

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. August 1857.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Accident.

This (Friday) afternoon, William Beaumont, alias Lanky Bill, sustained extensive injuries by a quantity of bind falling upon him whilst "holing" in an ironstone pit at Speight-hill near this town.

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Chesterfield Burial Board (Part).

The Minerals.

The application of R. Barrow, Esq., for the purchase of 1 acre of ironstone, under the unconsecrated ground, was further adjourned, as no information relative to the value of it had been obtained.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. August 1857.

Page 1 Col. 4.

Advert - Bricks and Draining Tiles.

On the premises of the late Mr. J.S. Rice, of Hasland, to be sold immediately by private contract

10,000 Draining Tiles  
10,000 Pressed Bricks  
50,000 Common Bricks

Apply to Mr. J.M. Cowper, Bath House, Chesterfield.

August 4th, 1857.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. August 1857.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - Sale by Mr. S. Hemsley.

Tapton Road Foundry, Chesterfield.

In Re Samuel Wharton, bankrupt.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. S. Hemsley, on Monday, August 17th. 1857, at the Tapton Road Iron Foundry, Chesterfield, the whole of the working materials, patterns, iron and metal, high-pressure steam engine with eight horse boiler, and numerous miscellaneous effects. Particulars in next weeks paper and in catalogues.

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Page 2 Col. 4.

A Mischievous Act.

Some fellow went into the foundry yard, nearly opposite the Gas House in this town, on Tuesday night, and broke off a tap from a 2 inch gas pipe, by which 90,000 feet of gas escaped from the gasometer, and the company had great difficulty in getting up a supply for the following night.

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Page 2 Col. 4.

Iron and Coal Trades.

The Dunston and Barlow Coal and Iron Company are pushing on with their works with vigour. They have commenced the erection of two blast furnaces, a colliery is being sunk, and ironstone pits formed, and in a forward position. The operations of these works are likely to be very expensive. The one great difficulty appears to be to find houses sufficient for the work people to reside in. It is intended to build 100 as soon as practicable. The coal trade is in a better position than usual at this season of the year, and prices are well supported. The Clay Cross Company have just sunk to the Black Shale coal (Lupton Bed) (Tupton), which is of a superior quality for household consumption. The operations at this pit have been exceedingly difficult and enormously expensive, no less than between £15,000 and £50,000 having been expended upon it. The coal shaft is about 200 yards, and although there is a great quantity of water, the sinkers overcame it by the putting down of metal tubing to the extent of 190 yards, each yard weighing 30 cwts. By this process as much water has been kept back from the workings as would supply a population of 60,000 with 30 gallons each every 24 hours. The engine connected with the colliery is 130 horsepower, the pit has been sinking two years and eleven months, and the cost exceeds £15,000. The pit is unequalled in Derbyshire as regards depth, excellence of coal, construction of works, and the efficiency of its machinery. The pit is estimated to yield 120,000 tons per year, or 300 tons per day. The engineer of the works is Mr. Howe, and the General Manager of the company's works is Mr. Binns.

Mining Journal

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The Colliery Explosion at Ashton-under-Lyne.

The search after the bodies of the eight men and boys who were known to be in the pit, after the 31 had been taken out on Sunday evening, was resumed on Monday.

The difficulty of approaching the distant part of the levels in which the bodies were supposed to be lying was immense. The force of the explosion had, in many places, broken in the roof of the mine, and these parts had to be repaired before the exploring party could proceed.

The ignited gas appears to have penetrated into almost every part of the mine; and, with the exception of the engine man, and of a brick-setter, who was repairing a flue, all the 40 or 41 persons in the pit at the time of the explosion were, it is believed, killed. Even the engineman, who was in the engine-house, at the top of the brow, 460 yards deep, was so frightfully burnt that it is doubtful whether he will survive. Almost all the 31 bodies recovered bore terrible signs of the fire in which they must have been almost instantaneously enveloped.

