FILE NAME: Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR)

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(25)

Early in the year a modified method of rising was introduced at Great Western Consolidated N.L. This is "stage rising" on a diamond drill hole. The miner stands on a stage and bores out the rise cut using the diamond drill hole as the 'burn' hole. The stage is raised into position and held there by a hoist rigged above the collar of the hole. This hole provides a type of ventilation for the miner working on the stage, and definitely clears out the rise after firing. However, in my opinion in breaks down in the fact that compressed air only is blown down the hole. So far reports are that conditions in the rise are really satisfactory. Rising on a drill hole has been carried on at the Sons of Gwalia for some time but without using the stage. Here the normal venturi cloth is also provided in case the diamond drill hole is closed or blocked. In the stage rising it is impossible to carry the venturi cloth up as the stage occupies the area of the rise. Some method of inducing fresh air through the diamond drill hole with the compressed air is required. This may be possible with a hole drilled to meet the diamond drill hole at an acute angle. This could be the restricted section of a type of venturi blower.

Alterations to the treatment plant of Australian Blue Asbestos Limited at Wittenoom Gorge, to be completed by February 1956, were commenced. These alterations will make the treatment a wet process. The flow sheet is to be: Primary and secondary crushing as at present. The crushed to three rod mills and four classifiers in open circuit. The classifier overflow will go to three trommels where the fibre will be separated. The underflow from the trommels will pass through another trommel and the fibre recovered added to the initial fibre. The whole of the fibre will be transported by a screw conveyor to a Rolls for the moisture to be squeezed out, and thence to the rotary drier for final drying. The dried fibre will pass to another trommel for cleaning and grading and finally to a bagging section. When this process is completed and operating efficiently it is anticipated that a decided improvement will be shown in regard to dust content in the plant.

During the year a mining equipment company introduced a new piece of equipment to these fields, which involved dry boring and the collection through the steel into a container of the dust so created. During the demonstration dust samples were taken by Assistant Inspector Simmons and included in a report. The number of samples taken are not conclusive but indicate that at the demonstration the dust collection was quite efficient.

Aluminium Therapy:

With the cessation of mining activities at Big Bell Mines Limited the number of changerooms in which aluminium therapy powder is dispersed has dropped to 26. The concentration of powder in the changerooms are measured by the ventilation officer on the mine and are checked at irregular intervals by officers of this department.

A census of men receiving Aluminium Therapy was taken during the period of January - March of the year under review. The method of conducting the census was the same as that used in previous census and explained in the Annual Report for 1953. (The tabulated result of this census is attached.) The tabulation shows a comparison of results for the four census made during the period 1953-1955 is also attached.

Fuming Accidents:

[illegible] fatal accidents and fourteen [illegible] fuming accidents were reported to the [illegible] office during the year. [illegible] fatal accident [illegible]

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32,200 c.f.m. along No. 5 level. This air upcasts through ri
and millholes into stopes to No.3 level. Then through old
worked out stopes to No.2 level and thence to the old main
shaft.

The sinking of the main shaft has been restarted and
this was reported as being satisfactorily ventilated.

WEST PILBARA GOLDFIELD

Australian Blue Asbestos

The workings of this company at Wittenoom Gorge were
inspected in August.

Wittenoom Mine - 48,600 c.f.m. was the measured exhaust from
thi s mine past the fan. This air flows in through the New
Portal and along the main drive. Crosscuts at intervals of
400 feet diverge from the drive and although fitted with ven-
tilation doors some air leaks through to old stopes. At the
last crosscut 14,000 c.f.m. was measured. This air flows
through working places in stopes and joins with the other air,
the whole flowing through old open stopes etc., to the fan.
The only development proceeding is in a crosscut further along
the main drive. About one third of the ore treated is obtaine
from this mine.

Colonial Mine: - The other two thirds of the ore treated is
from this mine where the fibre is of greater width. Natural
ventilation prevails at this mine. Two openings to the gorge
provide the intake whilst the exhaust air returns to the gorge
through three break throughs from stopes to the gorge. The air
currents around the face of the gorge cause fluctuations to th
airflow. The measured intake was 11,600 c.f.m. Further connec
tions to the cliff face are proposed. A connection through to
the top of the hill is envisaged in the future ventilation of
this mine.

PILBARA GOLDFIELD

Blue Spec Mine:

Practically no mining was done at this mine during
the year. I have been advised that the suggestion to instal
a No.44 centrifugal fan on the ventilation shaft at the surface
was not adopted.

NORTHAMPTON MINERAL FIELD

Peringe Wheal Fortune Pty.Ltd.:

No mining operations were undertaken during the year.

Prothero Lead Mine:

The main shaft of this mine is downcast. 1700 c.f.m.
flows from the shaft at No.2 level, 3,200 c.f.m. at No.3 level
and 4,600 c.f.m. along No.4 level (These were the figures
obtained when measured in April 1955) The air flows along the
levels to upcast through the working stopes and old stopes to
reach the surface through a shaft connected to a stope above
fan. The fan should be capable of exhausting more air through
the mine. Dust conditions in the mine were quite satis-
factory.