

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. October 1854

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Fatal Accident.

On Thursday, October 5th., an inquest was held at the Furnace Inn, Hasland, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Patrick Tobin, who was killed on Monday last in coal-pit at Hasland, belonging to the Wingerworth Company, by falling from a corve while descending the pit shaft. Verdict - "Accidental Death".

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No Headline.

Professor Airey, the Astronomer-Royal, is at present in the north with his assistants, making arrangements for a series of technical experiments to be made next week in Harton Coal-pit, the deepest pit on the Tyne. The experiments are with a view to ascertain some facts with regard to the density of the earth and the action of the pendulum, they will be conducted in the bowels of the earth and on the surface simultaneously.

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No Headline.

A very distressing accident has occurred at a place called Winslade Quarry, near Kingsbridge, in the south of Devon. The quarry has been excavated to a depth of upwards of 250 feet; it descended 100 feet perpendicularly, and then ran underground in a sloping direction to a depth of 150 feet more. Three labouring men, named Harley, Parker, and Ford, who reside in the neighbouring villages, were at work in the quarry, when about a quarter of an acre of ground fell in upon them, carrying with it a blacksmith's shop, and burying the poor fellows in the ruins. There are no hopes of their being extricated alive, for it will take many weeks before the vast quantity of debris can be cleared away.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. October 1854

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Advert - Ironstone and Coal.

To let on lease, with early possession, the valuable beds of ironstone and seams of coal, being under lands situate in the township of Newbold, and the Parish of Chesterfield, in the County of Derby.

Lot 1 - The valuable bed of Blackshale Ironstone, seam of Blackshale Coal, under the several closes of land in the occupation of Mr. William Wilson, lying in a ring fence, and containing by admeasurement 50 acres or thereabouts.

Lot 2 - The valuable beds of ironstone and seams of coal, under the several closes of lands in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Gill, comprising 80 acres, and containing the Potter's coal, Dogtooth ironstone, Blackshale ironstone, and the Blackshale coal.

These minerals are adjoining the turnpike road from Newbold to Chesterfield, and are within a short distance of the railway station and canal. The coal and ironstone are of excellent quality, and may be worked at a small outlay. The depth of the pits not exceeding 60 yards.

Full particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. Richard George Coke, Ankerbold, near Chesterfield; Mr. Jacob Ashton, Chesterfield; or to Messrs. Owen and Brodhurst, solicitors, Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Worksop, September 27th., 1854.

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A Hint to Coal Merchants.

At Lincoln, on Thursday last, the contract accepted for the supply of the city gaol with coals was 17-6d. per ton! although coals can be purchased in that city for 13-6d. per ton.

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The Coal and Iron Trade.

The quarterly meeting of the ironmasters will be held next week at Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Stourbridge, and Dudley, and as the leading firms of the district were unanimous at the preliminary meeting, held last week at the Union Inn, Birmingham, that no alteration in the prices from those of last quarter should take place, the same resolution will be carried out at the forthcoming meetings. The great scarcity of water in the Birmingham, Stourbridge, and other canals, is causing very serious obstructions and loss to the ironmasters of the whole district which must continue unless there falls a great quantity of rain. In the year 1851, and also 1852, the same difficulty occurred for want of rain, and although the canal proprietors of these districts are reaping a great amount of wealth from the tonnages upon the canals, yet no remedy has been effectively adopted to prevent so serious an evil; though it is well known that there is a great waste of water when that from the upper levels of the canals to the lower, which might be pumped back again when wanted, if suitable engines were erected for that purpose. We hope that the canal companies will take these things into consideration, and endeavour to prevent, as far as possible, such a serious recurrence. Coal and ironstone continue to realise high rates, and in great request.

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Advert - To Builders and Others.

To Be Let.

The erection of a large engine house foundations, near the Clay Cross Station.

The materials will be provided by the Clay Cross Company.

For plans and specifications apply at the offices of the Clay Cross Company, Clay Cross, on or after the 23rd. inst.

Three wheel-wrights wanted.

Derbyshire Times.

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Non-Payment of Wages.

James Hughes, collier, summoned Mr. Samuel Parker, of Lockoford Colliery, for non-payment of 9-0d. wages. The cashier had clearly proved that there was nothing due to the complainant. Case dismissed.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. October 1854

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Caution to Colliers.

John Davy, collier at the Lockoford Colliery, was charged with absenting himself from his employment on the 30th. ult., without having given due notice, according to the terms of his engagement. Mr. Samuel Parker, manager of the works, proved the offence. The prisoner with several other men refused to work, although they had a holiday on the previous day. They passed the day in "playing". Prisoner pleaded that, "the pit was not safe", that it was badly ventilated. The Bench intimated that he should be placed in a very safe place this time. Committed for 14 days, with hard labour.

Barney Callaghan and James Cryne, also colliers at the Lockoford Pit, were charged with a similar offence. Mr. Parker stated that this was a similar case to the last. The colliers at their works were so independent and insubordinate, that he was quite unable to control them. After having entered the pit, they had the effrontery to ascend again in the same skip as witness himself, and they boasted that they would have no master and could do as they liked. Mr. Maynard: - Then the Law shall be your master. Callaghan, in his defence, said that he went to see his brother off to America. Mr. Parker: - Then why not ask leave; if you had only asked, you shall have, gone to America yourself. Committed for 14 days with hard labour. The wives, daughters, and relatives of the delinquents here gave powerful utterance to the Hibernian howl and lamentation.

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Immense Coal Trucks.

On Sunday last, twenty-eight splendid coal-trucks, intended for the South Wales line, which is worked by the Great Western Railway Company, passed through Chesterfield. The waggons are constructed to carry 12 tons, and were manufactured by Messrs. Waddington and Company, of Bradford.

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No Headline.

One of the passengers by the Queen of the South brought home the largest nugget considering its purity, that has been found in Australia. It weighs 52 ounces, and consists of almost pure gold, scarcely a spot can be seen on it; it is one mass of yellow gold. It was dug out just as it appears, 156 feet beneath the surface, at Ballarat. Its shape resembles a large clinker. It covers the palm of the hand, and averages nearly an inch in thickness.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 21th. October 1854

Professor Airy's Experiments in a Coal-pit.

One of the most interesting series of astronomical experiments that has for many years been attempted in Europe, is just being performed by Professor Airy, the Astronomer Royal, at Harton Pit, within two miles of South Shields. In the pit, which is 1260 feet deep, a set of delicate instruments and a pendulum, have been provided in a room constructed for the purpose. Above, on the surface, exactly vertical to the room below, is another room, its exact counterpart. Here, delicate pendulum observations are made day and night, to test the density of the earth, by the number of oscillations above, compared with the number below - with certain connections and adjustments which none but the experimenter himself can explain. Professor Airy has arranged to deliver a lecture in demonstration of these experiments and their uses, at South Shields, on Wednesday evening next, the 24th inst., when the instruments will be placed in situ upon a platform, in the lecture-room. We hope to illustrate these important experiments.

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Eckington Petty Sessions.

Non-Payment of Wages.

Miles Mason and another were summoned by Edward Podmore, for non-payment of £1-13-8d., balance of wages. The defendants were sub-contractors in an ironstone pit, and complainant was employed by them at 2-8d. per day. The workmen were always paid on Thursday night, consequently Friday and Saturday were included in the week ensuing. The complainant worked until Friday night, and left without giving notice, as he had not been employed as a regular hand. The defendant offered to pay him his claim, deducting the last two wages, which complainant claimed. Order for £1-13-8d.