

*Purchase Prices.*

55.—(1) Every owner shall, upon notice given to him by the Board, send to them such particulars of the commercial descriptions under which he has supplied coal during the years 1934 and 1935, and also such particulars of the price and conditions of sale of such coal and such other information as the Board require.

(2) The Board shall allocate the coal produced at each coal mine into commercial descriptions upon the basis of the commercial descriptions under which such coal was supplied from the coal mine during the years 1934 and 1935, and shall determine in the manner hereinafter provided for each commercial description of coal the purchase price per ton at the pithead which shall be paid by the Board for coal of that commercial description taken by them from the owner of that coal mine.

(3) For the purpose of determining the purchase price of each commercial description of coal produced at any coal mine the Board shall ascertain the tonnage of coal of that commercial description supplied from that coal mine during the years 1934 and 1935 (otherwise than for the purposes described in the proviso to Clause 32 of the Scheme) and the amount realised therefor.

(4) To determine the net proceeds at the pithead of such coal the Board shall make adjustments to the amount realised having regard to commissions or allowances and bad debts, expenses of the sale of coal of which the owner is relieved under the provisions of the Scheme and the price of coal sold to allied or ancillary works and any other adjustment which may be fair and equitable and shall deduct from the amount realised all expenses incurred in the delivery of such coal, including, where the vehicles or vessels for delivery were owned or controlled by the owner of the coal mine, wagon hire upon the Railway Companies scale in operation at the date of delivery, and hire of other vehicles or vessels on a scale determined by the Board.

(5) The purchase price of any commercial description of coal shall be the average net proceeds at the pithead per ton of such coal during the years 1934 and 1935, ignoring fractions of a penny.

(6) The Board may determine separate purchase prices for commercial descriptions of house coal supplied in the winter period and in the summer period, and for the purpose of determining such purchase prices in accordance with the three preceding sub-clauses house coal supplied in the winter period and in the summer period shall be deemed coal of different commercial descriptions.

(7) The Board may at any time adjust the purchase price of any commercial description of coal where by reason of any change of circumstances it appears fair and equitable to do so, and, without prejudice to the generality of such power may adjust such purchase price where—

(a) the standard quality of coal of that commercial description has deteriorated, or

(b) the standard of quality of coal of that commercial description has improved and the market price of such coal has increased relatively to the market price of coal of similar commercial descriptions, or

(c) the methods of cleaning or preparation of such coal for the market have been altered.

(8) If any Owner shall with the consent of the Board at any time supply coal not within any of the commercial descriptions into which the coal produced at his coal mine has been allocated or if, after 1st August, 1936, a new colliery shall be opened or the working of a colliery shall be recommenced following an abandonment or discontinuance of working, the Board shall allocate that coal, or the coal produced from that colliery, into commercial descriptions and shall determine a purchase price for each such commercial description having regard to the purchase price of similar descriptions of coal, the requirements of the market for that coal and all other relevant circumstances.

*Maintenance of Quality.*

56.—(1) As far as possible each owner shall produce for supply to the Board and the Board shall take coal of the various commercial descriptions in the proportions in which such commercial descriptions were supplied from the coal mine of such Owner during the year 1935, otherwise than to excluded works of that owner, and no owner shall, without the consent of the Board which shall not be unreasonably withheld, but may be given subject to reasonable conditions, alter by more than 5 per cent. the proportions of any commercial descriptions of coal produced.

(2) Such proportions may, upon two months' notice to the Board, be varied where a new colliery or seam is being worked or developed, or a scheme for the concentration of output is introduced.

57.—(1) Every owner shall clean and prepare for the market coal of each commercial description for supply to the Board in such a manner as to maintain the standard of quality of coal of that commercial description supplied, otherwise than to his excluded works, during the year 1935, and the Board may formulate a reasonable specification for any commercial description of coal for the purpose of testing that the standard is maintained.

(2) No Owner shall, without the consent of the Board, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, but may be given subject to reasonable conditions, alter the methods employed in the year 1935 in the preparation for the market of any coal or the number of staff engaged during that year upon such preparation or upon the maintenance of any plant or machinery used therefor.