Men at work in the pit were bound, by the rules of the colliery, to have their lamps closed; but whether they obeyed that rule is not known, not one of them having survived. The banksman, who was stationed on the top of the engine brow, used an open lamp, and according to the statement of the engine-man, he carried it open down the brow immediately before the explosion occurred. The doors of the engine fires were also open at the same time. The inquiry is not yet brought to a close.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. August 1857.

Page 1 Col. 4.

Advert - Sale by Mr. S. Hemsley.

Tapton Road Foundry, Chesterfield.

In re Samuel Wharton, bankrupt.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. S. Hemsley, on Monday, August 17th., 1857, at 12 o'clock prompt, at the Tapton Road Iron Foundry, Chesterfield, two steam engines, the whole of the working materials, stock-in-trade, fitting and moulding shops, and other effects, amongst which will be found, cast iron shaft and pinion wheel for wheel lathe, large speed pulley and platen end plate, lever castings for ? press dropping pipes, pulley castings, wheel lathe, spindle with wheel, face plate fitted with boring bar inside, large spur wheels, heavy jobbing wrought iron, two 2½ inch distance screws for putting railway wheels on axles and one 3 inch boring rod, wrought iron crane for wheel forging, pipe proving machine, lifting pump in well, forcing pump with connecting rod, models, five-horse strong wrought iron boiler and fittings, elliptic sham stoves, pedestals, weighing machine levers and centres, bevel wheels geared with wood, bevel spur and mitre wheels, bar iron, water spouting, set pots, ovens and boilers, tongs, row punches, swages, set punches and bits, rivet hammers, rose borers, cast steel and iron drills, screws and lathe, chains, box of lifting hooks, moving apparatus for boring and turning railway wheels, steel drills, handles, iron vice, 18 feet slide lathe with 20 heads, screw cutting tackle, wrought iron lathe, steam engine with 2 four inch cylinders fitted with governors, foot lathe, steam hammer and frame, table for wheel making, iron ladles, travelling crane, 6 tons of limestone, cast iron cupola, bevel and mitre wheels, grooved pulley; casting and lid pattern for sluice valves, moulder's gauges, cramps, frames, plate wedges; brass furnace, driving shaft; high pressure steam engine, with nine inch cylinder, feed pipe, pump shaft, wheel crank and bearing, 3 inch force pump, and eight horse boiler, coal mill, iron crane and chain, etc.

The brick building will be sold, and may remain on the premises. The stone building will be sold, and must be removed a few days after the sale.

Catalogues may be had of Mr. Hatton, printer, Chesterfield, and of the auctioneers, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham.

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Page 1 Col. 5.

Advert - The Mill Dam Mining Company, Great Hucklow, near Eyam, Derbyshire.

Capital £2,000, in 1,000 shares of £2 each.

Deposit 2-6d. per share, must accompany each application.

To be registered under the Limited Liability Act.

This company is formed for the purpose of extending the mining operations at the above mine by the erection of a steam engine, and the providing of pumps and other materials for working the same.

This mine is leased to the present holders for a term of 20 years, 17 of which are unexpired, on the terms of 2-0d. per load of 9 dishes, which is the only tax upon the mine. It has been worked by a few private individuals since 1850 by means of a gin, and during the wet season it has been suspended as a consequence of there being no machinery at the mine to pump out the water which has subsided on the occurrence of the fine weather. The mine in consequence has not been worked on average more than 6 months in the year. Had the mine been worked the whole of the year the dues paid by the lessees, according to the average payment of the last seven years, would have been £333-7-1d. The average profits for the last two years working of 6 men and three boys have been £174 and the profits of the last measure of six weeks working with the same complement of hands are £33-14-0d., and the ore ready got and to be measured during the present month is fully anticipated to yield £60 profit after paying the dues and all expenses of gettings. These results have been obtained under all the disadvantages of the present machinery.

There is no doubt that an engine of moderate power would be amply sufficient during all seasons to keep the mine clear of water, and with the advantages of steam power and improved machinery a very large profit will in all probability be realised.

The mineral sett leased to the present holders is 4 acres, and twice as much additional ground can be obtained if desired.

