DETAILS OF CONDITIONS AT THE SMALL COAL MINES ON THE DATES PARTICULARISED.
SOUTHERN DIVISION

SANDFLY

Sandfly Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Sandfly Coal Mine on the 5th August, 1935:

The colliery is owned by Messrs. E.W. & R.H. Fogarty. The latter functions as mining manager and engages in coal getting similarly to other persons working as hewers at the productive faces.

In addition to R.H. Fogarty, two persons were working as hewers at the face and one was employed as a wheeler. Two hewers were absent owing to illness. Under present trade conditions, the total number of persons employed underground is six, whilst during periods of trade slackness the number reduces to two.

R.H. Fogarty is the only qualified coal getter, the others not having worked at or about the face of a colliery for the statutory period of two years. The employment of the wheeler would not be affected but it could not be regarded that the provisions of General Rule 39 are observed in regard to the other four persons.

The seam of coal approximates 4'4" in thickness and the top 3'0" of coal is mined for marketing purposes.

The workings are served by a tunnel and the method of mining is a local development of the "pillar and stall" system, with 10 yd. stalls and 5 to 6 yard pillars. Slips in the mudstone roof demanded additional timbering in sections of the tunnel but, generally, the conditions of working were to be regarded as reasonably safe.

The productive area is situated between old colliery workings and the outcrop of the seam. Ventilation is derived naturally from an air shaft in the old workings but the velocity of the air intaking at that shaft and outcasting through the working tunnel was insufficient to cycle the anemometer and it was apparent that the quantity would not be equal to the requirements for six persons. The available air was not being caused to circulate to the productive places and flame-extinction tests revealed a slight deficiency in the quality of the air in those places. With a surface temperature of 48° F.D.B. - 47° F.W.B., the underground temperature was 51° F. saturated. No exception could be taken to the prevailing temperatures but conditions merited a definite improvement in the ventilation of the colliery workings.

A tunnel serving the old workings allegedly constitute a second exit to the present productive workings, but this was not accessible owing to a fall of roof in the connecting drive, and, therefore the working tunnel served the only immediate means of ingress and egress.

Granulated powder is used for shot-firing and up to 25 lbs. is kept on the surface in the locality of the mine. A small quantity is taken into the mine, in tins, as required for use.

No first-aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Pre-shift daily inspections are not made and no records are made of weekly inspections as required by the provisions of the Act.

Plans of the colliery workings have not been furnished.

Colliery rules are not posted at the mine.

The output of coal is sold at Hobart and the surrounding districts both as a domestic and an industrial fuel, and at a price, according to the manager, ranging from 27/6 to 30/- per ton.

The wages paid are miners 10/- and wheelers 9/- per shift.

Employees are said to be insured for the purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act but R.H. Fogarty was unable to furnish the name of the insurance company as all business transactions are conducted by E.W. Fogarty who was absent from the mine.

CATAMARAN

Catamaran Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Catamaran Coal Mine on the 7th August, 1935:

The colliery is owned and worked by the New Catamaran Collieries Limited.

C.L. Lynch is the registered manager and is the holder of a permit entitling him to function in that capacity under the provisions of the Mines and Works Regulation Act. The manager was absent from the colliery on the occasion of this inspection. As far as could be ascertained, he does not engage in actual coal getting but does other work in and about the mine, in addition to managerial duties.

The total number of underground employees was 13, 9 on the day shift and 2 on each of the afternoon and night shifts. There was reason to believe that more than 12 persons have been employed underground, on one shift, despite the restrictions of the Act.

There was no immediate evidence of persons being employed as hewers in contravention of the provisions of General Rule 39.

The company is exploiting a dip-seam, varying up to 6 feet in width and from which the bottom 3' to 3'6" of coal is mined for marketing; the top coal, where crushed for roadway accommodation, being used for local consumption.

The present workings are served by a dip-tunnel from which levels have been driven and productive places advanced to the rise.

There appears to have been a definite intention of working on the "pillar and stall" system but the system appears to have been abused to a hazardous degree. Differences of opinion occasionally arise in regard to

the safety of mining practices, and the practice encountered at this colliery might be cited as such a case. As an expression of opinion, the writer could not regard the productive methods observed on the occasion of this inspection as serving the best interests of safety.

