

The Mining Journal

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Accidents.

Walsall. J. Smart was killed by a fall of earth, in Messrs. Phillip Williams and Co's ironstone pit, Birchhills.

Brierley Hill. E. Wood was killed by a fall of coal at Mr. Bond's Colliery, Bromley.

Tipton. John Guttridge, while ascending the shaft of one of the pits belonging to Messrs. Caddick and Mason's colliery, at Tividale, received a severe compound fracture of his head, by a brick falling out of the side of the shaft: the poor fellow lies in a very precarious state.

Bank Colliery, Kingswinford. W. Matthews was killed by the falling of a brick down a shaft, while he was ascending in a skip.

Coseley. John Morris, aged 14, was burnt in the Jad Hall colliery, on the 19th and died on the 23rd Oct. As Joseph Walters, aged 63, a butty collier, was putting a tree in a pit at the same colliery, which is the property of J.B. Whitehouse, Esq., of Coseley, a chip of the tree struck him in the eye, and injured him so seriously, that he died.

Rowley. A collier, named Clark, was injured about the face and arms by the explosion of a quantity of gunpowder, which accidentally became ignited by a lighted lamp, which was forced from Clark's hand by the falling of a clod of earth, while down a pit at Messrs. Badger's colliery, at Garrett's Lane, Old Hill. He was quickly attended by Mr. W.E. Johnson, and is now going on favourably.

Dreadful Coal Pit Accident. On Saturday an accident, by which nearly 30 persons were deprived of life, was occasioned by an explosion of fire-damp, at a pit on Wynie Hill, Cleator Moor, near Whitehaven. More than 20 bodies were brought up the shaft in a dreadfully mangled condition, and 10 more were undiscovered, of whose existence in the pit in the morning there is the clearest evidence – viz: the statement of the only survivor who managed to ascend the shaft, leaving below several others ready to follow him, but whom the fire-damp suffocated instantaneously. The bodies having been identified for the purpose of a coroner's inquest, were removed in carts from the spot, which presented a frightful spectacle, from the dead placed around, scorched and disfigured; the piteous cries of the wives, children, and friends of the deceased, as the blackened remains of each were brought up from the pit, the utter appearance of desolation which the works themselves exhibited, and the continued fall of heavy rain and hail. The poor fellows were principally Irish Roman Catholics, and have left their families in great distress. The cause of the catastrophe is attributable to bad ventilation. The case is adverted to in another column.

Another Victim to Unclosed Pits. On Friday another life was sacrificed to the disgraceful practice of allowing old unworked pits to remain without fence or other protection. The unfortunate victim, in this instance, was a labouring man, named J. Bates, who was working near an old coal-pit at Brockmoor Green, into which he fell backwards, and was killed. Of course, the formal ceremony of holding an inquest was gone through. The witnesses considered the circumstance an accident, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect. Surely parties who leave these pits

uncovered are as guilty of manslaughter as the reckless driver of a railway train. One or two verdicts to that effect would have a wholesome effect on the practice. – Birmingham Journal.

Dangerous Mistake. On Monday last a collier, working in the Pentrefelen Pit, near Llangafelach, nearly met his death under the following singular circumstances: - He had brought with him a supply of food for his meals – among other things a pot of good strong tea – that famous plant “which cheers but not inebriates.” In a similar pot he had with him a more dangerous companion, 1½ lb of gunpowder – not the tea called gunpowder – but good rock powder, used for blasting purposes. At the usual hour for the meal the canny man took up the pot and set it on the fire. It was the pot of powder, not tea. The result may easily be imagined – an explosion, which burnt the man and a boy, and five who were at the time in a shed near the works with him. Fortunately the injuries received by the sufferers, though severe, are not such as to endanger their lives – a circumstance which they owe, in great part to the shed being opened, and the roof, we believe, partly uncovered. – Welchman.

