1920. ZEALAND. NEW

STATE COAL-MINES

(REPORTS ON WORKING OF) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1920.

Prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 118 of the Coal-mines Act, 1908.

MINE-MANAGER'S REPORT.

The GENERAL MANAGER, State Coal-mines, Wellington, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Mines Department, Wellington.

SIR,---

17th May, 1920.

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the working of the State coal-mines for the year ended 31st March, 1920.

POINT ELIZABETH COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.

The gross total output for the year was 35,816 tons 14 cwt., a decrease of 50,718 tons 15 cwt. when compared with the output of last year. After deducting mine consumption and waste, and allowing for the stock in hand at the beginning of the year (1,169 tons), there remained 34,721 tons 15 cwt., which was disposed of as follows :---

Export						Tons	ewt.
Screened coal						3,668	5
Unscreened coal						22,429	9
Small coal					• • • •	73	11
Total				• • •		26,171	5
Local sales—						,	
Screened coal						4,256	.6
Unscreened coal						715	1
Small coal	1 A.	• • •	* * *	• • •		928	2
Total		• • •				5,899	9
Mine sales—							
Unscreened coal						139	14
Unscreened coal sold to	o emplo	vees				2,419	19
Used on works (small coal)	+					1,530	5
Waste			• •			$^{'}733$	14
Stock on wharf (small coal)					••••	91	8
Total					•••	4,915	0

The gross total output won from this colliery since its inception amounts to 2,453,884 tons The gross total output won from this conterv since its inception amounts to 2,455,884 tons 3 cwt. The mine worked on $246\frac{1}{2}$ days out of a possible 305. The difference between the time worked and the possible working-time is accounted for as follows: (a) Pay Saturdays, 25 days; (b) union holidays, 17 days; (c) influenza epidemic, 10 days; (d) stop-work meetings, 3 days; (e) Peace celebrations, 1 day; (f) funeral late W. Muncaster, jun., 1 day; (g) breakdown venti-lating-fan, 1 day; (h) cavil, $\frac{1}{2}$ day: total time lost, $58\frac{1}{2}$ days. C.-2A.

The average number of men employed in and about the mine in connection with coal-mining was 70, made up as follows: Underground-Coal-hewers, 24; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 22; boy, 1: on the surface-19 men and 4 boys. In addition to those employed under the head of coal-winning there were 16 men employed on property and development work.

The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) was 23s. 9.64d., and the net return to each man after deducting explosives, stores, &c., was 22s. 10.27d., a net decrease of 1s. 4.91d. per day when compared with the figures of last year.

The total payments made on wages account in connection with coal-winning, inclusive of stores, mine-timber, and compensation, amounted to £17,957 13s. 5d.

Underground Workings.

For the past few years the output from this colliery has been entirely dependent on coal won from pillar-extraction, and during the period under review the output was also obtained from this source.

Coal-winning operations ceased at this colliery on the 20th March, 1920, all coal that could

safely be won having been extracted. The plant and machinery from within the mine was dismantled and brought to the surface, and the mine is now sealed off, thus bringing to a close mining operations at the Point Elizabeth Colliery.

LIVERPOOL COLLIERY.

Coal-winning.

The gross total output for the year was 120,412 tons 8 cwt., a decrease of 7,971 tons 14 cwt. when compared with the figures of last year.

After allowing for stock in hand at the beginning of the year (1,391 tons 7 cwt.), and making deductions for mine consumption and waste, there remained 117,041 tons 7 cwt. for disposal as follows :----

Export-						Tons	ewt.
Screened coal			• • •			22,239	11
Unscreened coal						48,109	19
Small coal	•••	••••	••••	•••		28,008	15
Total						98,358	5
Local sales—							
Screened coal \dots	• • •	• • •				787	1
Unscreened coal		• • •				9,201	15
Nut coal				• • •		45	9
Small coal			•••	•••	· · ·	5,037	11
Total Mines sales	•••	•••	•••		• • •	15,071	16
Sold to workmen (unse	reened)					760	5
Used on works (unscre	ened)					3,520	0
Stock in bin (unscreened)	• • •					1,660	16
Stock in bin (small)	•••	•••	•••			300	0
Total Stock on wharf—	••••	• • •		• • • •		6,241	1
Screened coal						110	7
Unscreened coal		•••	••••		•••	779	18
Total		•••	•••	••		890	5
Waste	•••		•••	•••		1,242	8

