

WESTLAND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

(684.) GREY VALLEY WORKERS.—AGREEMENT.

Agreement between Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers and Tyneside Proprietary Coal-mining Company.

THIS agreement, made in pursuance of "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," and its amendments, this twenty-third day of December, one thousand nine hundred and three, between the Tyneside Proprietary Coal-mining Company and the Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers: The said parties to this agreement agree as follows in regard to work and labour at the Tyneside collieries:—

1. All coal to be paid for, gross, at prices as follows: (a) Solid coal, fast places, 2s. 4d. per ton; (b) lifting bottoms, 2s. 2d. per ton; (c) 10½ cwt. to be paid for each truck, and trucks must be filled not less than water-level. Miners to have the right to either over- or under-cut their coal, so long as it is satisfactory to company's shot-firer.

2. *Wet Places*.—Miners working wet places shall be paid 11s. for a six-hour shift, and get an equal share of trucks during the time they are at work. "Wet places" to mean where men are standing in water or water is dripping on them.

3. *Shift Wages*.

Getting coal, per shift, 11s. Workmen to have the right to claim payment at tonnage rates by notifying same at the commencement of any pay-period. Slits and back incline to be paid not less than 12s. per shift.

4. *Permanent*, per shift, 10s. 6d.

5. *Casual*, per shift, 11s. Meaning, when a workman is taken from his own place and sent to work somewhere else.

6. *Carpenters*, per shift, 11s.

7. *Engine-drivers*.—Winding, per shift, 11s. 6d.; stationary, per shift, 10s. 6d.

8. *Trucking by Miners*.—Miners truck their coal up to a distance of 50 yards, or not past first permanent flat-sheet.

9. *Bracemen*, 10s. per shift; onsetter, 10s. 6d. per shift.

10. *Truckers*.—Trucking to be by contract or shift wages. If contracting, each and every trucker to share in the same contract and be paid according to position, *pro rata*. Members of the union to have preference if tenders are called for.

11. *Falling Stone*.—If from this cause a workman cannot make wages, then he is to be paid 11s. per shift.

12. *Breaking away Bords*.—When required bords shall be broken away narrow, and 6s. per yard shall be paid so long as it is considered necessary to keep the said bord narrow.

13. *Yardage*.—Inclines, levels, and slits, when single-shifted, 6s. per yard; when two or three shifts, 7s. per yard. Any place less

than 9 ft. wide to be paid 8s. per yard, single- or double-shifted. Taking side coal to be paid half yardage, and any pair of men driving a level shall have a right to first incline, and any pair driving an incline shall have right to first bord.

14. *Cavilling*.—All coal places to be cavilled for every twelve weeks; first cavilled out to be first cavilled in. Two scrutineers to be appointed by the workmen to examine the places before they are cavilled for.

15. *Timbering*.—Sets up to 6 ft. high, 2s. 6d. per set; from 6 ft. to 8 ft. high, 3s. 6d. per set; inclines, levels, and slits not less than 3s. 6d. per set. All sets over 8 ft. high or more than 8 in. through, measured in centre, to be special sets, and the price of such sets to be arranged between the manager and workman. If they do not agree, the question to be referred to the manager and committee of the union with a view to settlement. When close laths are required on top, 1s. extra shall be paid. Laths to be provided by the company.

16. *Bottoms*.—Company to lift all bottoms.

17. *Dips*.—Special places when considered necessary.

18. Miners to keep all timber 12 ft. back from rail-ends, and all over that distance back to be kept by the company or paid for at shift rates.

19. *Holidays*.—Every Saturday afternoon, 17th, 18th, and 26th March, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Empire Day, King's Birthday, Labour Day, and from the 24th December, 1903, to the 4th January, 1904.

20. Preference of employment to be given to unionists provided union secretary supplies manager with list of unionists.

21. Any dispute arising during the term of this agreement, and which is not herein provided for, shall be referred to the company's manager and union committee or secretary with a view of settlement.

The provisions of this agreement to continue in force for one year, commencing from the 14th day of December, 1903, and terminating on the 13th day of December, 1904. In witness whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands this 23rd day of December, 1903, at Brunnerton, in the Colony of New Zealand.

For the Tyneside Proprietary (Limited)—

E. G. PILCHER, Managing Director.

Witness—C. Miller, Secretary and Accountant, Wellington.

For the Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers—

G. NEWTON, President.

L. FREDK. NYBERG, Secretary.

Witness—Thomas A. Smith, Miner.