

and Mr. J. H. Laverick are Directors of this trading union of large gas, steam and house coal-producing pits, turning out several million tons a year. The Doncaster Colliery Association combines for business purposes, under Mr. William Humble, the Managing Director, five of the best collieries in South Yorkshire, viz., Brodsworth, Bullcroft, Hickleton, Yorkshire Main and Markham Main, with an annual output of over 5,000,000 tons. This union is principally controlled by representatives of the Staveley Iron & Coal Co., and was organised by the late Sir Arthur Markham, M.P., and the late Charles P. Markham, Chairman of that Company. Many other collieries are, if not formally amalgamated, closely connected with one another, and new combinations will doubtless be organised, stimulated by the report of the Mining Industries Commission, above referred to, and by the remission in the case of collieries amalgamating under the new Mining Industries Act of all stamp duty on registration of capital or on the conveyance of shares or property.

The interests of the men, most of whom belong to the Miners' Federation, so far as it can be said still to exist, the Union that till now has dominated the British coal trade, and in favour of whose policy and management until the last two or three years much that is good can be said—are not only guarded by the Mines Regulation Acts, but also provided for by the coal-owner and his officials, who work the existing regulations. Safety lamps of the best type are used, the pit discipline is good, and the use of explosives is limited. Yorkshire coal is well known for its fiery character, but in no coalfield are accidents to men from explosions so rare. Every care is given to the comfort and safety of the miners. Wages vary according to the seam of coal and conditions of work. They are usually arranged with the men and union officials at the various pits, and are probably among the highest in the kingdom. The actual miner may