

5.6. Northumberland Coal Owners' Association, Amount of Smart Money paid during the years 1896, 1897.

Note: Coal and other employers were under no legal obligation to make payments to workers impaired in their employ before 1880 but a moral economy existed that suggested that industrialists had a moral responsibility to provide some measure of support to such workers. The north-east of England stood out as a coalfield in which a more formal and regular system of payments to impaired workers, in the form of 'smart money', was in operation throughout the nineteenth century and even after the institution of a statutory Workmen's Compensation scheme in 1897.

Ashington Coal Company

Number of Persons Disabled by Accident During the Year:	1896	1897
Number of Persons whose Disability Lasted Two Weeks or Under	257	250
Number of Persons whose Disability Lasted Over Two Weeks	138	152
Total Amount of Smart Money Paid During the Year	£235 3s. 4d.	£279 14s. 9d.
Tons Raised During the Year	988,010	1,044,515

Source: Northumberland Archives, NCB/C 176, Northumberland Coal Owners Association, Amount of Smart Money During the Years 1896, 1897 and January 1898.