

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MINING UNDER ROSEWOOD RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Sir.—Rosewood and District Progress Association would like to place before the public and the authorities the damage caused by mining in the Rosewood district. As the objects of the association are to help in any matters which would benefit the people and the district generally, its members feel that it must voice its disapproval of mining operations being carried on under the residential area of the town. In all cases in the Rosewood district where mining operations have been carried out large subsidences have occurred, even where mining has been carried on at a depth of approximately 250ft. from the surface. That, we claim, proves that the strata is not sufficiently strong to safeguard the surface.

It is the practice of landholders who own underground rights to reserve certain areas under their buildings when drawing up a mining lease in order to safeguard their surface assets.

The residential area now

being worked, previously known as Belmont Estate (landholders owned to a depth of 70ft. from the surface), was originally a farming property, which was purchased and subdivided, being sold as building allotments. The previous purchaser retained the mineral rights. The portion contains some of the best building blocks in the town, as can be seen by the number of houses built in this area during the last 10 years.

The association feels that as this land was sold as building allotments, and holders of the land pay rates as for building allotments, surely adequate protection should be given to the owners.

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The authorities state that the people have nothing to fear, as safe mining operations are being carried out, but from past experience the association feels that there is only one safe mining practice—that is, to cease mining operations under the residential area entirely, while there are areas of coal deposits outside the town area which have not been worked.

The association feels fully justified in protesting against mining operations owing to the amount of surface damage which is evident throughout the district.

A. E. SMITH.

Secretary, Rosewood and District Progress Association.