

area, and these are small. The coal is usually worked by means of slants or adits. The collieries cannot, of course, be compared with the large and up-to-date pits in the steam coal district of South Wales or of Yorkshire, inasmuch as they have been established by men of small means, not in a position to take a long view. Under these conditions the proprietors naturally, to use a common phrase, "picked the eyes out of their pits" and got the best out of their undertakings as they went along, giving practically no attention to careful lay-out for the future. The new combinations are in a position to bring the collieries up to date and to work them by modern methods.