

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. January 1854

Page 1 Col. 4

Advert -

To let, a coalfield, near to a Railway Station. Apply to Mr. Brown, Mineral Agent, Chesterfield.

January 3rd., 1854.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. January 1854

Page 4 Col. 5

Worksop - Accident.

On Tuesday, the 3rd. instant, Richard Bell, waterman, of Worksop, met with a serious accident while returning from the coalpits at Barlboro'. Having arrived within 2 or 3 miles of Worksop, as he was walking alongside his horse (Owing to the slippery state of the road), the animal slipped and knocked him down, which caused his left shoulder to be put out. He managed to get home and called in Mr. B. Eddison, surgeon, who used such measures as the case required. We hear Bell is going on favourably.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. January 1854

Page 4 Col. 6

Ashover Mining Company.

On Tuesday, a meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at Mr. Whitehead's room, Chesterfield, when a call of 2-6d. per share was paid, and a further share of 2-0d. per share was agreed to, making 13-0d. per share paid up. The following is the report: -

In accordance with the desire of the proprietors of Victoria Mine, I beg to report the proven proceedings, which are as follows: -

In the 18.5 fathom level, west end, the vein varies in width from 9.5 to 12 inches, and is yielding, I presume, 2 tons per fathom; the average thickness of the ore is from 2 to 3 inches solid. The vein is composed of dun coloured spar, chert, and small portion of mundic and brasil.

In consequence of the "old man" workings having gone down deeper in proportion than where we at first found the soles, it reduced our stope down to 1 fathom east at the twitch, as shown in the map, which would not admit of more than four miners to work efficiently. But I am happy to restate that we have got through that much-to-be-dreaded twitch (twitch is a strait place in the vein void of ore); and in the top part of our stope we found it to be the case for near 1 fathom in length, and then we met with what mining phraseology terms a wick feeder; the ore appeared, and has gradually increased, both in quantity and quality. We have this week got one fathom more in height, and I have set to work four miners. The price of driving is £5 per fathom, in consequence of the ground being so extremely hard.

In the east end, or "Gaunt's Level", from the engine shaft to two fathoms beyond the drawing shaft, has been very barren and unproductive of ore. The vein is composed of various sorts of mineral, such as water spar, caulk, and black stone. The vein averages 18 inches wide, and the yield perhaps has not been more than 1 load per fathom, or a quarter of a ton. The last fathom and a half was driven at £3 per fathom. we have just discovered a cross joint, very open, which cuts through the cockleshell limestone beds into the old workings; and having tapped the water, we are now pumping the dregs of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

We are also resuming our sinking in the drawing shaft, which suspension was on account of the level not being driven up; it will be sunk to the 18.5 feet(!) fathom level in a fortnight and a few days. We propose sinking the engine shaft 7 fathoms, and conducting the top water into a cistern and leaving the pumps if possible until we have sunk the 7 fathoms, and nearly driven the cross-cut to the vein. It will probably take 10 weeks to accomplish our object, from the commencement; the probable cost will be a hundred pounds, including a few matters which I need not define in this report.

The ore house and the stripping are now completed, and very comfortable; it is highly appreciated by the miners.

The ore dressing has progressed very slowly, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather. The crusher is erected, and I think it requires a fair trial to fully develop its capabilities. Shears, capstan, and rope will be required - cost, from £25 to £30. The present liabilities of the mine are, including wages, coals, and men's bill, £260. I cannot be positive, but I believe we have from £300 to £360 worth of ore on the pit top.

Yours Obediently,
J. Fletcher, Manager.

Ashover, December 31st., 1853.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. January 1854

Page 6 Col. 2

The Vagaries of Science.

At a late jury trial regarding the Boghead or Torbanehill coal, various scientific men were adduced as witnesses to prove the mineral not to be coal. These gentlemen, however, arrived at totally different conclusions as to what the mineral really was. One or more of them pronounced it bitumen, "actual bitumen", and not coal. Some of them pronounced it not to be bitumen, but also not coal. As many more pronounced it shale, "the most highly inflammable shale ever seen", but other scientific men on the same side as confidently pronounced it not to be shale. Some of them could name the mineral, others could not. One, more knowing than the rest, could actually have formed or made it if he had had sufficient pressure, just as Archimedes could have removed the earth if he had a place beyond it on which to plant his levers. Curiously enough the conclusion that it is coal is now demonstrated in a manner which the most sceptical would scarcely dispute. At a distance of about a mile and a quarter from the Torbanehill, the same bed of coal has since the trial been found; and there it proves to be neither more nor less than a course household coal, still, however, retains the chief characteristic of the mineral found at Torbanehill. Our readers will scarcely fail to call to mind a similar instance in which antiquarian zeal built up Praetorium on equally unstable grounds, which was overthrown by the exclamation of a shrewd gaberlunzie - "pretorian here, pretorian there; I mind the bigging o't".

