

## CHAPTER X

### NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM COAL AND ENGINEERING

THE North-east Coast, where coal and iron mines have called into being vast iron and steel works and shipyards, with a host of co-related industries, is the centre of manufacturing activity which, in normal circumstances, yields in importance and variety to no other district in the world. It would be impossible, within reasonable limits, to enumerate all the firms engaged in coal-mining or manufacturing operations in Durham and Northumberland, or to describe in any detail the nature and extent of their productions. Many of the larger firms are known as well throughout the British Dominions and other parts of the world as at home.

The coalfield is estimated to contain 8,951,940,320 tons of workable coal from a variety of seams which produce annually about 43,000,000 tons. From this output 4,072 coke ovens, including some in the North Riding of Yorkshire, made, in 1924, 4,777,736 tons of coke, with a consumption of 6,853,270 tons of coal. Many of the Northumberland collieries are on the edge of the North Sea, and those in Durham are, if not on the coast, within a short distance of the sea or of the Tyne, Wear and Tees, all of which are navigable rivers. The Newbiggin, Seaton Delaval and Cowpen Coal Companies are working a mile out under the sea, and may go to a limit of 3 miles. In Durham the Whitburn Colliery is nearly, and the Ryhope Dawdon and Monkwearmouth Collieries are quite, 2 miles out. Easington is out 3 miles. The distance is limited by the possibility of ventilation. The miners ride out to