of coal as a sample order. The seam is very highly inclined and the coal is of fair quality.

North Cape Mine.—During the year the shaft mine was closed down. Arrangements were then made to reopen the old mine with a view to extending the dip drive to tap the seam on the downthrow side of the fault. Two places are being worked in the thin coal on the eastern side.

Puponga Mine.—In the new section the seam thickens as it goes west, being about 7 ft. thick at the face of the level. On the eastern side the seam thinned to such an extent as to make it too expensive to work. The coal is of good quality. In the old mine one place is being worked, but the coal is very mushy and only fit for boiler-firing.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Seven workmen were fatally injured whilst employed in or about the coal-mines of the West Coast Inspection District during the year—one by falling off a bridge, four asphyxiated by noxious gases, one by fall of roof, and one by a haulage-rope breaking.

On the 4th February a miner named Jesse Baddeley met his death by falling off a bridge across the Seven-mile Creek at Dunollie. The bridge was being reconstructed for coal-haulage purposes by the co-operative party of which deceased was a member.

On the 5th February Manager Pearson, Underviewer Maher, and Deputies Cowan and Ford, of the Millerton Colliery were overcome by poisonous gases whilst engaged in exploratory work in the fire area. Proto apparatus was used on this occasion, and was found on examination to be in good order and condition.

On the 9th October Duncan Tennant, underviewer in the Blackball Mine, was fatally injured as the result of the roof caving in whilst he was on his rounds of inspection in the No. 2 dip section.

On 23rd December Carl Roskvist, employed at the Westportmain Mine, was killed by being caught by the haulage-rope on the main haulage incline.

SERIOUS NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

On the 21st January Story Worgan, employed in the Denniston Mine, received a fracture of the left leg as the result of going under a piece of bad roof-stone to tamp a shot-hole. The injured man had unsuccessfully tried to pull down the stone and an attempt was being made to shoot it down.

On the 17th February a boy named Joshua Oldham received injuries through his clothing becoming entangled in the shafting of a conveyer, whilst employed on the screens at Denniston Colliery.

On the 16th March a miner named John Smith was burned by an ignition of firedamp in the stable section of the Liverpool Colliery. The place had been examined by the deputy and found clear of gas prior to the mine commencing work. When Smith entered the place later on his naked light came in contact with an accumulation of gas, with the above results.

On the 29th April H. McLeod, employed in the Denniston Mine, received a simple fracture of the left leg through a beam of timber falling on him whilst he was engaged with others in moving the timber into position for a terminal wheel.

On the 4th May David Murray, a miner employed in the Millerton Mine, received a fractured leg, caused by a piece of coal falling from the rib of an old roadway, where he had gone to get some tools.

On the 20th June G. Lang, a miner, was riding in the workmen's train at the Stockton Mine, when one of the trucks became derailed. Lang jumped out of the truck, fell, and fractured his arm.

On the 21st June T. Green, a miner, employed in the Paparoa Mine, was engaged at the working-face, when a piece of coal came away and fractured his leg.

On the 28th July Harry Wiseman, employed in the Denniston Mine, was twisting a truck on a flat-sheet, when he fractured his right arm.

On the 14th September Alex. Black was splitting a piece of wood with an axe, when he chopped off the index finger of the left hand at the middle joint.

On the 24th October Alfred Hill, manager of Hunter and Party's Mine, was attending to a pump, when the universal joint caught the safety-lamp and swung it against his face with such force as to cause fracture of the cheek-bone.

On the 23rd November John Morgan was operating a gravity incline in the Denniston Mine, when the race became unmanageable. In trying to jam on the brakes he hung on too long, and the result was that the empty truck fractured his right leg.

On the 9th December James Berry, a miner employed in the Millerton Mine, was engaged at the coal-face, when some false roof over the coal came away and knocked the shovel against his body, causing serious injury to the groin and abdomen. The place was well timbered. The false roof was over a pillar-stump.

DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES UNDER REGULATION 82.

On the 30th July a small fire broke out in the goaf area at the Reddale Mine. The area was sealed off from the other workings and got well under control.

On the 27th October spontaneous heating was reported as taking place in 3rd west dip pillars of Millerton Colliery. The area was sealed off and kept under control.

PROSECUTIONS.

On the 12th September the mining manager and the mine-manager of a mine were convicted and each fined £5 and costs for failing to produce in such mine, at a time when there were persons therein, an adequate amount of ventilation to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that all roads, levels, and workings were in a fit state for working and passing therein, as is required by section 91 (1) and (2) of the Coal-mines Act, 1925.

SOUTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (Mr. GEORGE DUGGAN, Inspector).

COAL-OUTPUT.

During 1927 the total output of coal from Canterbury, Otago, and Southland—463,019 tons—again showed a decrease, being 955 tons less than that of 1926. The Nightcaps and Ohai Mines produced 240,678 tons, as compared with 200,402 tons, an increase of 40,276 tons for the year. The Shag Point Coal-mining Co. produced 27,868 tons, an increase of 9,703 tons over their 1926 output. Southland produced 36,106 tons more than the previous year, but South Otago shows a decrease of 45,184 tons, partly due to the Kaitangata Nos. 1 and 2 and the Castle Hill Mines being idle for four months. The old English