North British Mail.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. January 1854

Page 6 Col. 3

No Headline.

Since the discovery of gold in California, 600 vessels have gone round Cape Horn and never returned. A few of them have been lost, but the greater number have been employed in the Pacific trade.

The gold miners in California are said to be making from 4 to 10 dollars per day. On the 4th. of November, a 11lb. nugget of solid gold was taken from a claim at Minesota.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. January 1854

Page 4 Col. 3

Three Lives lost at Elton, near Bakewell.

On Saturday last, a fatal accident occurred in a mine situated in the Blakelows, near Elton, by which three miners named Joseph Boam, Richard Boam and - Deakin, lost their lives. Deceased were engaged in working the hillocks, as well as in underground work. The ground had been much wrought upon formerly and was, therefore of a loose nature. The men were not more than 6 or 7 yards from the surface, and had just opened upon what appeared to them a treasure trove of lead ore, which they were in the act of seizing, when a large quantity of rock and earth fell upon them. From the positions in which they were found it appears that one of them was getting large masses of ore, and handing it to his partners when the shocking event occurred, which, like many others is attributed to carelessness. It is said that had even a shillings worth of timber been used in staying the soil, it would most probably not have happened. Two of the men have left widows and families.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. January 1854

Page 5 Col. 5

No Headline.

Ann Jones, a girl about 18 years of age, wretchedly clad, was charged with being found by Mr. Radford, in a pit cabin of a coal pit belonging to the Wingerworth Iron Company. When questioned by the superintendent of police, as to her place of abode, she replied that she had come to the statutes fair, and since that slept in the pit cabins in the neighbourhood. Committed for fourteen days under the Vagrant Act.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. January 1854

Page 5 Col. 6

Snow and Coals.

During the period that the traffic of London and the country was impeded by the late heavy fall of snow, coal, in some districts round London, went up to as much as 66-0d., and the poorer classes were charged 3-0d. per hundredweight. They have had to pay about 2-6d. per hundredweight, which is equal to 50-0d. per ton, for inferior quality.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. January 1854

Page 6 Col. 5

No Headline.

On Wednesday morning, the retail coal dealers in the Metropolis and suburbs advanced the price of coal to 2-9d. for second qualities, and 3-0d. per hundredweight for the best, being nearly 150 per cent dearer than they were at this period last year. Gas coke has advanced to 1-0d. and 1-1d. per bushel.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. January 1854

Page 5 Col. 4

North Wingfield.

On Monday, the 16th. inst., an inquest was held before Mr. Busby, coroner, at North Wingfield, on the body of Robert Dawes, who dropped down suddenly at his door, and died on Saturday, the 14th. It appeared that as he was working at the Lings Colliery about 4 weeks previously, a piece of coal had fallen on his side, and driven him on a large block of coal which cut and bruised his chest. He had languished ever since, and his death at last was instantaneous. The jury expressed an opinion that death resulted from an accident in the pit, the inquest was adjourned that notice might be given to the Secretary State, under the Act of 13 and 14 Vict. c100, s6, to allow the Inspector of Collieries to attend.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. January 1854

Page 5 Col. 4-5

Seeston v. Baker.

This was an action for £13-19-1d. Mr. Busby appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Cutts for defendant. Plaintiff worked a mine, the property of Mr. Barrow, and when he left it, defendant, Baker, together with another man named Bozley, with whom Baker was in partnership, took the pits, (buying Seeston's tools) at a price between £13 and £14, which has never been paid, and thus the cause of this action.

The defence was that the plaintiff had not worked the pits to a proper diameter, and that he had so neglected them as to do them great damage by allowing a quantity of water to get into them, which in itself cost nearly £14 in getting out, besides rendering the pits almost worthless. Evidence was given to prove that it took two horses, two boys, and a banksman to "unwater" one pit. One of the pits was only 5 yards and 1 foot, instead of being 8 yards, in diameter at the bottom of the shaft, and therefore much less stone could be had, and the dirt which might have been left at the bottom was obliged to be drawn up. It would have been more profitable for defendant to have sunk new pits on other ground; as the pits of Seeston's are highly dangerous from the water having got in, and the top crumbling about. Mozeley, defendant's partner, lost £7 out of his own pocket. Baker recollected that Seeston went with him to the man who was to value, though the latter denies it. He never made any bargain but ????? to the pits, and to give him the money.

