

*Point Elizabeth State Coal-mines.*—On the 25th April William Muncaster, jun., trucker, thirty-two years of age, was fatally injured. He was struck by a full runaway tub at the bottom of a jig, and his left kidney was ruptured.

*Westport-Stockton.*—On the 22nd May Percival John Rutledge, aged twenty-three years, locomotive-driver, fell in front of a race of empty tubs being pushed along by an electric locomotive, and three of the tubs ran over him before the race could be stopped. His pelvis was fractured, and he died the next morning.

On the 17th November James Shearer, a deputy, aged thirty-two years, received fractured ribs and a displaced kidney by a fall of stone from the roof of a working-place to which he was returning after firing a shot therein. The shot had blown out a prop near the face, and the stone had been supported by the prop.

#### *Serious non-fatal Accidents.*

*Westport-Stockton Colliery.*—17th February: Edward Duffin, brakesman, had his foot crushed by being run over by a full race of mine-tubs on the motor-haulage road. The back portion of his foot was amputated later.

*Puoponga Mine.*—27th January: Arthur J. Skyring, miner, while cutting supports in the bush, lost his left eye by being struck by a chip from his axe.

*Liverpool State Mine.*—18th June: Phillip Findlay, rope-boy, received a fracture of the dome of his skull. A haulage-rope at the bins, coming out of the sheave, struck a piece of timber, causing it to strike him.

*Liverpool, No. 1 Section.*—7th July: Leslie Harvey, trucker, fractured his leg by a prop falling off a mine-tub whilst he was turning the tub on a flat-sheet.

17th November: Charles McAuley, rock-driller, lost his left eye and sustained injuries to his head and face by the premature explosion of two detonators. He was preparing the fuses for a round of holes, and attaching the detonators to the fuses.

*Millerton Mine.*—30th June: J. Teehan, trucker, lost joints from the first, second, and third fingers of his right hand by getting it caught between the jig-wheel and jig-rope.

29th August: J. C. Brown, district manager of the Westport Coal Company, received fractured ribs and arm by falling from the upper to the lower workings while inspecting the old workings, accompanied by the mine-manager.

#### *Prosecution for Breach of General Rules.*

*Reefton Coal Company's Mine.*—Proceedings were instituted against the mine-manager for a breach of General Rule 2 (h) by allowing a naked light in a building used as a powder-magazine. Accused pleaded guilty, and was fined £5 and costs.

#### *Explosives.*

The supply of "permitted explosives" is still restricted, and numerous complaints were made regarding deterioration. In the middle of summer I have found frozen explosives in the miners' powder-tins. Should a frozen cartridge be inadvertently placed in a shot-hole, it is almost certain to entail a hang-fire. Trouble was also experienced at the Blackball and State mines owing to defective electric detonators.

#### *Dangerous Occurrences requiring Notification (Regulation 81).*

*Millerton Mine.*—On the 17th April, through a fall of coal from near the face of the abandoned dip in the old workings of the Mine Creek section, a quantity of water came into the workings in the south pillars.

*Liverpool Mine No. 1.*—In the east section of the upper seam a sheet of brattice-cloth near an outcrop was found afire on the 6th August. It had presumably caught by a miner going through with his lighted pit-lamp in his hat.

*Blackball.*—Heating was reported by the examining deputy on the 3rd March in the No. 1 rise workings, and Nos. 1, 2, and 3 banks had to be sealed off. On the 3rd June an outbreak of fire occurred in the No. 17 section, and it was successfully stopped off next day.

*Old Seddonville Mine.*—An underground fire was reported on the 4th December, but, owing to being near pillared ground, could not be sealed off.

*Twelve-mile Bluff (near Greymouth).*—During September a fire was reported to have broken out in a coal-seam in a cliff overlooking the road being formed between Greymouth and Barrytown. The seam being 150 ft. above the road, and about 50 ft. below the top of the cliff, men had to be lowered from the top, and by means of picks they cut away the burning coals.

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

*Mount Torlesse Collieries (Limited), Avoca.*—Coal-workings on south side of Sloven's Creek in seam of 15 ft. thickness between walls inclined at an angle of 75°. The seam to rise where the ground was troubled and broken had not proved continuous. Levels were driven on the strike and the seam followed within the walls, which, however, had not maintained a true course, but bent inward in bow shape. Driving to dip easterly where the coal-seam was hard and more solid in appearance than in the rise workings; also driving on the seam north of the creek and preparing for prospecting by boring with the diamond drill. Six new wooden cottages for workmen had been built on the plateau near the head of the gorge track—each of four rooms, bathroom, scullery, and outhouses, also hot and cold water; cost, not less than £550 each.

*Springfield Coal-mine, Springfield.*—A short drive had been put in on the outcrop of a worked upper seam of 2 ft. thickness, but only 6 tons of coal were produced and work was again suspended.