The dip tunnel was being driven, as a prospect, in faulted measures, and sets were overspaced for the conditions. Although allged to be not of recent origin, a section of the tunnel, near the portal, is distressed, and re-timbering would, ordinarily, be necessary.

The ventilation of the colliery is controlled by a fan exhausting 9,342 cubic feet of air per minute. This displacement would be ample to ventilate the present productive area but the circulating system has not been correctly arranged and flame-extinction tests revealed a deficiency in the quality of the air in the dip-tunnel and in one section of the productive workings. Operations merit an improvement in the ventilation of the colliery by an introduction of permanent stoppings, doors, air-course control, and auxilliary means to serve the dip-tunnel.

Underground temperatures were not excessive, ranging to 58° F., saturated, with a surface recording of 49.5° F.D.B. - 48° F.W.B. The temperature in the return to the fan shaft was 8 degrees less than that at the face of the dip-tunnel, an obvious result of irregularities in the circulating system.

A back heading to the fan shaft, which shaft has been accommodated with a ladderway, serves as a second exit, and this was travelled to the surface.

Nitro-compounds are used for shot-firing requirements, and this explosive was being stored together with detonators in one magazine at the surface, a condition of storage which demanded correction.

No first-aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Pre-shift daily inspections are made and recorded by the manager but records of weekly inspections could not be located in his absence.

Surveys are made and plans of the workings are furnished by an authorised surveyor for the purpose of the Act.

Employees have not yet been insured for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The dip-tunnel is being driven on contract at 13/4 per foot. Hewing is done on contract, the rate being 5/- per ton. Wheelers are paid 11/6 per shift and set riders 11/6 to 12/- per shift.

NORTHERN DIVISION
YORK PLAINS

York Plains Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the York Plains Coal Mine on the 26th July, 1935:

The colliery is owned by R. Gregg who does not engage in any work in or about the mine.

J. Ford is registered as colliery manager and he engages in coal getting similarly to others employed in the mine. There is no contravention of General Rule 39 in regard to the qualification of the miners.

In addition to the working manager there are two permanent and one casual employees. According to the owner, the manager is paid 20/-, the second miner 15/-, the wheelers 12/- and the casual employee 12/- per shift.

A dip seam is being mined on a modified long-walling system, the roof subsiding with the advancing face. The condition of working were to be regarded as reasonably safe.

The workings are served by a dip-tunnel and a drainage tunnel, both of which were travelled and meet the requirements of the Act in regard to second exit facilities.

The ventilating conditions were satisfactory the quantity of air intaking at the drainage tunnel varying from 960 to 1,267 cubic feet per minute. The workings are ventilated naturally a second dip-tunnel constituting the major outcast airway. The temperature at the face was 50°F., saturated, and there was no deficiency in the quality of the air.

Pre-shift daily inspections and weekly inspections are made by the registered manager.

No explosives are used at this colliery.

First aid equipment is kept at the owner's residence near the colliery.

The colliery rules are posted.

Employee are insured with the London Insurance Company.

Plans of the colliery workings are not furnished annually but are periodically furnished when required,

The output of coal is principally sold for hop kiln practices, as the charactistics of the coal render it more suitable than other native coals for the fuel requirements of that industry.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION

ABERDEEN

ILLAMATHA COAL MINE:

The following observations apply to conditions encountered on the 17th July, 1935:

The colliery is owned by Mrs. C. Bounds and it has been let on a royalty basis, to Messrs. H.J. Foster and LK. Bott, the royalty being fixed at 2/- per ton of coal produced.

H.J. Foster is the Registered Mining Manager

and has been issued with a Permit, under the provisions of the Act, to entitle him to act in that capacity. When not otherwise engaged, he works as a hewer, nominally a coal-getter, at the coal face, similarly to other hewers.

L.H. Bott works as a hewer at the coal face.

In addition, there are six persons employed underground on wages, the rates being 10/- per shift for hewers and 9/- per shift for wheelers.

One person was employed at the face as a hewer and had not worked for two years in a colliery. He would be on the same face line and would be within a few yards of qualified coal-getters.

The thickness of the seam approximates 22 inches and the system of mining is a local development, comprising a stepped longwall face, extending over a width of 50 yards and advancing along the margin of old workings. The hewing conditions are not congenial and there is latitude for a difference of opinion in regard to the completeness of the mode of timbering but the present system has been pursued for many years without untoward incident and with the exception of the development of a roof weakness near the old workings, the conditions along the face line was not to be regarded as immediately unsafe on the 17th July last.

