**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.