

(2641.) GREY VALLEY COAL-MINERS.—AGREEMENT *RE* BRUNNER
COLLIERIES (LIMITED).

AGREEMENT made this 20th day of August, 1912, between the Grey Valley Miners' Union and Brunner Collieries (Limited).

Hewing Rates.

1. Coal from 3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in. thick, 4s. per ton; coal from 3 ft. 6 in. to 4 ft. thick, 3s. 6d. per ton; coal from 4 ft. to 4 ft. 6 in. thick, 2s. 10d. per ton; coal from 4 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. thick, 2s. 6d. per ton; coal from 5 ft. and over, 2s. 4d. per ton.

Any place with less than 3 ft. of coal shall be a deficient place, to be worked at 12s. per shift, or at a rate to be agreed upon between the mine-manager and the union officials.

Dirt Clause.

2. 2s. 4d. per ton to be paid for dirt, and 12 cwt. to represent a box. If dirt is utilized for filling up holes or ordered to be thrown back, the area of the place from which the dirt has been taken to be measured, and paid for, at the above rate. The management to have the right to weigh any box of dirt, and if below standard weight, such men to be paid at such average weight for one week.

Wet Places.

3. Miners working in wet places shall be paid 12s. per shift. Shifts in wet places shall be six hours from bank to bank. If the miners in wet places desire they can dispense with the half-hour allowed for crib, and work five hours and a half from bank to bank. In case of any dispute as to what is a wet place, the matter shall be arranged by the check inspectors and the mine-manager. Should they fail to agree the matter shall be settled by an arbiter mutually selected by each party.

Shift-wages.

4. When miners are employed getting coal, 12s. per shift. (Clauses 3 and 4.) When miners shall earn more than the wages mentioned at tonnage rates during any pay period they shall be paid at tonnage rates.

Shift-work in Solid Places.

5. If miners when working in solid places at tonnage rates be called upon to do any class of work other than hewing or filling coal, they shall be paid at the rate of 12s. per day, and nothing shall be deducted from what the miners may make at tonnage rates to pay for the said shift-wages. The company to lift all other bottoms than coal or fireclay.

6. Permanent shiftmen, 11s. per shift.

7. Casual shiftmen, 12s. per shift. (This means when a workman is taken away from his own place to do shift-work.)

8. Carpenters, 11s. per shift.

9. Blacksmiths—First fire, 12s. 6d. per shift; second fire, 11s. per shift.

10. Bankmen and wheelmen, 10s. 6d. per shift.

11. Truckers—Nineteen years and over, 10s. 6d. per shift; eighteen years to nineteen years, 10s. per shift; seventeen years to eighteen years, 8s. 6d. per shift; sixteen years to seventeen years, 7s. per shift; fifteen years to sixteen years, 5s. 6d. per shift.

Trucking by Miners.

12. Miners to truck their own coal 22 yards, or not past the first permanent flatsheet; from 22 to 44 yards, 2d. per ton extra; for each 22 yards or fraction thereof above or over 44 yards, 3d. per ton extra. Any place in the mine where the trucking by miners exceeds 22 yards, the extra tonnage must be paid or a roll-off made for the trucker, such roll-off to be as near as possible, but no more than 12 yards from the face. Miners to run the face-jig up to 22 yards, over that distance to be paid the same extra rates as trucking in levels or any other place. When taking out stumps of pillars miners to truck 6 ft. and jig the trucks. If in places where it takes two men to push the truck the trucker to help the miner.

13. Outside boys to start at 4s. per shift, with an increase of 6d. per day every six months. If over fifteen years when starting, regulated as per clause 11, with 6d. per day less to be paid.

14. Outside men, 10s. per shift.

Bords.

15. Bords to be 18 ft. wide, but in cases of bad roof the manager to have the right to reduce the width to 16 ft. at the same tonnage rates. When bords are broken away narrow 4 yards at 6s. per yard shall be paid; should the bords be broken away 18 ft. wide 2 yards at 6s. per yard shall be paid. When bords are broken away narrow the width shall be 10 ft.