The workings are served by a small tunnel continuing as a main heading, situated on the right rib-side of the advancing face and varying in sectional area down to 3'6" high by 3'4" wide. The roadway arrangments constitute uncongenial wheeling conditions and there can be no difference of opinion that sections of the tunnel and heading should be "brushed" and additionally timbered or repaired in the interests of safety.

Natural ventilation is the rule, no artificial means having been applied, and mine conditions vary according to the vagaries of surface conditions. With eight persons employed underground, the normal quantity of air necessary to meet the ventilating requirements of the Act should not be less than 1,200 cubic feet per minute. There was only a slight intake of air in the tunnel and the velocity, even at the small sectional area of 11.6 square feet, was insufficient to cycle the anemometer, consequently the actual quantity of air intaking for ventilation was less than prescribed minimum. The circulating system was being neglected and even the quantity of air available was short-circuiting the face line. As was to be anticipated, flame extinction tests revealed an air deficiency in the productive places. Although it was concede that the air was deficient one of the principals explained that such a condition infrequent.

The air intaking at the tunnel circulates through old workings to the workings of the Aberdeen Colliery and was the only source of active ventilation for this colliery.

The thermometrical requirements of the Act were not exceeded, the face line observations varying from 50°F to 60°F saturated.

The colliery is badly equiped in regard to second-exit facilities, the only course being through old workings to a neighbouring mine. A section of this was travelled under difficulties accruing from collapsed timber, falls of roof, and water lodgments, and the effort had to be abandoned. It could not, therefore, be regarded that reasonable exit facilities have been provided and maintained or that an exit was available for immediate use.

Pre-shift daily inspections are not made, consequently there is no observance of the provisions of General Rule 4 of Part 3 of the Act. Records of weekly inspections are made to conform with the Act. The current colliery rules are not posted at the mine.

No first aid equipment is kept at the Colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

Explosives are stored on the surface where charges are prepared and taken into the colliery, wrapped in cloth or papers, as required for use.

To meet the requirements of compensation, employees are insured with the South British Insurance Company.

Aberdeen Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to conditions encountered on the 18th July, 1935:

The colliery is owned by a co-operative party of six persons, all of whom work as hewers at the coal face. In addition, two persons are employed as wheelers are paid 9/- per shift each.

Nominally the eight persons work on one shift but on the 18th July, 1935, two hewers and one wheeler were on day shift and two hewers, one being the manager, were on afternoon shift work owing to a desire to expedite the driving of a place for drainage. Three persons were absent owing to illness.

R. Foster is the Registered Mining Manager and has been issued with a Permit, under the provisions of the Act, to enable him to act in that capacity. He works as a hewer, nominally a coal-getter, similarly to other hewers.

The seam of coal, approximately 22 inches in thickness is the same as that worked in the adjoining Illamatha Colliery.

The workings are served by a small tunnel, about 3'8" high by 3'4" at mid-section, extending forward as a main heading. The system of mining is a local development, comprising a stepped long-brushed to form the main heading, and extending towards the old workings of the Illamatha Colliery on the right. On the left of the heading a slant place with a 12 yards face is driven, as a slicing bord, along the margins of the old workings. The only place occupied was one being driven to the dip off the same gate-road to the right of the heading, the other places being temporarily idle until this place has

been driven for drainage and until the indisposed workers have returned. The system of mining is that adopted since the inception of the colliery, and, without anticipating a future development of weakness, the condition at the face line was not to be regarded as immediately unsafe on the 18th July, last.

The roadway arrangement and lack of effectual drainage constituted most uncongenial wheeling conditions and, as a matter of opinion, it was considered that broken roof should be barred down or otherwise attended to in the interests of safety.