The gross total output from this colliery since its inception amounts to 734,434 tons 15 cwt. Time worked. - The Nos. 1 and 3A mines of this colliery worked on 251 days out of a possible 314, the difference between the possible and actual working-time being accounted for as follows: (a) Pay Saturdays, 26 days; (b) union holidays, 17 days; (c) influenza epidemic, 10 days; (d) stop-work meetings, 3 days; (e) cavils, 2 days; (f) funeral late W. Muncaster, jun., 1 day; (g) Peace celebrations, 1 day; (h) bad bar, 1 day; (i) breakdown to boiler, 1 day; (j) train-derail-ment, 1 day: total time lost, 63 days.

The No. 3 mine worked on 242 days out of a possible 314. The difference between the time worked and the possible working-time is accounted for as follows: Pay Saturdays, 26 days; union holidays, 17 days; cavil, 2 days; stop-work meetings, 3 days; funeral late W. Muncaster, jun., 1 day; Peace celebrations, 1 day; bad bar, 1 day; breakdown to boiler, 1 day; trainderailment, 1 day; dispute regarding train for shiftmen on pay Saturdays, 3 days; dispute over bad explosives, 1 day; dispute between miners and truckers, 4 days; destruction lamp-cabin (fire),

I day; influenza epidemic, 10 days: total time lost, 72 days. The average number of persons employed in and about the mine in connection with coal-winning was 276, made up as follows: Underground—Coal-hewers, 100; deputies, shiftmen, and truckers, 106; on the surface -- 45 men and 25 boys,

In addition to those employed under the head of coal-winning there were 36 men and 3 boys employed on property and development work, making a total number for this colliery of 287 men and 28 boys.

The total payments made on wages account in connection with coal-winning, including stores, mine-timber, and compensation, amounted to $\pounds 63,680$ 15s.

The coal-hewers' average daily earnings (gross) was 21s. 2.69d., and the net return to each man was 19s. 2.17d., a decrease of 2s. 0.21d. per day when compared with the figures of last year.

Underground Development.

The output from this colliery was obtained from three mines—namely, Nos. 1, 3, and 3A. In connection with the former mine there are two seams being worked—namely, the Morgan seam and another termed the upper seam. The whole of the output from these two seams, with the exception of that of two pairs of miners employed on pillar-extraction, was obtained from solid workings. In the upper seam development-work was confined to the driving of winning-places in a northerly course in what are known as the No. 3 bank and crosscut districts. In each of these districts the undeveloped areas are so small that it will be quite safe to estimate that in the course of the next three or four months all driving in solid workings will be completed, and from then onwards the output for the remaining period of the mine will be produced from coal from pillar-extraction.

The Morgan seam has been further developed by extending the winning levels in an easterly and westerly course, the principal operation being confined to the workings on the western side of the haulage-road.

At the present time there are fourteen pairs of miners employed in this seam, but there are sufficient places to employ a larger number if the men were available. The coal produced from this mine is of good quality, but is of rather a friable nature.

No. 3 mine: Development-work in this mine is now confined to an area about an acre in extent, but as the seam is thin, and in places of an unworkable thickness, it may safely be stated that in the course of two or three months' continuous working this work should be completed. For some time past a large number of miners have been employed extracting pillars in order

For some time past a large number of miners have been employed extracting pillars in order to maintain a reasonable output, and from reference to the mine-plan accompanying this report it will be seen that all the pillars in the western part of the mine, and also a large number in the central part, have been extracted. A commencement has also been made to extract pillars in the northern part.

In connection with this mine it must be stated that all the pillars cannot be extracted, as a barrier will have to be left to protect the storage-bins. A reasonable output may be expected from this mine for the next twelve months, but after that period it will be considerably reduced.