The present holders of the mine and their friends have already taken a considerable number of shares. The capital to be raised by calls at intervals of 2 or 3 months.

The minerals and plant for the unexpired term of the lease (17 years) to be taken at a valuation by valuers, to be appointed on behalf of the lessees and the company.

The mine is now being worked and the erection of a steam engine will not interfere with the present workings.

Applications for shares to be addressed to Edward B. Palmer, Chesterfield, Secretary pro tem, of whom prospectuses and all further information may be obtained.

August 6th., 1857.

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Saturday 15th. August 1857.

Page 2 Col. 5.

The Mill Dam Mining Company.

A new mining company, called the Mill Dam Mining Company, situate at Great Hucklow, North Derbyshire, promises to become a lucrative undertaking. The mine has been worked for about 17 years, and has never known to fail, but during wet seasons the men are flooded out by water, there being no machinery whatever at the mine for pumping. We have had an interview with a gentleman who has inspected the mine, and procured specimens of the ore, which he picked from the mine bank, which have a very promising appearance. The mine was being worked, and the ore was being crushed by horse-crusher. The mine has yielded well, but owing to the want of pumping apparatus it could only be worked in dry seasons. The lessees of the mine are two "furriners", whose knowledge of mining is exceedingly limited, and who sub-let it to a practical miner, and all parties have hitherto reaped a profit. These rustics are not sufficiently wealthy to put down an engine and pumps, and they are compelled to adopt one or two alternatives, either to risk the liability of being flooded out with water, or to seek public capital to purchase an engine and machinery, and hence the necessity of forming a company. A very high opinion is formed of the mineral sett, which is 4 acres in extent, and as profitable mining is being carried on under the present disadvantageous system, what might not be the result with motive power and pumps? About one half of the shares necessary were taken up in 20 minutes after the assembling of a meeting on Tuesday last to form a company.

Mining Journal.

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Saturday 15th. August 1857.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Narrow Escape.

On Saturday last, it being found necessary to re-line one of the blast furnaces, at the works of Messrs. Knowles and Company, on Brimington Common, one of the workmen named William Hardwick was drawn up in a bucket for that purpose. On reaching the top of the chimney, the rope broke and he was precipitated to the bottom. His leg was broken by the fall and he sustained severe bruises. Mr. Thorpe, surgeon, of Staveley, rendered prompt assistance and Hardwick is progressing satisfactorily.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Ashton Colliery Explosion.

The adjourned inquest on the bodies of 89 unfortunate men who were killed in the Heys Colliery, Mossley Road, near Ashton, on Friday, the 31st. July last, was held at Ashton Town Hall, on Saturday, before Mr. W.S. Rutter, County Coroner. At the conclusion of the evidence, the jury retired for about 20 minutes, and the Foreman, Mr. John Ross Coulthard, announced the verdict as follows: "We say that the deceased came to their deaths by an explosion in the New Mine, on the 21st. day of July last, but how such an explosion was occasioned it does appear"

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Page 2 Col. 5.

The South Yorkshire Coal Trade.

Within the last few days the Barnsley Hard and Soft Coal has been placed on the Admiralty List, through the exertions of Mr. Plimsoll, of Sheffield. The hard qualities have generally been used for steam packets, and as the hards could not be obtained without the softs, the supply of the former in the summer time, when the demand is very great, entailed unprofitable accumulation of the latter. It is expected that the demand for soft coal will now be greatly increased, and thus produce a much steadier, because more equal, trade during the summer months.

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Saturday 22nd. August 1857.

Page 3 Col. 3.

William Higginbottom v. Miles Mason, Stonegetter, of Unstone.