By Mr. Busby - If there was anything to pay, it would be the figure Jno. Belfield, the valuer, put on them. He could not value them at the time, because they were full of water. Admit taking the tools at a price. As the water was not out of the pits, no valuation would be made, and no arrangement was come to, so that he (Baker) could know nothing as to whether money was due to Seeston or not. Seeston never asked payment for the pit before December last; and he was out of partnership with him in April. Before he had an accident and went out of partnership with Mozley, he was not asked money by Seeston.

A paper was put in, written by Baker, agreeing to take to the work done there, and the various items of which made up the £13-19-1d., but he could give no reason for writing it as he never did agree to pay for the pits. William Lowe, a bailiff to Mr. Barrow, recollected the time of Seeston leaving the pits. They were not left in at all a workman like manner. As nearly as he could remember it cost better than £13 to draw out the water which had accumulated by Seeston's neglect. The pits as a whole were worth very little. Mr. Barrow paid for drawing the water. The two deep pits were of no value at all, but the "basset" pits might have been worth £2-18-0d. By Mr. Busby: If there had been no water in the two deep pits they then would not have been worth taking to. No man could have supposed that there was a fair chance of making anything out of them. Did not know whether any contractor could have been found to have given more than £2-18-0d. for them. By his Honour: They would be worth nothing to take them all together. To buy pits full of water was like buying a pig in a poke. Mr. John Richardson, a mineral agent, assuming what had been said as to size, water, etc., to be true, he could say that the pits were worth nothing at all. By Mr. Busby: If there had been no water though, they would not have been of much value. Could not give an accurate opinion without seeing the works.

Mr. Busby replied, first remarking that as to the documents signed by Baker there appeared to be no motive for fraud about it. As to the water it was admitted on all hands that

there was water in the pits, that that water might have accumulated during the time which elapsed between Seeston's departure and Baker's entry. That this sum of £13-19-1d. was to be paid there could be no doubt, of which defendant's had full knowledge, and this water was not removed at their expense but at the expense of Mr. Barrow. Lowe, the agent, said that the "basset" pits would have been valuable and fixed a price of £2-18-0d., doubtless the cheapest figure he could put upon it. He (Mr. Busby) considered the contract proved.

His Honour gave judgement, observing that he could not see why this agreement was written, as the only explanation Baker gave, was that on being told to write it he did so, and was going to Mr. Lowe's with Seeston, but seeing Lowe in the distance, plaintiff turned away and would not meet him at all. No reliance, his Honour thought, could be placed on this document, and believed that the arrangement originally was, that Barker would give him the pits at just what Belfield valued them at. It was said that some of these pits were worth nothing and the others were worth about £2-18-0d. On the whole he had come to the conclusion that plaintiff could only claim that which the witnesses proved to be the value of the pits. He should allow nothing however for the deep pits (with the quantity of water in them), but would give judgement for £11-7- 6d.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. January 1854

Page 2 Col. 1

No Headline.

We regret to announce that, on Monday, the 26th. ult., the day after Christmas Day, the colliers employed by A. and T. Broughton and Company, at the Crigglestone Cliffe Colliery, struck work for an advance of wages, and have not since returned to their employment. They demanded an advance of 2½d. per ton, 2d. per yard, and that they should have home coal for the labour of getting it - altogether an increase of between 6-0d. and 8-0d. per week on their present wages. The proprietors resist this demand as most unreasonable, and we are given to understand, will close their works sooner than accede to it. We are creditably informed that average earnings of the men have not been more less than from 24-0d. to 28-0d. per week, and that they realise those wages easily. We are sorry to add that they show no disposition to return to their work.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. January 1854

Page 1 Col. 6

Advert - Sale by Mr. Dixon.

Unstone Iron Works.

Mr. Charles Dixon begs to say that he has received instructions from Messrs. Rangeley, Wrights, and Company, Unstone Ironworks, near Sheffield (who are relinquishing that branch of their trade "the Foundry Business") to sell by auction, on Thursday, the 9th. of February, a large and valuable assortment of wood and metal patterns, core barrels, pipe and other boxes, together with a variety of articles suitable for foundry purposes: including ?????? pan with shafting and balls complete, pipe proving machine; engine, 3 h.p., by Gough; waggon shaped boiler about 3 tons; 60 4 inch tunnel and bored socket pipes; 30 flanged 4 inch steam pipes; 30 5 inch socket pipes; hand thrashing machine, by Grant, Stamford, and other things too numerous to mention in an advertisement.

The Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, a.m.

Central Chambers, High Street, Sheffield, January 26th., 1854.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. January 1854

Page 4 Col. 6

Staveley - Fatal Accident.

On the night of the 25th. inst. (Wednesday), a fatal accident occurred at the Albert Pit, near Ringwood Hall, to a sinker, named Thomas Scott, of the Railway Terrace, by a corf falling down the shaft upon him, when death ensued in a few hours. An inquest was held yesterday, but was adjourned for the attendance of the Government Inspector.