No. 3A mine: This small mine has been continuously worked throughout the year, finding employment for five pairs of miners. The output was obtained from pillar-extraction in the main dip workings, and also from development-work in a small area on the eastern side of the haulageroad referred to in my previous annual report. This development-work is now almost completed, and it is anticipated that in the course of about twelve months this mine should be exhausted.

Accidents.

There have been a number of minor accidents during the year, and it is regrettable to report that one of the accidents which occurred at the Point Elizabeth Colliery proved fatal; on the latter a special report was written.

Development-work.

The principal work done under this head was confined to the construction of the new haulagetunnel to intersect the Morgan seam at its lowest point; also the construction of the surface haulage-road from the middle brake to the tunnel-entrance. The construction of the latter necessitated the building of a low trestle-work for $4\frac{1}{2}$ chains, construction of a bridge $2\frac{1}{2}$ chains in length to span the Seven-mile Creek, and also the building of a retaining-wall for 8 chains on the banks of the above-named creek. This latter work is now almost completed, and a temporary haulage is installed for the conveyance of material to and fro from the middle brake to the tunnel-entrance. The new haulage-tunnel has been driven a distance of 21 chains, but at the present time is

stopped, a coal-seam 11 ft. in thickness having been struck.

Although the actual driving of the tunnel is temporarily stopped, the contractor and his men are employed driving on on the seam is a westerly course with a view of making a connection with the surface. To make this connection the seam will have to be driven on for a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ chains, and from that point a tunnel constructed, rising 1 in 1, the length of which will be approximately 160 ft.

At the present time it is difficult to ascertain to what extent the seam will live in an easterly and southerly course, but at the present inclination $(24^{\circ} 12')$ it cannot extend far in a northerly direction, and it is also doubtful whether it would extend any great distance in a westerly course owing to the disturbed nature of the country.

Cable Tram.

In the early stages of this colliery arrangements were being made for the conveyance of workmen from near the Rewanui Railway-station to the upper terminus of the present haulageroad. In connection with this scheme a considerable amount of work had been done, but owing to an unfavourable report written about five years ago on the future prospects of the colliery this work was suspended. Since then, however, the Morgan seam has been discovered, and proved to exist over a large area; therefore arrangements are now being made to install a cable tram for the conveyance of the workmen from what is known as the Gorge tunnel to the middle brake.

Surface Plant and Machinery.

The plant, machinery, and buildings in and about this colliery has been maintained in good condition. In my last annual report reference was made to the duplicating of the plant in the central power-house at this colliery, and the intention was to duplicate it by means of a waterdriven plant, providing the power was available from either the Seven-mile or Davy Creeks. It has now been found that the power would be unreliable, owing to the small flow of water in these creeks during certain seasons of the year; therefore, instead of installing a water-powerdriven plant, it is proposed to erect the plant recently used at the Point Elizabeth Colliery, which is practically similar in design to the one now in use.

COLLIERY WORKSHOPS.

Since the inception of the State coal-mines all mechanical work has been done at the Point Elizabeth Colliery Workshops; and, although the latter-named colliery is now closed down, it is proposed to continue using these workshops for some time, as they are central for the Liverpool and the James Colliery.

At the present time the Colliery Engineer has the following work under construction: (a) Haulage-engine for the new haulage-tunnel, Liverpool Colliery; (b) haulage-engine and carriages for the conveyance of workmen, Liverpool Colliery; (c) haulage-engine and fan engine for the James Colliery.

It is also proposed to construct most of the plant required for the MacDonald Mine at these workshops.

JAMES MINE.

In my last annual report reference was made to the amount of boring and prospecting work which had been carried out on the low coastal ranges near Point Elizabeth, and as a result of these operations a coal-seam 8 ft. thick had been proved to exist over an area of about 350 acres. Since then, however, further boring operations have been carried out, and the workable area is now estimated at 400 acres. The estimated quantity of coal in the proved area is about 4,800,000 tons, of which 75 per cent., or 3,600,000 tons, should be won. This quantity of coal having been proved, it has been decided to establish a colliery thereon, named the James Colliery.