Mr. C.S.B. Busby appeared for the plaintiff. This was an action brought to recover the sum of £6-13-1d. as amount overpaid in a running account from September to December, 1856, for the getting of ironstone, which was alleged by plaintiff to be less in value £6-12-1d. by deficiency in the weight, taken from time to time by the Midland Railway Company. Mr. Busby stated that Mr. Higginbottom had agreed to give the defendant 7-0d. per ton for getting the ironstone, and it was to have been stacked 2ft. 8ins. high, properly cleaned, and that the defendant had drawn from time to time on account of the work £37-13-2d., which was by the weights of the Midland Company, and was charged to Mr. Appleby of Renishaw, who paid the defendant the amount claimed. Defendant pleaded that he had only been paid what the stone came to, and was being cleared off and paid for every month. In cross examination he said he was no scholar, his "missus" was his book keeper; and he believed the stone went by the Midland Railway. Mrs. Mason was called, and a good clerk she proved herself, there was no mistake in her accounts, everything appeared in her diary straightforward, and her answers were as correct as her book. She stated there were 101 yards of stone when it was got; and that the plaintiff and his son measured it at the time and found no fault; but it had been left six months on the bank before taking away, and that there were other heaps adjoining it, and that some of both were sometimes mixed and carted away together. His Honour told the plaintiff that it was not at all fair for him to let it lie six months for his convenience, and then come there and try and make a man refund what he had before paid him, which he believed was right, and which he had not shown to the contrary. The plaintiff said he had nothing to do with yards, he paid when the account went in, but he paid money on account - he paid 7-0d. upon every square yard. His Honour: Then you have something to do with yards - You must not bring men here upon matters of this kind. The plaintiff said, Then he shall have no chance at all. His Honour thought the men had no chance at all. Plaintiff: I have overpaid him. His Honour: Then don't bring him here at the end of 6 months to answer it. Plaintiff said he was not prepared unless he had the weights. His Honour replied that he had had the means of protecting himself both by measure and yield, and he would not undertake to give in favour of parties in such cases six months after, when they had not been there to watch the stone; he would not make an order to allow defendant to disperse. Judgement for defendant and costs of 2 witnesses.

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Page 3 Col. 3.

A Pitman's Head cut off.

The Devonshire Advertiser reports a most horrible accident, which occurred on Thursday last, to a pitman named Henry Hunter, at the Elemore Colliery. Hunter, and a man named George Lishman, having finished work came to the bottom of the Lady Pit of the above colliery, to be drawn to "bank". They both placed their feet in the loop of a chain, attached to the engine at the mouth of pit, generally used for drawing the men up and holding to the chain by their hands, began to ascend. After being drawn about half the distance, a loop in the descending chain by some means got over Hunter's head, and before he was able to extricate himself or give any signal, his head was torn completely from his body. The headless trunk came to bank along with Lishman, the feet in the loop and the hands still grasping the chain. The mangled head, together with a portion of the descending chain which had fallen to the bottom of the shaft, was shortly afterwards brought up.

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Page 3 Col. 4.

Letter - The Mill Dam Lead Mine. Caution to Speculators.

Sir, In your last paper I observed an advertisement relating to the above mine, and as the inducements to parties to take shares contained therein are painted in such tempting colours, you will perhaps allow me through your widely circulated journal to suggest to intending speculators that they obtain a satisfactory explanation of the following points before they purchase the shares:-

First: Whether, if there was any probability of the mine yielding a profit by the application of steam power, there are not a sufficient number of monied men in the neighbourhood to carry on the works without soliciting shareholders from Chesterfield and Sheffield?

Second: What is the "moderate power" that "would be amply sufficient during all seasons to keep the mine clear of water", and what would be the cost of coal to supply that power?

Third: What precedent is there in the immediate neighbourhood of the mine to justify the assertion that "a very large profit will in all probability be realised"?

Fourth: Is it an ascertained fact that "twice as much additional ground can be obtained if desired", and if so, what would be the cost?

Fifth: Who are "the present holders of the mine and their friends" - What is the "number of shares" they have taken and what do they give as an equivalent? What is the probable amount of the valuation of "the minerals and plant" for the unexpired terms of the lease?

Sixth: Is it correct that the mine is now being worked?

Seventh: Who is "Edward B. Palmer" - What does he know about mining - What are his qualifications for the office of Secretary to a mining company?