Extraordinary Occurrence – Death of a Woman from Falling down an Old Pit Shaft. One of the most singularly distressing accidents which we have ever heard of occurred on the morning of Saturday last, to a woman named Ann Yates, wife of a coke-burner named Richard Yates, residing in a house close to a place known as “The Fire-Holes,” on the turnpike road leading from Bilston to Tipton. About nine o’clock on the above morning she had occasion to go up stairs to her bed-room for something or other, and upon returning down stairs, just as she placed her foot on the landing in the kitchen, that portion of the flooring on which she stood gave way beneath her, and, to the surprise and alarm of those of the family who were in the kitchen at the time, she instantly sank into the ground and disappeared from their sight. An alarm was instantly given, and a number of persons from an adjoining coalfield were quickly on the spot, but they were unable to render any assistance at the moment, even had such been possible, owing to the suffocating nature of the atmosphere which filled the house, and which their experience in such matters convinced them proceeded from an old coal-pit, into which the unfortunate woman had fallen. In order to give free vent to the foul air, the back walls of the house were pulled down, but it was nearly two hours from the time of the occurrence, before it was considered safe for any one to persevere in an attempt to ascertain the fate of the unfortunate woman. At the end of that time, however, a rope was attached to the waist of a man named J. Spencer, and he having been lowered down the pit shaft, for which it turned out to be, at the depth of about eight yards he obtained footing on a scaffolding which had been used in working the pit, and also found the body of Mrs. Yates there. Having attached a rope to her waist, she was pulled up by those above, and although she was quite warm, all attempts to revive her proved unavailing. She had evidently been suffocated by the foul atmosphere, as there were no bruises on her body sufficient to cause death. The inquest was held on Monday, at the Moxley tavern, before T.M. Phillips, Esq., coroner for that part of the county in which the melancholy accident took place. It appeared that the house in question had been built about the year 1800, before which time the shaft must have been closed. Previous to the occurrence of the accident, the tenants had no knowledge of the existence of the shaft. It was hinted in the course of the inquiry, that a pit, the working of which was being carried on within 8 or 10 yards of the house, might have caused the accident, but nothing definite on this point was arrived at. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death.” The deceased was 52 years of age. – Birmingham Journal.

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The Coal Trade.

We mentioned many months ago that the ever-vigilant member for this borough, Mr. Hutt, had moved for a return of the duties exacted from the article of coal by the several municipalities of the kingdom; and we foretold that the document, when completed, would present a fearful picture of folly, ignorance, and extravagance. It has turned out precisely as we anticipated. An amount of taxation to the extent of a quarter of a million sterling is annually drawn, it seems, by municipal and other local bodies in the United Kingdom, from the importation of coal and coke, and upwards of £80,000 a year also from the exportation of the same articles. These importations and exportations, we need hardly observe, are made by sea. The duties, however, levied on coals and coke carried by railway, have only amounted to £1,146 during the past year, and in 1846 they did not exceed £65. These facts and figures require, and we trust will receive, much serious consideration in the north of England – Gateshead Observer.

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No Headline (part of Report).

Great Michell Consols. – Captain T. Richards (Nov. 1) reports – The lode in the 45fm level, west of the sump-winze, continues exceedingly promising, containing mundic, ore, spar, and fluor; the ground, on the whole, is more favourable for driving. In the 35fm level west there is no important alteration; the lode contains capel, mundic, peach, and spar, with a small proportion of ore in places.

Herodsfoot – Captains John Medlen and Peter Dunstan (Oct. 30) report – The lode in the 106fm level south is 2½ft wide, producing ½ton of lead ore per fathom; and in the north end the lode is small and unproductive; in the stopes, in the back of this level, the lode is 3ft wide, producing ½ton of ore per fm; we are rising in the back of this level by the side of the lode against a winze sinking below the 94fm level, to ventilate this part of the mine. In the 94 fathom level north the lode is divided into three branches; the western branch is producing good stones of lead ore, but since the last report no progress has been made, in consequence of the men being put to rise against a winze in the 82, which we expect to hole in a few days time; in this level south the lode is 2½ feet wide, producing ¾ ton of lead ore per fm; there has been but little work in this end, in consequence of setting some new pitches in the back, but we intend to resume the end again this week; in the winze, sinking below this level, the lode is 2ft wide, producing ½ ton of lead ore per fm. In the 82fm level north the lode is small, but producing some good stones of ore; in this level south we have driven 7fms by the side of the lode, and we are now about to cross-cut it; the lode when last seen in this end was 2½ft wide, producing good stones of ore; in a winze, sinking below this level, 40fms north of the engine-shaft, the lode is 1ft wide, producing ½ ton of lead ore per fm. In the 72fm level north we have reached the slide, but have not yet seen the lode, which is to the north of it, and are now about to cross-cut in search of it; in this level south the lode is 2ft wide, producing ½ ton of ore per fm. The 62fm level north is suspended. The winze sinking below the 52fm level, south of Windsor Shaft, is sunk 4½fms, where the lode is 1½ft wide, producing good stones of ore, and we are now about to drive towards the shaft. Our last sampling was 90 tons of silver-lead ore, sold to Messrs. William Parker and Co. for £10-18-0d per ton, and we expect the same quantity to be sampled next time.