To open up this colliery should not be a costly undertaking so far as plant and machinery is concerned, for it is proposed to dismantle and re-erect practically the whole of the Point Elizabeth Colliery equipment. The whole of this work cannot, of course, be done at present without incurring a heavy carting-cost. The scheme outlined is to transfer and re-erect a portion of the Point Elizabeth Colliery bins and other plant and machinery necessary to commence operations, and some time later, when the branch railway which is now in course of construction is completed, transfer the whole of the plant.

The preliminary work so far carried out in connection with this colliery is as follows: (a) The clearing of the sites for the storage-bins, power-house, and also the haulage-road from the bin-site to the tunnel-entrance; (b) the laying of a service tranway, 19 chains in length, from the Greymouth-Barrytown Road to the proposed bin-site, to enable supplies of plant and material to be transported to the principal seat of operations; (c) the crection of a power-house with concrete foundations, together with the installation of a 60 horse-power boiler and a self-contained air-compressing plant, the latter being installed for the driving of the rock-drilling machines and ventilating-fan for the tunnel; (d) the excavating and laying of a double-line tramway, 15 chains in length, from the bin-site to the tunnel-entrance; (c) the commencement made to drive the tunnel to connect with the seam, the estimated length of which is 16 chains. This tunnel is now in a distance of over 2 chains, and if the present rate of progress is maintained the seam should be reached in the course of seven months.

When the seam is reached it will be necessary to make a connection with the surface by means of a rise for ventilation purposes, and once this connection is made and a large fan installed steps will be taken to develop the mine. Under favourable working-conditions mining operations at this colliery should in the course of twelve months be so far advanced as to enable coal to be won from the winning headings.

MACDONALD MINE.

With a view of establishing a State coal-mine in the North Island, the freehold of the Awaroa Land Company's and also the Whangape Coal Company's properties at Waikokowai, comprising an area of 1,289 acres, has recently been purchased. This property has been thoroughly tested in a systematic manner by boring by means of the diamond, percussion, and hand drilling plants, and also by trenching in various places. As the result of these operations a seam of coal, which may be termed a superior brown coal, and averaging 15 ft. 6 in. in thickness, has been proved to exist over an area of about 520 acres. Although the average thickness is 15 ft. 6 in., it will be necessary to leave a coal roof of not less than 3 ft. 6 in., thus leaving a thickness of 12 ft. of coal to be worked. The estimated quantity of coal available is therefore about 9,360,000 tons, of which 60 per cent., or 5,616,000 tons, should be won. Assuming an annual output of about 120,000 tons, the life of this mine may be safely estimated at fifty years.

The development of this nine is to a large extent now dependent on the construction of a branch railway from near Huntly to the valley of Brown Creek, shown on the accompanying plan; also the construction of a service road from Rotowaro Railway-station to the vicinity of the Waiko-kowai School. Trial surveys have been made of the proposed railway route, and the service road referred to is now under construction.

Haulage-road and screening-plant: The proposed line of haulage-roads, ACBD and CE, together with the approximate position of the screening-plant, are also shown on the accompanying plan. The object in selecting these routes is that, with the exception of a small area which lies along the north-west boundary in the neighbourhood of bores Nos. 8 and 9, all the coal-bearing land can be worked level-free, which is a very important factor, as no pumping will be required. To connect with the seam from the point marked A on the plan it will be necessary to construct a tunnel, the exact length of which cannot be ascertained until a more detailed survey is made, but from inspection of the locality it will be not less than 5 chains.

Entrance to mine: Until such time as the main haulage-road is driven from A to B shown on the accompanying plan, and a connection made from B to the drive shown in Brown Creek, the point A will be the mine-entrance; but once this connection is made the permanent mineentrance will be in the vicinity where the haulage-road BD crosses Brown Creek.

Buildings: Until such time as the railway is constructed, and in order that preliminary operations may be proceeded with, it is proposed to erect only temporary buildings, such as huts for workmen, workshops, office, store-room, and repair two of the cottages on the property, as it would be too costly to cart material for the permanent buildings from either Huntly or Rotowaro Station.