Mr. Editor, as I have suggested the above questions, I trust you will allow me a little further space to explain why I have done so. I was almost induced to take shares myself; but being rather timid in speculating, consulted some friends upon the subject, and from the information I have gained in conversation with them and others, I consider it a duty I owe to my neighbours and friends to put them on their guard, and I therefore honestly give them the conclusions that I have arrived at. First, there are plenty of monied men at Eyam and that neighbourhood, who would gladly avail themselves of a fortune if it could be had by an outlay of £2000 - the sum stated in your advertisement. Second, it would require an engine of at least 80 horse-power to keep the water at all under control, that engine must work night and day, and would consume 70 tons of coal per week; which at 15-0d. per ton, the lowest price it can be supplied for at the works, would be £52-10-0d per week, or £2730 per year for coals alone. Third, there is in the immediate neighbourhood, a mine upon which over £40,000 have been expended in works and machinery of extraordinary power, and another in close proximity upon which the sum of £35,000 has been expended, in both of which mines the water still rules predominant, and no profit has yet been realised. Fourth, an effort has been made to obtain the land immediately adjoining, but the holder does not consider the offer at all tempting. Fifth, it

would be prudent for the present holders of the mine if, as it is alleged, they have got all the ore they can owing to the water in the mine, to sell the plant, and the minerals they cannot get, at a valuation, and as an encouragement to the purchasers to take some shares in the undertaking. Sixth, the mine at the present time is full of water. Seventh, Mr. Edward B. Palmer is a newspaper reporter, and not having lived amongst the mines, or had any practical experience in the getting of minerals, cannot be supposed to know anything more about mining than he may gather from the newspapers.

Mr. Editor - I beg also to give you a little caution. I see in your columns a paragraph taken from the Mining Journal, about this said Mill Dam Mining Company, which is calculated very much to deceive. Do you know that this very Mr. Palmer is the correspondent of the Mining Journal, and wrote the paragraph referred to in speaking so highly of the mine? You know he is the secretary and must speak well of it; there is no reason for you, Mr. Editor, putting the same paragraph in your paper as if it were really true. Be cautious, and believe me, Mr. Editor.

Yours, very Truly, a Very Careful Speculator.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. August 1857.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - The Mill Dam Mine.

The shares in this undertaking are taken up. No further applications can be received.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. August 1857.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Letter - The Mill Dam Lead Mine.

Sir, - Having perused over the remarks of a Very Careful Speculator, and being an applicant for shares (not a promoter) in the projected Mill Dam Mining Company, I hope you will allow me a small space in your Times paper to state what I think about a Very Careful Speculator's remarks.

In the first place, Sir, I think the Very Careful Speculator's friends and neighbours, will be able to see through the drift of his remarks.

I think they will think as I think, that it was not sincerely his desire to befriend his neighbours and friends, or to warn them to be careful how they speculated.

I think they will think as I think, that in this he was desirous to do the speculators company some injury if he could, under a cloak of generosity.

I think they will think as I think, that a Very Careful Speculator's remarks wears some malicious appearance throughout.

And I think they will think as I think, that this (Very Careful Speculator) was very short sighted to think that his so-called neighbours and friends would be so misled by his pretended friendly advice, and I think they will think as I think, as the poet has wisely written.

That the midwife laid her hand on his thick skull,  
With this prophetic blessing, be thou dull.

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully  
E.A. Schofield,

Eyam, August 25th., 1857

P.S. - Perhaps a Very Careful Speculator will not be afraid of giving his name when he next appears in public print on the Mill Dam Lead Mine question, as I have a desire that speculators should know who their friend is.

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Bank Suspension.

The suspension is announced of the Isle of Man Bank, conducted by the firm of Dumbell, Son, and Howard, with establishments at Douglas and Castletown. It has a note circulation believed to amount to about £12,000 or £13,000, the whole of which may be assumed to be safe, as according to the laws of the Isle of Man, all persons issuing notes are obliged to give security for them.