

*Ironbridge Mine.*—10th October: Robert Meadows, a miner, was struck by a fall of coal from the roof in his working-place, and received severe injuries to his spine, and a fractured thigh.

*Dangerous Occurrences requiring Notification according to Regulation 31.*

*Blackball Colliery.*—On the 5th June a fire occurred at the outcrop on No. 17D section, but was immediately attended to and subdued. It again broke out on the 17th June, and again subdued after the breaks in the overlying measures were filled in.

*Coalbrookdale Colliery.*—On the 9th May a small area in No. 8 section became heated, and a pair of miners were employed filling away the heated coal. After this was completed the temperature became normal.

*Stockton Colliery.*—On the 4th July a small underground magazine exploded and set fire to the surrounding coal. Water was brought on to the burning area, and a cut subsequently made in the overlying strata over an old bord, thus confining the fire to a small area of old workings.

*Brunner Mine.*—On the 21st March a miner named M. Hallinan was slightly burned about the face and arm by an ignition of a small quantity of firedamp in the stone drive to the fireclay-deposit.

*Coaldust.*—Permitted explosives, as a preventive of coal-dust explosions, are now used at most of the collieries in the district. Many miss-shots have been reported at Blackball and the State mines. Some of these have been caused through the explosive having absorbed moisture and deteriorated. Others were caused through the shot-firers or deputies not taking sufficient care in the charging of the shot. If the detonator be not central in the shot-hole, then the detonating wave will strike towards the side of the charge and, losing its effect, portions of the charge will remain unexploded. If more care is taken in the charging of the shot the number of miss-shots will be reduced.

SOUTHERN INSPECTION DISTRICT (Mr. E. R. GREEN, Inspector).

*Canterbury.*

*Mount Torlesse Collieries (Limited), Avoca.*—The mining operations on the Canterbury College lease from outcrops on the north side of Broken River, which were commenced on the 23rd May, 1918, were suspended in October of the same year owing to faulting and pinching of the coal-seam, which had never exceeded 5 ft. in thickness in that section. The manager had introduced the longwall system prior to the suspension of work. Mining operations were then transferred to the company's Crown lease of 1,000 acres on the south side of Broken River, where several coal-seams, one of considerable thickness, outcrop. These seams occur at very steep angles, varying up to 75°. It was proposed to construct jigs in the coal-seam (having the roof and floor on the sides of the jig) connecting levels, the pillar-extraction to commence from the apex of the top level—bridges of coal being left under each level to prevent the goaf from falling into the section below.

*Sheffield Coal-mine, Sheffield.*—The shaft had been sunk to the bottom of the coal-seam, 5 ft., but no further working had been done during the year.

*Bush Gully Coal-mine, Coalgate.*—Underground mining suspended. Some prospecting-work had been done at surface outcrop to south of former workings.

*Homebush Coal-mine, Glentunnel.*—Engine seam, dip section: Coal-seam to dip having become thin and inferior, the pillars were extracted and the section stopped off owing to heating in the waste. Workmen were scattered and coal was being won from six separate places on the outcrops of the several seams which had been worked. A 3 ft. 6 in. seam at a depth of 70 ft. below the main seam was expected to continue and provide future output. A boring plant was being obtained to test the ground to the dip of the field.

*St. Helens Coal-mine, Whitecliffs.*—Another drive had been made on the hillside and the small steam plant moved to recover a small known area of seam left at former working.

*Staveley Coal-mine, Springburn.*—Prospecting on a Crown lease area recently approved.

*Tripp's Coal-mine, Mount Somers.*—Pillar and head coal extraction continued. An air-shaft had been sunk for ventilating the far-in places.

*Woolmers Coal-mine, Mount Somers.*—The 5 ft. coal-seam had been worked until the winter, when snowfalls caused temporary stoppage.

*Albury Coal-mine, Albury.*—A heavy fall underground blocked the lower level, rendering it necessary to drive around in the solid to the dip to recover the working-faces. Meanwhile an old drive to the rise was reopened to get the pillars supposed to have been left.

*Allanholme Coal-mine, Waihao Forks.*—Dip drive, 200 ft. to the working-face in a good seam of lignite, probably the best seen in the district.

*St. Andrew's Coal-mine, Papakaio.*—The old mine had become worked out and work was suspended in September.

*Prince Alfred Coal-mine, Papakaio.*—Some heating had occurred in the dip pillared section, which was blocked off in time. Ventilation fair.

*Ngapara Coal-mine, Ngapara.*—A small mine worked for local requirements. Ventilation good.

*Shag Point (Old) Mine, Shag Point.*—Pillaring and robbing continued. Rise workings almost finished. A contracted known area to dip was being driven on. Some heating from the waste had been stopped off.