Yardage.

16. For slits, levels, inclines, or stentons: 9 ft. wide and under—8s. per yard single shift, 9s. per yard double shift, 10s. per yard three-shift; over 9 ft. wide—6s. per yard single shift, 7s. per yard double shift, 8s. per yard three-shift. Bords driven narrow from 12 ft. to 16 ft.—4s. per yard single shift, 5s. per yard double shift, 6s. per yard three-shift. Taking off-side coal in solid places, 3s. per yard. Splitting pillars when 18 ft. wide will not be considered as slits, levels, inclines, or stentons, but if driven under 16 ft. wide to be paid as narrow bords.

Timbering.

17. Sets up to 6 ft. high, 2s. 6d. per set; sets from 6 ft. to 8 ft. high, 3s. 6d. per set; sets over 8 ft. high, 4s. 6d. per set.

All sets more than 8 in. through, measured in the centre, to be special sets, and the price of such sets to be arranged between the manager and the workman. All sets requiring close laths on top shall be paid 1s. extra.

Miners to keep all timber 12 ft. back from rail-end.

Timbering back along roadway to be kept by company or paid for at the rate of 6d. per prop. Chocks, 1s. per foot. Filling in, 6d. per foot extra.

Falling Stone.

18. In places where miners, on account of falling stone, cannot make wages they shall be paid 12s. per shift.

Cavilling.

19. All coal places shall be cavilled every twelve weeks. Check inspectors shall be allowed to examine the places before they are cavilled for. Should any place be stopped and commence again the men cavilled to this place shall return to it, or if such places may be finished during the quarter the men working in such places shall claim the first place to start.

Men cavilled in levels shall claim the first incline won out of the level, and men working in inclines shall claim the first bord won out in the incline.

The company shall have the option of working special places. The manager shall pick whom he considers the best workmen and cavil them to these places. The men working in these places shall be guaranteed a wage not less than 12s. per shift, or what they can earn at tonnage rates if above that average.

Holidays.

20. Every Saturday afternoon, 17th March, Good Friday, Easter Monday, King's Birthday, and Labour Day. On Saturday the mine to knock off at 2 p.m., and seven hours shall constitute a day's work. If the mine knocks off before 2 p.m. the employees shall be paid *pro rata* of eight-hours shift. Christmas holidays, from 24th December at 4 p.m. to 4th January at 8 a.m.

If any of the above holidays fall on Sunday it shall be arranged between the manager and the union officials as to what day be taken for the said holiday.

Preference.

21. Preference of employment shall be given to members of the union, both in taking on and discharging workmen: Provided that when members leave the employ of the company without giving reasonable notice the manager may refuse to re-employ such members, notwithstanding that their names may appear on the employment-book, which shall be kept at the nearest post-office to the mine, and in which the secretary shall register the names of all members out of employment.

Preference to Truckers going on Coal.

22. The trucker or shiftman who has been the longest in the mine in the employ of the company shall have the preference where men are required on the coal. The manager to have the right to stop a trucker or shiftman from going on coal with an incompetent workman. The said truckers or shiftmen to go trucking when called upon for the first three months at 11s. 6d. per shift.

Incompetent Workers.

23. If from any cause any worker is unable to earn the minimum wage provided by this award for any class of work for which he may desire employment, such worker may be employed at such less wage as may be agreed upon by the union and the manager.

Matters not provided for.

24. Should any matter not provided for or any dispute arise during the term of this award, it shall be referred to the company and the officials of the union with a view to settlement.

Term of Agreement.

25. This agreement to terminate on the 1st day of July, 1913.

Signed on behalf of Brunner Collieries (Limited).

D. E. THORNTON, Attorney.

Witness—R. Alison.

Signed on behalf of the Grey Valley Miners' Union.

JOHN SMEATON, President.

Witness—David Swallow.

JOHN W. KAYE, Secretary.