Township: The best locality for a township is the village-settlement reserve of 327 acres adjoining the property on its eastern boundary. This reserve, or the greater part of it, should be subdivided into quarter-acre sections, together with the necessary streets. Adequate reserve for a school, recreation-ground, hall, library, and places of worship should be made.

for a school, recreation-ground, hall, library, and places of worship should be made. Housing of employees: As outlined in this report, it will be seen that the life of the MacDonald Mine is likely to extend over a lengthy period, and the question of erecting workmen's dwellings with a more permanent material than wood should be considered. On the property there is an abundance of clay suitable for the manufacture of bricks; this, together with the small coal which will be available, should enable them to be cheaply made. But before actually deciding on this question it would be advisable to have some information as to the cost of concrete buildings, so as to be able to make a fair comparison of the relative advantages of brick and concrete. The writer is therefore of the opinion that a housing expert should be consulted. Assistant Manager: With a view of commencing with preliminary operations at this mine,

Assistant Manager: With a view of commencing with preliminary operations at this mine, also the making of a detailed survey, together with a contour survey of the property, an Assistant Manager has been appointed. This officer takes up his duties as from the 1st June, 1920.

GENERAL.

Reviewing the work for the year, it will be seen there is a decided reduction in output from the Liverpool and Point Elizabeth Collieries, and also a decrease in the average daily earnings when compared with the figures for the previous year.

With regard to the Liverpool Collicry, it is regrettable to report that, although the number of working-days are $40\frac{1}{2}$ in excess of the previous year, the output is less by nearly 8,000 tons. This is due chiefly to the miners adopting a go-slow policy from about the 1st September, 1919, to the 13th March last, and also to the average number of miners being slightly less than during the previous year. Since the latter date, however, this restriction has been removed, an amicable settlement having been arrived at between representatives of the coal-owners and the Miners' Federation.

The reduction in output at the Point Elizabeth Colliery, although partly due to the adoption of the go-slow policy, was also due to the approaching exhaustion of the mine. Operations ceased altogether at this mine on the 20th March last.

The financial results for the year's working will no doubt be disappointing when compared with the figures of the previous few years. This may be attributed to the cost of production being higher, due to the reduced output in consequence of the adoption of the go-slow policy for over six months of the year, and also the high cost of material, and the selling of State coal at far too low a rate. Although, as previously stated, the restriction in output has to a large extent been removed, the fact must not be overlooked that, in view of the recent substantial increases granted to employees, the cost of production will be correspondingly increased; therefore it will not be out of place to state that unless higher selling-prices are obtained in the future it will be practically impossible for the management to work these mines at a profit.

In conclusion, I wish to say that all the officers in the various branches have performed their duties in a most satisfactory manner, and the Consulting Engineer and also the Director of Geological Survey have rendered valuable assistance in the various developments connected with the mines. I have, &c.,

I. A. JAMES.

General Manager.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

Debenture loan Loan under Appropriation Act, 1912 Inscribed stock Debenture sinking fund Reserve fund Accrued interest Bad-debts reserve Stocks suspense General Profit and Loss Account- Balance at 31st March, 1919 Net profit for year	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	Statement of £ 8. d. 227,601 0 7 19,084 11 2 20,524 1 5 1,024 5 1 1,024 5 1 38,670 9 10	Liablifities and Assets at 31st March, 1920. Assets. Point Elizabeth Colliery.— Machinery, plant, ropes, and rolling-stock— Cost at 31st March, 1919 Stores (stock on hand) Stores (stock on hand) Stores (stock on hand) Coal (stock on hand) Stores (stock on hand) Point Elizabeth (Liverpool) Colliery and Development Property Account, Additions during the year Depreciation Depreciation	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	£ s. d. 1,386 18 6 8,564 5 9 9,844 5 8 41,518 15 0 41,518 15 0 3,993 13 3	2A. 0 નું જ કં ⁴ સ્ર
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<i>Liabilities</i> —continued. Wellington, 1st Jun		ಸ																•			State Coal-mines Office, Wellington, 1st June, 1920.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE NEW ZEALAND STATE COAL-MINES-continued.

NOTE.-Stocks Suspense Account created at request of Audit Department to comply with Treasury Regulation 135.

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Statement of Point Elizabeth Colliery Working Account for the Year ended 31st March, 1920.

