

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd May 1857.

Page 1 Col. 1.

Advert - Ingmanwell Colliery.

J. Clayton respectfully informs the public of Chesterfield and the neighbourhood that he is now prepared to supply,

Very Superior Black Shale Coal,

from the same seam as that formerly so well known in Chesterfield as "Gillett's Coal", at the Ingmanwell Colliery, near the railway station, Chesterfield, at the following moderate prices:

Great Coal, at the Pit, per ton		6-6d.
Do.	, delivered in Chesterfield	7-8d.
Cobbles, at the Pit		5-10d.
Do.	, delivered in Chesterfield	7-0d.
Slack, at the Pit		2-6d.
Do.	, delivered in Chesterfield	3-8d.

Orders left at the coal yard, Cavendish Street, will receive prompt attention.

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Disputed Wages.

Joseph Barnes was summoned by Edward Costello for 8-6d., alleged to be due to him on account of wages. The complainant was hired in a colliery at Whittington, at 2-10d. a day, and Mr. Barnes refused to pay him his wages, and stopped 6d. for the sufferers of the Lundhill Colliery explosion, against his consent. The Magistrates ordered the money to be paid, with costs of the summons.

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Wages Case.

Mr. Buxton, agent for Mr. Barrow, was summoned by William Milner for 5-4d., alleged to be due to him for wages, for working in a colliery at Staveley. Mr. Buxton said he would have paid the money if the complainant had brought a ticket usually produced at the time wages were demanded. The magistrates, however, decided that the ticket was not material, and ordered the money to be paid with costs.

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High Peak.

A meeting of the High Peak Great Barmote Court was held on Tuesday, the 21st. April, at Monyash, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., when the following persons were sworn in as Grand Jurymen :- Joseph Measham, for Castleton; Ernest Morton and D. Bocking, for Bradwell; M. Chapman and W. Oldfield, for Hucklow; J. Hardy and F. Stone, for Winster; W. Bonsall and W. Mycock, for Monyash; J. Holmes, for Taddington; J. Bateman, for Upper Haddon; Levi Bennett, for such parts within the jurisdiction of the High Peak Barmote Court as are not within the above Liberties. The Jury elected Mr. D. Bocking their foreman, Mr. James Longsdon, Barmaster of the High Peak, presented his accounts, from Ladyday, 1856, to Michaelmas, 1856. Other accounts were also presented.

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Fatal Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

An inquest was held on Monday at Clay Cross, before Mr. Busby, on the body of William Shaw, collier, who met his death through an accident in an ironstone pit on the 21st. April. The deceased was holing with some other men, and was behindhand with his work. In his desire to "catch up" to the others, he worked incautiously, and was warned by one of his fellow workmen of the danger he was in. He refused to take the advice offered, and soon afterwards a mass of "facing" fell on him, severely crushing his back, shoulders, hips and other parts of his body. Notwithstanding the extent of his injuries, he lived five days. Deceased was 20 years of age. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Suicide at Hasland.

On Monday last Mr. Busby held an inquest on the body of George Rodgers, colliery labourer, at Hasland. The deceased hung himself on Saturday, between nine and ten o'clock. John Rodgers, of Calow Green, the father of deceased, said that his son had appeared unsteady and discontented all the winter, and had conducted himself very strangely. He would break out at times into swearing and singing, and he was very passionate and ill-tempered. He lived on good terms with his wife, though the witness said they sometimes had words together. Witness and the deceased had been working together at ironstone mining all winter, but the job turned out a very bad one. They were paid so much a ton, and they got nothing for six weeks ending the previous Saturday fortnight, the 11th. inst. Deceased had been compelled to pawn his watch, and was a good deal in debt. Joseph Bottom, farming labourer, stated that he last saw deceased alone at a quarter to eight o'clock on Saturday evening, coming from Chesterfield towards home. At half past nine the deceased's wife came to fetch him, telling him her husband had hung himself. He went with her and found him hanging by a rope to a hook in the ceiling. His feet were on the ground, and he was quite dead, although warm. Deceased was 22 years of age. His wife also substantiated these statements, and the Jury returned a verdict of "Death from suicide, the deceased being in an unsound state of mind."

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Page 3 Col. 2-3.

Derbyshire Mining.

