

the face. As regards export trade, the pits have only light railway charges, and sometimes none, to add to their costs, and are therefore, like the collieries of South Wales, much more favourably situated than the Yorkshire and Derbyshire pits. In normal times they command a large foreign trade, in which gas coal plays a leading part. For centuries coal has been raised from what used to be called the Newcastle district. Some of it found its way to London, in spite of edicts against the smoke-producing "sea cole" as it was called in the sixteenth century.

The Northumberland collieries work the same seams of coal as those in Durham, but the coalfield is less extensive. They produce about 12,000,000 tons annually of gas, steam, house and coking coals. Among the leading firms are the Bedlington Coal Co., whose Chairman is Mr. H. C. Embleton, and the Broomhill Collieries, of which Viscount Furness is Chairman. Then there are the owners of Blackworth Collieries, whose Chairman is Mr. W. R. Lamb; the Burraton & Coxlodge Coal Co., whose Chairman is Mr. R. W. Byas; the Cowpen Coal Co., whose Chairman is Mr. J. C. Straker; the Cramlington Coal Co., whose Chairman is Lt.-Col. R. Scott; the Seaton Delaval Coal Co., whose Chairman is Mr. E. Hurst; the Wallsend & Hebburn Coal Co., whose Chairman is Mr. J. C. Straker; and perhaps the most interesting of all, the Ashington Coal Co., which owns four large collieries at Ashington, Linton, Woodhorn and Ellington. A fifth is to be opened at Lynemouth. The present output of this firm is 12,000 tons a day. This coal was originally worked in 1848. In 1867 the first of the present shafts was sunk, and about 1870, Jonathan Priestman (of an old Quaker family related by marriage to the Rt. Hon. John Bright), one of the founders of the present business, became connected with Ashington. William Milburn, the ship-owner, afterwards joined the concern. Pits were sunk at