

THE BASIC INDUSTRIES OF GREAT BRITAIN

CHAPTER I

THE YORKSHIRE COALFIELD

PART I

THE largest unworked area of coal deposits in the United Kingdom, and the one which presents the greatest modern developments, is that of South and West Yorkshire. These deposits, which are confined practically to the West Riding, with a tendency to develop eastward, extend from a few miles north of Leeds to the southern limit of the county, and there merge into the coalfields of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This coalfield is larger than those of Durham, Northumberland, Lancashire and Cumberland collectively, and than the whole of the deposits in Scotland and Ireland; whilst in Wales it is only surpassed by South Wales and Monmouthshire unitedly. At the present rate of output the quantity available at a depth not exceeding 4,000 feet will not become exhausted for more than 300 years.

The actual figures are as follows :

	Estimated tons.
Yorkshire	19,138,006,395
Wales and Monmouthshire	26,470,996,579
Durham and Northumberland	10,780,741,987
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,766,216,532
Scotland and Ireland	15,855,924,356 ¹

¹ For full details as to the coal reserves of the country and all matters relating to colliery working and the disposal of its products the reader is referred to the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry (1925).