

Date.	Name and Situation of Colliery.	Name, Age, and Occupation of Person killed.	Description of Accident, and Remarks.
1919. 31 Jan.	Kaitangata No. 2 Colliery, Kaitangata	James Archibald Weir (42), rope-attendant	He was sitting on the front of the first truck of a rake which was being hauled at a normal speed by a winch up No. 1 dip haulage-road. When passing through a hanging brattice-screen it caught his head and he was turned over and was crushed side on against the coal roof about 1 ft. 10 in. above the truck, and then thrown violently into the truck, receiving a crushed pelvis and severe bruises on his side, the shock from which brought on heart-failure, from which he died about three days later. He had recently the influenza, and had not entirely recovered. In connection with this accident the deputy mine-manager, Mr. Frederick Carson, was prosecuted by the Inspector of Mines for a breach of section 62, paragraph (1), of the Coal-mines Act for failure to notify the Inspector by telegram of this serious accident, also with a breach of paragraph (5) of the same section by having, prior to the visit of the Inspector, the low coal roof brushed against which deceased was crushed. For each of these offences the defendant was fined £10, with £3 3s. solicitor's fee, amounting in all to £26 6s. In defence Mr. Carson stated that at the time of the accident he was not of the opinion that it was a serious accident requiring notification by telegram. At subsequent proceedings taken by the widow she was awarded £1,500 as compensation for neglect by the owners, the jury finding that the deceased was riding on a truck in a drive which was dangerously low without permission of the mine-manager, in contravention of Special Rule 54, the manager being aware of such contravention.
22 Feb.	Archer's Coal-mine, Caplestone	William Kirk (46), miner	He was getting coal on the surface at a place overhanging 4 ft., being the commencement of a dip heading; no sprag or props were erected. A fall of about 2 tons of coal and stone occurred, burying him and killing him instantly. The cause of death was laceration of the lung and hæmorrhage. The mine-owner and permit-holder, Mr. F. W. Archer, stated that he instructed deceased on the previous day to put up timber at the place. The place of the accident had not been inspected by the manager on the day of the accident prior thereto. There was no other official employed; only three men and a boy were working at this mine. A breach of section 40, paragraph (42), appears to have occurred in not having such inspection. A somewhat similar fatal accident occurred during the previous year at Moss Bank Coal-mine.
25 April	Point Elizabeth State Colliery, Dumollie	William Muncaster, jun. (32), trucker	He was employed to hang on trucks at the bottom of a jig at No. 1 bank, No. 2 section. He gave a signal for a race of two trucks to be jigged. The man at the top of the jig, which was 4 chains long, inclined 1 in 5, when pushing the full trucks over the brow at the top accidentally uncoupled the front truck, which travelled down the jig at great speed, striking deceased, who was standing in the roadway, breaking his leg, also causing internal injuries and profound shock, from which he died on the following day. The coupling which became detached was not the usual chain coupling, but a piece of endless-rope clip chain. This should not have been used as a coupling. Work was immediately resumed at the place of accident, in contravention of section 62, paragraph (5), of the Coal-mines Act, the mine-manager not thinking it constituted a serious accident.
5 May	Black Diamond (late Tinker's) Colliery, near Nightcaps	Thomas Blight (36), miner	He was working at a coal-face, 12 ft. wide and between 6 and 7 ft. high, the whole thickness being mined. Passing across the face at an angle of about 45° was a clay joint or "greasy back": this continued into the roof-stone. The place was timbered with a double row of props to within 6 ft. of the face; there was no sprag or prop at the face. Without warning a piece of roof-stone weighing about 5 cwt. fell from the "greasy back," striking deceased and inflicting injuries from which he succumbed on the 7th August following. The examining deputy and workmen's inspectors considered the place adequately timbered and safe, but this accident proved otherwise. The Coroner's jury held no person blameworthy. As regards this accident, the "greasy back" at the face should have served as a warning that the roof was treacherous, and one or more props should have been put up at the face.
22 May	Westport-Stockton Colliery, near Ngakawau	Percival John Rutledge (23), electric-loco driver	He was proceeding with a race of twenty empty trucks, the loco being behind such trucks, pushing them. At a stage in the journey he gave the brakeman, who was also an experienced driver, charge of the loco, and then he went along the trucks to the first empty one in front of the race. While the race was travelling he signalled to the driver by outstretching his arms, and, overbalancing, fell out of the truck under the race, receiving a fractured thigh and pelvis, also other injuries. He died from shock the following day. At the time of the accident deceased was not in his proper place. In the Coal-mines Act, section 40 (29), provision is made that the driver of a steam-engine shall not cease to have continual supervision of such engine, but no reference is made to electric locos, an omission which requires rectifying. The Coroner found no person to be blameworthy.