For ventilation, this colliery was outcasting the air intaking at the Illamatha Colliery and was dependent upon that air for the ventilation of the colliery. Considering the paucity of the supply of air intaking at the Illamatha Colliery it was not surprising that the system of ventilation at the Aberdeen Colliery was inadequate. Despite this, the air was not really bad at the face occupied by the two coal-getters, but in the places not occupied on the day of the inspection, there was a pronounced and undesirable deficiency in the quality of the air which condition was verified by flame-extinction tests. There are two air shafts in the workings on the left of the main heading but these were not serving the useful purpose intended to be served by air shafts. The air intaking at the Illamatha Colliery was outcasting through the tunnel and the air shafts at the Aberdeen Colliery. Natural ventilation prevails and the conditions vary according to the vagaries of climatic conditions. The circulating system is only partially controlled and considered in conjunction with the Illamatha Colliery it can only be recorded that the minimum quantity of air, as prescribed, was not available, that the ventilation was generally deficient, and that the requirements of the Act in regard to ventilation were not satisfied. It was stated that such conditions are not frequent but I offer no opinion upon this.

Mine Temperatures were not excessive ranging in the locality of 59° F. saturated, with surface temperatures of 53.5° F.D.B., and 53° F.W.B.

The colliery is not well equiped in regard to a second-exit. The position prevailing at the Illamatha Colliery was rendered more difficult by observations in the Aberdeen Colliery and, although the connection between the workings served for the passage of air, it would require appreciable imagination to regard this course as a reasonable second-exit. The two air shafts at the Aberdeen Colliery may have been intended to serve exit requirements but the gate road to one shaft was blocked by a fall of roof and it might have been possible to have crawled through the old low workings to the second shaft, but it would be impossible to contend that a travelling way was being maintained for exit purposes within the limits of the requirements of the Act.

Pre-shift daily inspections are not made, consequently there is no observance of the provisions of General Rule 4 of Part 3 of the Act. There appears to be an impression that these examinations are not necessary. Records of weekly inspections are made to conform the General Rule 81 of Part 2 of the Act. The current colliery rules are not posted in the mine.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared by the Inspector of Mines, for the purposes of Section 40 of the Act, free of cost of the operators.

Explosives are stored at the surface. Charges are prepared at the surface and taken underground, for use as required, in a bag allowed by the Inspector of Mines.

Employees on wages are insured with the Bankers and Traders Insurance Company for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Company, the price varying according to the ash and moisture content.

KAILTON

Dulverton Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Dulverton Coal Mine on the 15th August, 1935:

The colliery is owned by a party of 4 miners who engage in coal-getting. In addition, two miners are employed on contract, the rate varying from 10/- to 12/- per ton according to the sale price of the coal.

One of the owners, D.F. Mahoney, is registered as mining manager and, as implied, he engages in coal-getting similarly to the other hewers.

The owners and contractors are qualified coal-getters for the purpose of General Rule 39.

The seam of coal approximates 17" in thickness. The workings are served by a small tunnel, about 3' x 4'6" in the clear, and the methods of mining is a local development of a stepped long wall face. The productive area is situated between the old workings of this, colliery and old workings of the Esk Bank Colliery. Although there may be cause for a difference of opinion in regard to the sufficiency, completeness and size of timbering, to accommodate all roadway conditions, it could not be regarded that the condition along the face line was immediately unsafe.

A shaft had been provided and a connection had been effected with adjoining workings apparently for ventilation and exit purposes, but those factors have been slighted to some extent.

The tunnel was alternately intaking and out-casting over short periods and any resulting movement in the air available for ventilation was short-circuiting the productive area. The result is one which is frequently associated with natural ventilation in shallow measures and as was to be anticipated, flame extinction tests revealed a pronounced deficiency in the quality of the air at the coal faces. There was an absence of deliberate production and control of an air circulation and the ventilation was bad.

Although the thermometrical conditions were not unreasonable, the temperatures at the productive places varied from 58° to 59°F., saturated, with a registration of 44/5° F.D.B., 41.5° F.W.B. at the surface, the difference being a reflex of the defective ventilation.

By travelling a gate road in which there had been falls of roof and then crawling under low roof to an old tunnel, access to the surface, as a second exit, might be attained, but owing to these difficulties and water logged conditions the second exit was not travelled to the surface.

Uncongenial wheeling conditions prevail through uneffectual drainage and roadway formation.

Small quantities of nitro-compounds and detonators are stored, in separate places, at the surface where charges are prepared and taken into the mine, wrapped in bagging, as required for shot firing.

The manager advised that pre-shift daily inspections are made and recorded bu the record book was at his home and was not immediately available for inspection.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Works at a price based on the moisture and ash contents.