Kirkcudbrightshire – The agent (Oct. 28) reports – The lode in the 50 end, west of Stewart's, is 3ft wide, yielding 6cwts of lead per fm. The lode in the 50, east of Keith's, is 2ft wide, with a good stone of ore in the middle of the end; the west end at this level is still poor. We have had a good stone of ore in the 50, east of Stewart's, this week, and a very kindly lode. The 30, east of this shaft, is still in dead ground; the lode in the rise is large and kindly, yielding ½ a ton to the fm. I have again engaged a vessel to take over another cargo of lead next week.

Lostwithiel Consols – Capt. John Eustace reports – That they have opened east and west on the branch 4fms south of the shaft; the lode in the east end is 20in wide, composed of spar, peach, mundic, lead, and copper; in the west end we have cut a leader of copper ore, about 2in wide, together with the general appearance of the lode, warrants the expectation of its being productive in depth.

South Wheal Trelawney – Capt. W. Lean (Oct. 28) reports – The lode in the 30fm level south is 2ft wide, composed of barytes, fluorspar, mundic, and spots of lead; this end is set to two men at 55-0d per fm. (6fms in extent); in the 30fm level north we have met with a small cross-course,

which has heaved the lode west, from the appearance of it, and we have set to four men to drive in that direction to intersect it at 60-0d per fm – one fathom in extent, or lode; we have also set to two men to drive north, on the sparry branch, in this level, at 30-0d per fm – 2fms extent; the quantity of water we have to draw is just as usual.

Treleigh Consols – Capt. W. Symons (Oct. 27) reports – The 113fm level cross-cut, north of Garden's, will be driven to cut the lodes to the north of the perpendicular shaft. In the 100, west of Garden's (new), the lode is 20in wide, not much mineral. In the 70, west of ditto, the lode is about 2ft wide, of a promising character, but little ore. In the 60, west of ditto, the lode is 18in wide, more promising than it has been for some time past, but no ore to value. In the 50, west of ditto, the lode is 3ft wide, with a small quantity of ore. In the 90, east of ditto, on the north part of the lode, the lode is divided 8in in the south part, worth £10 per fm – this is east of the east cross-cut; the lode, east of the west cross-cut, is worth £20 per fathom

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Sheffield Lead Mining Company

This enterprising company have had the satisfaction of witnessing the opening of the new shaft into the level, or adit, now progressing northward of Eyam. The level will be nearly two miles long, and the new shaft has been sunk, with a view of facilitating the progress of the work. The shaft in question is the last that will be required, as the level is complete, when there is every reason to believe that a doubly remunerative profit will be the result of this vast and praiseworthy undertaking. Eyam Edge – which is the destination of the level – has hitherto furnished one of the richest metallic lodes in England; and there is data to prove that, if the level be competent to carry off the water, it will yield greater riches yet. For this noble undertaking the public are indebted to a company of gentlemen principally of Sheffield, who will, if there be any reliance to be placed in human testimony, experience, geological features, and other mining data, be amply rewarded for their spirit.

Sheffield Times

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The Joint-Stock Companies' Registration Act and the Stannaries Court.

