

Taranaki District.

Aria Colliery.—No further work was done at this mine during the year. However, as a new party have now taken over the lease, it is to be expected that coal-production will be resumed shortly.

Mangapehi State Colliery, Mangapehi.—The main headings, both intake and return, have been brushed down to the bottom levels, a distance of 21 chains. Beyond this level the main headings have been dewatered and the intake has been brushed for 6 chains more.

Top East Levels: The main levels are standing against a down-throw fault at 24 chains from the main heading.

No. 1 panel to the rise has practically completed development and some of the top coal above the roads has been taken.

Development of No. 2 panel is also nearly completed, as all of the rise places have reached a down-throw fault which is being proved by a stone drive and boring.

The entries for No. 3 panel have been driven, but prospects of development are poor on account of the likelihood of striking the convergence of the two faults mentioned above.

Top west section is now formed, and development has been stopped against faulting to the south and west.

Bottom east levels have been driven 7 chains from the main haulage and are at present standing in good coal. Panel-development can be started here when required.

Bottom west levels penetrated the faulting and opened out for 4 chains, but faulting has been encountered again with floor rolls and thin and crushed coal.

During the year an average of fourteen pairs of men have been engaged on the coal.

A bore is being put down from the surface on the line of the main heading in order to test the seam beyond the faulting. The hole is down 870 ft., but is not yet near the coal horizon.

Tatu State Colliery, Ohura.—The north-west development headings have been driven 12 chains beyond the fault to a distance of 14½ chains from the main heading. The coal is of good quality and 6 ft. to 8 ft. thick.

Development to the north-east of these headings ran into further faulting at 4 chains from the main road.

To the south-west a panel has been developed in good coal and a pair of headings continued to the line of the main drive beyond the large fault on which it is standing. Headings in coal to continue the main drive are being driven north-east and south-west, and the north-east face is within 60 ft. of connecting with the main drive face. The south-west face has now reached a distance of 25 chains from the mine entrance.

On 18th April a small amount of inflammable gas was reported in the north-west section, and electric safety-lamps were introduced by the management throughout the mine.

MINE RESCUE-STATION.

During the year five rescue brigades were trained by Mr. F. Duffy, who was temporarily transferred to Huntly in order to start this training. Mr. Duffy returned to the West Coast early in the New Year, and was succeeded by Mr. A. Lennox, who has been appointed Superintendent to continue the training.

FATALITY.

Percy Larwood, a surface worker employed at Rotowaro Colliery, while shovelling slack out of a railway wagon on 11th June slipped and fell between the truck and an elevator, striking his chest. He continued work until 29th June, and died on 3rd August. The cause of death was stated as pericarditis following an injury due to the fall.

SERIOUS NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.

On 1st August, D. Pumeheon, a trucker at Wilton Colliery, sustained a fracture of the right fibula. He was clipping empty skips and got caught between the buffers.

T. Healey, roadman, received a fracture of the small bone of the left leg above the ankle when he was struck by a falling rail. The accident occurred on 17th August.

On 18th November, M. O'Connor, a trucker at the Alison Colliery, sustained a colles fracture of the right wrist.

On 24th November, A. Levet, employed at the Renown Colliery, received serious burns on the right hand and right side. He was assisting the mine electrician, who was present at the time, in fitting a trifurcating-box at an outside substation. Levet slipped and caught at a pullwire. The wire broke and touched the incoming high-tension leads to the switch.

DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES (REGULATION 81, COAL MINES REGULATIONS 1939).

On Sunday, 8th February, a fire occurred in the Rope End section, South Mine, Pukemiro Colliery. The area was effectively sealed off.

On Sunday, 1st March, at 6 p.m. fire was discovered coming from a disused exit at No. 4 Daylight, No. 1 Mine, Rotowaro Colliery. The fire, which had a good hold, was put out by 8 p.m. with water pumped from an adjacent creek, and by 10.30 p.m. the drive was sealed. This fire affected the outcrop and goaf only, as the line of pillar-extraction was some 5 chains away.

On 18th April the examining deputy at the Tatu State Colliery, Ohura, reported the finding of a small amount of inflammable gas in the north-west heading section. Another small quantity was found in the same section later in the day. The mine has since been equipped with electric safety-lamps by the management as a precaution.

On 29th June at 2.30 p.m. a small active fire, which had burnt through a brattice stopping, was discovered by the deputy in the No. 3 West Jig, New Haulage section, No. 1 Rotowaro Colliery. This was temporarily sealed off, and by 7.30 p.m. a permanent brick stopping was completed.

On 15th June the manager, Glen Afton Collieries, Ltd., reported that a small quantity of hot coal had been found along the rib in a roadway on the E3 return side of the stoppings sealing the fire in E haulage road, Glen Afton No. 1 Colliery. The coal was filled out and the area cooled.

On 17th June a small fire was discovered by the night-shift deputy at the F wall stopping, Glen Afton No. 1 Colliery, at the edge of the concrete arching. The fire was put out, and the arching has been continued.

On Thursday, 27th August, an inrush of water occurred, following heavy rain, at the South Mine, Pukemiro Colliery. The water was overflow water from a dam in the old east section and caused a stoppage of the South Mine for the day owing to the flooding of the South No. 1 Junction. A better getaway for the water has now been provided in the east section.

On 1st October the underviewer at Mangapehi State Colliery reported the finding of a small quantity of inflammable gas above a fall near the face of the main dip, which had been recently unwatered. Further tests with the lamp were unsatisfactory owing to the presence of extinctive gas, but the analysis of samples showed that a low percentage of CH₄ was present. No further occurrence of inflammable gas has been reported from this mine, though a close watch has been kept.

PROSECUTIONS.

No prosecutions for breaches of the Coal-mines Act or regulations were taken during 1942.

WEST COAST INSPECTION DISTRICT (J. McARTHUR AND G. HUNTER, INSPECTORS OF COAL-MINES).

In accordance with section 42 of the Coal-mines Act, 1925, we have the honour to submit our annual report on the operations of the coal-mines in the West Coast Inspection District:—