The delay of some castings, and the late heavy fall of rain, have the effect of impeding the operation of repairing the pumps at the North Derbyshire (Wren Park) Mine: but now all the materials necessary are at the mine, and the water got out of the mine, and the men have resumed work which is being executed with much care and judgement, and entirely to the satisfaction of Mr. Bentley, the able manager of the Company's property. It is expected that the pumps will be got to work this week or next, we are positively assured that in a few days afterwards the getting of ore will be resumed, as the vein had been cut at the time the accident occurred which stopped the pumps. The shares of the Company are beginning to be enquired after, but few, if any, are in the market. The Eyam Mine is looking well, the shares are quoted at £42, ex. due div.

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Recovery of bodies at Lundhill.

A party of volunteers descended into the pit on Tuesday the 21st. to endeavour to recover some of the bodies of the unfortunate men who lost their lives by the recent explosion. They succeeded after great exertions in bringing four bodies to the top, all of which were very much decomposed - in fact, two were mere trunks - the legs of one being entirely gone, having evidently been burnt by the fire after the explosion. Two of them were without clothing, and unable to be recognised. It was considered probable that the other two could be identified, as they had some portion of their clothing on and as a tobacco- box was found in the trousers pocket of one of them. As it was believed to be impossible that two of them could be identified, arrangements were at once made by the authorities for having them buried in Darfield churchyard, in the grave constructed for the reception of the bodies. Two of the bodies were found near to the stables, where the fire had raged to a fearful extent - one under the debris at the bottom, and the other also in the immediate vicinity of the bottom of the shaft. On its being made known that four bodies had been recovered during the night, a great number of the relatives of the men proceeded to the shed on Wednesday morning to see if they could identify the bodies. They could not be identified however. In one case the wife of one of the victims thought she recognised some likeness in one of them as that of her husband; she requested the person in attendance to see whether the body had lost a toe on one of the feet, as by that means she could tell whether it was her husband or not. On taking off the stocking, however, it was found that the feet were perfect, but the body was so far decomposed that the action of drawing off the stocking peeled the flesh off along with it. The great falls of roof which have been encountered have prevented the work of exhumation being so speedily carried out as was generally expected. Up to Monday night only 9 bodies had been recovered, the last having been brought out on Thursday morning, 23rd. instant. At an early hour on Tuesday morning, the men while at work near the bottom of the cupola, where the fire had raged so fearfully, found a body, and as might be expected, it was found in a dreadfully burnt and mutilated state; and there not being the most remote chance of its being recognised, it was buried on Tuesday afternoon in Darfield churchyard. Two other bodies were found during Tuesday, one of them that of a boy, who it was thought might possibly be identified, as it was not so decomposed and burnt as the others. At eight o'clock on Wednesday morning the party at work in the south level having penetrated nearly to the extremity of it - about 500 yards, met with the body of a stout man, which was more perfect and in a better state of preservation than those hitherto brought out. In the north level, where the roof has given way so much, great exertions are being made to clear a way through the vast accumulation of fallen materials. When this has been accomplished, as it shortly will be, an exploration of the workings will be made, and the recovery of the bodies will proceed with greater rapidity. A meeting of engineers was held on Wednesday, at the offices of the Company, and was attended by Messrs. Woodhouse and Holt, and Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector of Mines. The report from the managing committee was received, and approval given to what they had done. The subscriptions in aid of the sufferers, up to the present time, exceeds £9,000. Strenuous exertions are being made towards obtaining additional subscriptions. The committee hope that the fund may ultimately amount to £10,000, a sum that will not be disproportionate to the number of the sufferers.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

The Lundhill Colliery Explosion.

The eighth day's sitting took place on Thursday at the Brampton Bull's Head Inn, before Mr. Badger. In opening the proceedings, the coroner said he had hoped that the proprietors would have been able to have had witnesses to give evidence who had made an exploration of the workings, but such was the extreme devastation, that it was rendered impossible for any engineer to explore and report upon the state of the mine. The enquiry would have to be again further adjourned to allow time for the removing of the debris, after which two engineers would be called to speak to the state of the pit. Mr. Morton, in making an application for a further adjournment, said he was of opinion that an interval of probably three weeks would be required for clearing away the falls of roof, restoring the ventilation, and recovering the bodies.

The body got out of the pit on Wednesday morning was identified as that of Wm. Moore. Ann Horsfield, widow, identified him. The deceased belonged to Leicester. No more bodies will have to be viewed by the Coroner and Jury, and the bodies will be interred on being recovered. The Inquiry was then adjourned until the 21st. of May.