The owner-operators are exempt from insurance but the contract miners have not been insured for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Esk Bank Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at this colliery on the 15th August, 1935:

The mine is owned by a party of four miners who engage in coal-getting. One of the party is registered as manager and he engages in coal-getting similarly to the others.

The seam of the coal varies from 11" to 16" in thickness and the method of mining is a local development of stepped longwall face. The conditions prevailing were not to be regarded as immediately unsafe. It was anticipated that the developed area of coal would be exhausted in two or three weeks.

The colliery is ventilated naturally and flame-extinction tests revealed a deficiency in the quality of the air in the productive places owing to a paucity in the quantity available for ventilation and an absence of a regulated circulation of the small immeasurable quantity intaking at the tunnel to service the workings.

Thermometrical conditions were not excessive.

The colliery is not well accommodated with second exit facilities.

No fixed rule is observed in regard to pre-shift daily inspections but records are stated to be made of weekly inspections although the record book was not available.

Small quantities of nitro-compounds and detonators are stored separately at the surface, where charges are prepared and taken into the mine in a skip, with protection, as required.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings, by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Company.

The owner-operators are not insured.

Black Beauty Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at this colliery on the 16th August, 1935:

The mine is owned by a party of three qualified coal miners who engage in coal-getting.

One of the party is registered as Manager and he engages in coal-getting similarly to the others.

The seam of coal approximates 16" in thickness and the system of mining is a local development of stepped longwalling. The method of working is an advance upon practices at several of the other small collieries and the conditions prevailing were to be deemed reasonably safe.

The workings are served by a tunnel 3' x 4'6" and two air-shafts have been sunk and connected with the workings for ventilation by natural means. The tunnel was intaking an immeasurable quantity of air and the circulating system was not correctly controlled consequently there was a slight deficiency in the quality of the air at the productive faces. Measures are to be taken to correct the conditions as far as natural ventilation will allow.

Underground temperatures ranged from 55°F to 57°F saturated, with a surface recording of 49° F.B.D. 45° F.W.B.

Second-exit facilities were incomplete. If the deeper of the two air-shafts had been provided with a ladder way it might be regarded that a second-exit even though the sectional area and separating distance prescribed by the Act would not obtain.

A quantity of about 5 lbs of nitro-compounds is stored underground and detonators are stored on the surface. Crimpers are not provided. Charges are prepared and carried openly to the place of shot firing.

No particular procedure is observed in regard to pre-shift daily inspections.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings by the Inspector of Mines, free of charge to the operators.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Company at a price based on the moisture and ash contents.

The owner-operators are not insured.

Star Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Star Coal Mine on the 16th August, 1935:

The colliery is owned by A. Parker who is engaged driving a new tunnel whilst two miners are employed on contract coal-getting in the old workings, the rate varying from 11/- to 12/- per ton of coal at the bins.

The seam of coal approximates 13" in thickness and mining operations actually comprise the extraction of seam remnants in the old workings. Although hewing and wheeling conditions might be ascribed as uncongenial, there was no cause to regard the conditions as immediately unsafe.

The owner is the registered manager and he stated that a pre-shift daily inspection is made although no record book was available at the mine.

The old workings provided a circulation of air but this was not effective in one productive place where flame-extinction tests revealed a deficiency in the quality of the air.

Underground temperatures ranged from 55°F to 57°F, saturated, with a surface registration of 53° F.D.B. to 49° F.W.B.

It could not be regarded that a second-exit had been maintained for the purposes of the Act.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

The contract miners are not insured for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Nitro-compounds and detonators are stored in separate places at the surface, where charges are prepared and taken in the colliery wrapped in bagging.

Colliery rules are not posted.

Lucky Hit Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Lucky Hit Coal Mine on the 16th August, 1935:

The Colliery is owned by Messrs. Shepheard and Beakin but the latter does not participate in operations at the mine.

N.J. Shepheard is the registered manage and he engages in coal-getting similarly to three other persons working in the mine, The four persons constitute a co-operative party and three are qualified coal-getters, whilst the fourth works at the coal face in company with a qualified coal-getter.

The seam of coal averages 20" in thickness and the method of mining is the local development of stepped longwalling of an area of coal between old workings. The conditions prevailing at the face line were not to be regarded as immediately unsafe.

As in the other small collieries, uncongenial wheeling conditions obtained through ineffectual drainage and inferior roadway formation.