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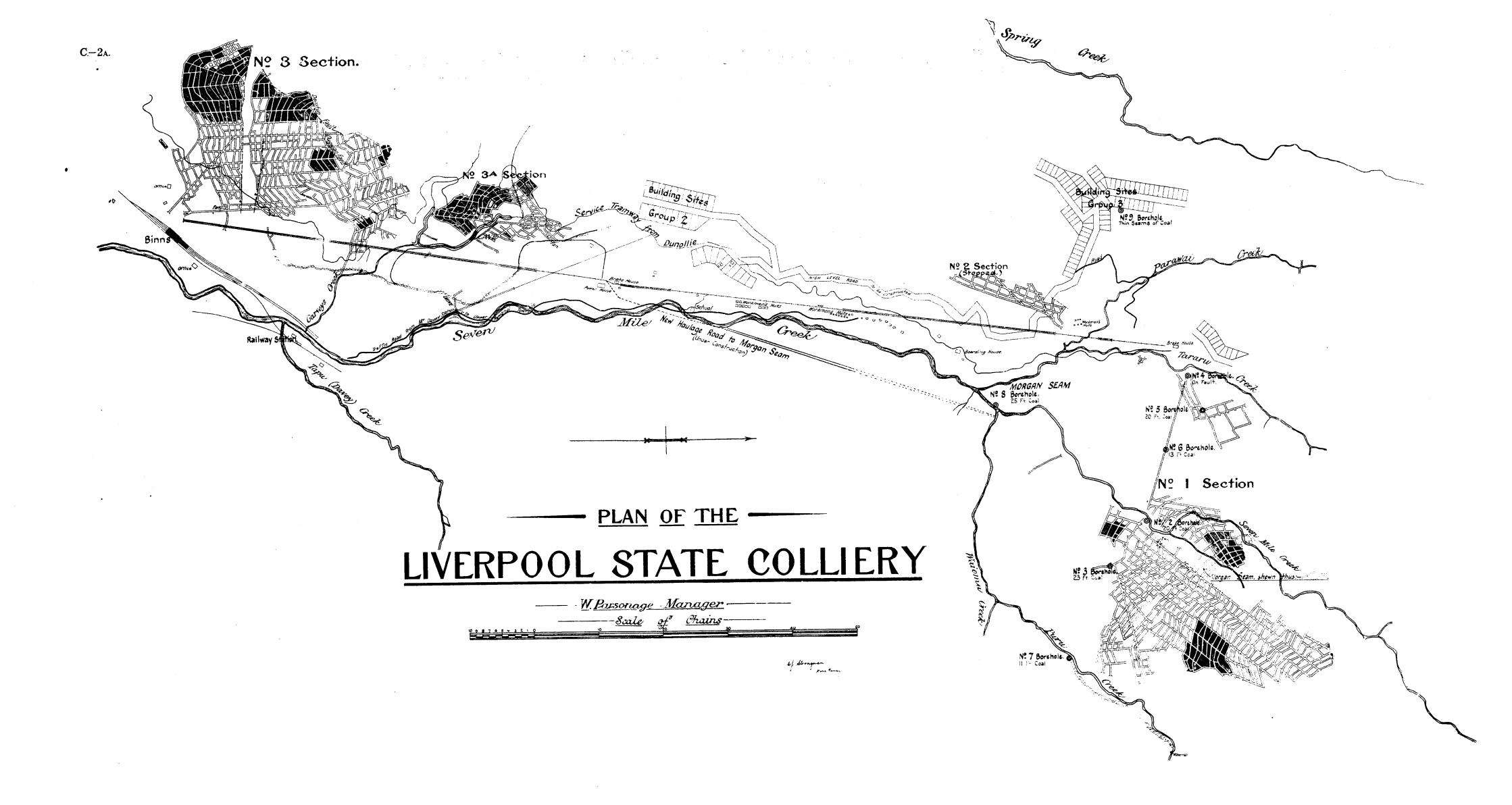
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Approximate Cost of Paper .-- Preparation, not given ; printing (600 copies, including plans), £37 10s.

By Authority : MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.--1920.

Tare showing the Position of the State Coal-Mines Account from I voreption to 31st March 1930-confinued.



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POINT ELIZABETH Nº I COLLIERY

at 12" May 1920

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