As evidence of the "working" of the Stannaries Court in Cornwall, we refer to four cases which came on for hearing, nominally against the purser of the Wheal Curtis Mining Company – a company which, by way of distinction, arrogantly claimed to themselves the rights and privileges attendant on registration under the Joint-Stock Companies Act, the promoters considering the Cost-Book System is not sufficiently intelligible, or protective, for the body of adventurers. The fate of the company is well known, but we find that the Cost-Book System and the Stannaries Court, although despised by the adventurers, condescend to take notice of them, in the person of their purser, who, on the 9th inst., was decreed, in the Vice-Warden's Court, to pay the several sums of £43-8-0d, £62-19-4d, £45-3-0d, and a further sum of £20 for labour – together £171-10-4d, which is ordered to be paid. The purser, in the latter case, was examined, and produced the cost-book, and gave testimony corroborative of the plaintiff's claim. The witness was cross-examined on the part of his employers, the adventurers, against whom the proceedings were virtually taken, but nothing material was elicited, and, in the end, a decree was obtained.

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North Devon Wheal Rose.

We have inspected some specimens of silver-lead ore, this week, at the offices of Mr. E.O. Evans, Threadneedle Street, which are of an extraordinary character. One block of the ore, weighing 860lbs, has just been broken up at the above offices, and proved to be solid throughout. We learn about 3 tons of the same quality has been raised lately from this mine, at a depth of only 6ft from the surface; and valuable discoveries have been made in clearing out the old levels. The ore from the mine, we are informed, produces, on an average, 64ozs of silver per ton; and, we learn, a company is being formed for the purpose of extending the operations; and, as it has been a remarkable district for centuries, for the silver it has produced, we are led to expect very favourable results from having the mine under good management, and working with spirit and economy.

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Wheal Henry.

The workings continue equally favourable as when last reported; the end in the 110fm level east carries about 8 tons per fm, and the winze, between the 100 and 110, is equally rich – 110 tons of ore were sampled this week, of more than average produce. The lode being worked on is the same as that of Poldice, from which so large returns have been made. Shares have lately changed hands at £40, and upwards. There is a cross-cut driving south, about 100fms deep, to intersect other important lodes.

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The Tin Trade.

We understand that a new tin smelting company will be in the market in the course of a few weeks, which will increase the number of companies (including the Charlestown House) to five, instead of three, as heretofore. The works, we understand, will be at Bissoe, and are in a forward state of preparation. – West Briton.

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No Headline.

It is reported that the Briton Ferry Iron-Works, near Neath, will shortly stop until March next. –
Cambrian.

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Accidents.

Wednesbury – William Stone was killed by a fall of coal in Mr. Tildesley's Wall-Face Pit, Hill Top.

Bilston – T. Pooley fell down a pit near the Willenhall Road, and was killed. The deceased was banksman, and having missed his hold, fell down the pit: he was so dreadfully mangled, that his brains were brought home in a handkerchief.

Dudley – W. Pritchard, aged 13, was killed by a fall of coal at the New British Iron Company's Netherton Colliery.

Londonderry Pit, Pittington – G. Pratt was crushed by the falling of a large stone from the roof.

Blackdale (Backdale) Mine – A serious accident occurred at this mine, belonging to Messrs. R. and C. Bently, and W. and R. Turner, to a boy about 12 years of age, the son of Mr. Joseph Morton, stonemason, of Stoney Middleton, who was employed in feeding the mill with which they grind ore. He was standing on a board which gave way, and let him down, so that he fell with his arm into the hopper, where the rollers caught his jacket-sleeve, drew in his arm, and stripped all the flesh off bare to the bone. He was conveyed home, and medical aid immediately procured. The arm is still in a bad state, and amputation may yet be necessary. – Derbyshire Reporter.

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Fossil Planulite.

In the great level or adit, now in course of construction to drain the water from the Eyam Edge Lead Mines, was very recently found a beautiful fossil planulite, a species of ammonite. It consists of three or four "worts," and is considered the most perfect fossil of the kind found in Derbyshire. It is now in the cabinet of curiosities belonging to the secretary of the Eyam Library.
– Sheffield Times.

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Exportation of the Precious Metals.

The following are the official returns of the exports of gold and silver from the port of London for the last week: -

Silver Coin to Rotterdam, 73,800 ounces;
Silver Coin to Hamburgh, 55,040 ounces;
Silver Coin to Havre, 3,454 ounces;
Silver Coin to Belgium, 12,000 ounces;
Silver Bars to Rotterdam, 91,000 ounces;
Silver Bars to Hamburgh, 12,000 ounces;
Silver Bars to Havre, 154 ounces;
Silver Bars to Calais, 1,600 ounces;
Gold Coin to Havre, 945 ounces.