There was an immeasurable circulation of air through the old workings near the tunnel entrance but there was no effective system of distribution and the conditions in the two productive places were particularly flame extinction tests revealing a marked deficiency in the quality of the air.

It is doubtful if the quantity of air available would be sufficient to ventilate the advanced places under the natural conditions being relied upon.

Underground temperatures ranged from 59° F. to 60° F., saturated, with a surface recording of 52° F.D.B 50° F.W.B.

The operator proposes to sink a new air-shaft in the near future.

The workings are completely devoid of second-exit facilities, such as might be used in case of emergency.

No definite procedure is observed in regard to pre-shift daily inspections as required by General Rule 4 and weekly records of inspections are incomplete.

The members of the party are not insured.

No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

No colliery rules are posted at the mine.

5 lbs. of nitro-compounds and up to 100 detonators are stored in separate places at the surface, where charges are prepared and taken as required into the mine in a sugar bag.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Works at a price based on the moisture and ash contents.

Surveys are made of the workings and plans are prepared by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

Hard-to-GettCoal Mine:

Messrs. O'Neill Bros. were driving a new tunnel to open up a field of coal ahead of old workings.

The conditions of working were reasonably safe and the ventilation was satisfactory. Roadway conditions, for wheeling, were uncongenial owing to an inadequate system of drainage.

TARLETON

Tarleton Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Tarleton Coal Mine on the 28th August, 1935:

The colliery is worked by a party of four miners, all of whom engage in coal-getting. One of the party functions as colliery manager. In addition, two persons are employed on wages, one as a miner and one as a wheeler and lorry driver. The wages paid these two employees is 10/- per shift.

The five miners are qualified coal-getters for the purpose of General Rule 39.

The seam of coal approximates 27" in thickness and the workings are served by a small tunnel varying from 3' x 3' 8" to 3' 6" x 4'. The method of mining is a local development of a stepped longwall face, and without anticipating future weaknesses, the conditions prevailing were not to be regarded as immediately unsafe.

The workings are provided with the tunnel and two air shafts and the ventilation is naturally controlled. The tunnel was intaking an immeasurable quantity of air and although flame extinction tests revealed no pronounced deficiency in the quality of the air the quantity circulating for six persons would not conform with the requirements of the Act. The underground temperature was 59° F. saturated, with a surface registration of 59° F.D.B. - 57° F.W.B.

There were no second-exit facilities but it was proposed to equip the second air shaft with a ladder and, although the distance and dimensions would not conform with the requirements of the Act, this apparently is regarded as sufficient for exit purposes.

No special procedure is adopted in regard to pre-shift daily inspections, the manager enters the colliery with other operators at the commencement of the shift and then inspects the working places. No records are kept of daily inspections but weekly records are maintained. No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery. Colliery rules are not posted.

Explosives are kept in separate places at the surface where charges are prepared and taken into the mine, in a billy-can, as required for immediate use. Detonators are attached to fuses with a pocket knife.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

The output of coal is sold principally to the Goliath Portland Cement Works, a small quantity being placed for local domestic consumption.

The party is not insured but the two wages men are insured with the Tasmanian Insurance Company.

Southern Star Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Southern Star Coal Mine on the 28th August, 1935:

The colliery is situated on private property and is worked by W.T. Gower on a royalty basis of 6d per ton of coal marketed.

W.T. Gower is the registered manager and he does not engage in actual coal-getting, being occupied on other details connected with operations.

Three persons are employed in the mine on a contract rate of 10/- per ton of coal placed at the surface. The contract coal getters are not insured for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The seam approximates 20" in thickness and an area of coal is being mined on a stepped longwall face between old workings and a fault plane. The conditions of working could not be regarded as other than hazardous owing to owing to slackness in the system and advancement of the timbering and roadway brushing.

The workings are served by a small tunnel and ventilation is naturally controlled by connections with adjacent workings but there was a state of balance in the air in the workings tunnel and flame-extinction tests revealed a slight deficiency in the quality of the air in the two productive places. The ventilating conditions were below the standard prescribed by the Act.

Underground temperatures ranged from 55.5° F to 56°F., saturated, with a surface recording of 57.5° F.D.B. - 56.5° F.W.B.

Second-exit facilities were incomplete and were only afforded by travelling under the low roof to a neighbouring tunnel and thence ascending an unladdered shaft fourteen feet to the surface.

Explosives are kept in separate places at the surface where charges are prepared and taken into the mine, wrapped in paper, as required for immediate use. Detonators are attached to fuses with a knife.

Pre-shift daily inspections are not made. Records are made of weekly inspections. No first aid equipment is kept at the colliery.

Surveys are made and plans are prepared of the colliery workings by the Inspector of Mines, free of cost to the operators.

The output of coal is sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Works at a price based on the ash and moisture contents.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION

AVOCA

Stanhope Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Stanhope Coal Mine on the 6th September, 1935:

The colliery is situated on private property and is leased by Messrs. Stanley and Batten.

S. Hodgkinson is the registered manager and is the holder of a colliery manager's certificate, which satisifies the requirements of the Mines and Works Regulation Act.

The workings are served by a tunnel and the seam of coal is mined on the bord and pillar system, and with the exception of necessity for attention to small areas of affected roof and an increase in the width of occasional lids, the conditions of working were to be regarded as reasonably safe.

The ventilation of the colliery is controlled by a small furance and the quantity of air intaking at the tunnel was 6,580 cubic feet per minute for 7 persons employed underground. There was no detectable deficiency in the quality of the air in the productive area. Mine temperatures ranged from 50° F.B.D. - 53° F.W.B. to 50° F. saturated, with a surface recording of 48.5° F.D.B. - 43.5° F.W.B.

The colliery is well accommondated with second-exit facilities, a separate laddered shaft being provided for that purpose.

Pre-shift daily inspections and weekly inspections are made by the manager, and the prescribed records are made thereof.

The registered manager does not engage in hewing operations at the coal faces but engages in wheeling and other operations in the colliery. He does not appear as a member of the party of 5 miners who share in the proceeds from coal production on contract prices of 8/- per ton for large coal and 7/- per ton for slack coal placed in the bins at the mine. One wheeler is employed by the contractors at 10/- per shift.

The earnings of the contractors averaged 13/7 per shift for the past month and 13/11 per shift for the previous month. There is no make-up.

There is no written agreement between the contract party and the owners. The members of the party and others are not insured for the purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act.

All coal-getters are qualified for the purpose of General Rule 39.

The output of coal is sold to the Launcestion Marine Board, Patons and Baldwins and others, as a domestic fuel.

Explosives are stored in separate places at the surface. The general Rules are posted at the mine. Provision is made for rendering first aid in case of accident.

Surveys are made and plans are furnished by an authorised surveyor, as required by the provisions of the Act.

FINGAL

Fingal Coal Mine:

The following observations apply to the conditions obtaining at the Fingal Coal Mine on the 5th September, 1935:

The colliery is owned by H.J.E. Yeates.

J. Gillies is the registered manager and he engages in hewing operations at the coal face, similarly to two other miners employed.

The miners are qualified for the purpose of General Rule 39. All wheeling is done by them.

The workings are served by a tunnel and the seam of coal is mined on the bord and pillar system, and with the exception of necessity for additional timber in one productive place, the conditions of working were to be regarded as reasonably safe.

The colliery is ventilated naturally and the quantity of air intaking at the tunnel was 1622 cubic feet per minute for three persons and a pony employed underground.

The circulation of air was not being conducted to the productive faces but shift-end shot-firing is observed and there was no detectable deficiency in the quality of the air. The mine temperature was 56° F.D.BL 55.5° F.W.B. with a surface registration of 48° F.D.S. - 42° F.W.B.

The colliery is well accommodated with second-exit facilities. Pre-shift daily inspections and weekly inspections are made by the registered manager. Explosives are stored in separate places at the surface and wooden charging boxes are used. A first aid outfit has been provided.

Surveys are made and plans are furnished by an authorised surveyor, as required by the provisions of the Act.

The employees are on wages. The manager is paid 19/9 per shift and according to the owner, the other two miners are paid at the same rate, but I am unable to qualify this.

The owner advices that the three miners and the lorry driver are insured with the Tasmanian Insurance Company for the purpose of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The output of coal is sold to the Railway Department, the Mental Diseases Hospital and to sundry domestic consumers.

(W.H. Williams).
ACTING CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES

Mines Department,
Hobart.

18/9/35.