Two other bodies have been recovered, one yesterday morning, and another yesterday forenoon.

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Page 4 Col. 1.

A Mine Lighted with Gas.

The Cornish Telegraph, the 22nd. instant, states that a most important work has recently been in progress at the Balleswidden Mine, viz., the erection of gasworks, and the introduction of gas into the shafts and levels, and hence the superseding, to a considerable extent, of the old system of candles. The results are described as being most successful and important, so far as shafts and levels are concerned. The managers of the mine have given a certificate to this effect.

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Five Men drowned in a Coal Pit.

Between one and two o'clock on Thursday morning, an accident of a melancholy nature occurred at Greenlawalls New Colliery, near Duddo, about 10 miles west of this town. It appears that the workings of this colliery had approached too near that of the old one, which has been out of working order for a considerable time, and had consequently filled with water. The division between the two pits not being strong enough to resist the weight of water, gave way, and burst into the other, where there were five men working, and all of them perished. The unfortunate men who had been thus suddenly launched into eternity, had not been half an hour in the pit, before the accident occurred, having about one o'clock exchanged with others, at which time no danger was apprehended. The names of the men are - Thomas Patterson, John Robson, Andrew Oliver, and two young men of the name of Hogarth; and all, with the exception of one, were married. Some of them have left families. At the time we received our information, none of the bodies had been recovered.

Berwick Border.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

Coals.

The scale on which our export trade is conducted may be conceived from the fact that in the first quarter of 1855 we supplied foreign countries and our own colonies with 772,778 tons of coal; and the quantity for the same term of 1856 rose to 1,072,037 tons; and that for the present year it is 1,254,107 tons. A million and a quarter of tons of coal exported in 3 months gives a sufficient proof how much the world is dependant on the resources of this country, and also at what an accelerated rate we are bringing into requisition the supplies of coal which exist in the bowels of the earth.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Oxcroft Colliery, near Bolsover.

Mr. Hatton is instructed to sell, by auction, at the above colliery, on Monday May 18th, 1857, a ten horse-power atmospheric steam engine, with boiler, etc, complete, and the whole of the

Colliery Plant and Materials,

which are in capital working order, and comprise a six-tons weighing machine, a machine to weigh five hundredweight, a set of 9 inch metal pumps, with rods and pins complete; a quantity of metal rails and doors, one crab, two wire ropes, one hemp rope, two iron chairs, headgear and wheels, lot of corves ready for use, one wallow, lot of wood pipes, large pump, one hand pump, three iron fire pans, lot of metal wheels, quantity of punch-wood, two oak corves, iron piping, lot of strong chains and spanners, forge, bellows, anvil, vice, several hammers, old iron and metal, lot of bricks, and numerous other effects.

Sale to commence punctually at one o'clock.

Chesterfield, May 5th, 1857.

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Page 4 Col. 2-3.

Lundhill Colliery explosion

Up to Monday, the number of bodies recovered was 23. On Tuesday, eight more were brought out, making a total of 31. Four of the bodies were found in Mr. Brown's shaft between twelve and four o'clock in the morning, two in a slit between the third and fourth bord gates on the south side, and two in a low level in the water, also on the south side. On being brought out they were identified, chiefly by peculiarities in their clothing, as William Thompson of West Melton, aged 29; Joseph Harrison of Wombwell, aged 18; James Hunt, of Lundhill, aged 27; and William Smith, of Wombwell, aged 17. They were at once removed to the reception shed to await internment. The men in the next shift, the one coming off work at eight o'clock, also found another body about 350 yards from the bottom of the shaft, but it was in such a decomposed state that it could not be identified. At noon three more bodies which had been found at the far end of the north level were brought out, and two of them proved to be those of John Frost, of West Melton, aged 32 years; and Charles Kellett, of Wombwell, aged 29; but the other could not be identified. The two fans which have been erected are constantly in operation, exhausting the foul air and sending a current of pure air through the pit. With all the appliances introduced still the ventilation is not by any means so good as desired. The volunteers employed work in a most admirable manner, their exertions being praiseworthy in the extreme. The falls of the roof amount to some thousands of tons, all of which will have to be removed before the whole of the bodies can be recovered, and a complete restoration of the workings brought about. The total number of bodies now recovered is 42, leaving still nearly 140 in the pit. It is expected that more bodies will be brought out very shortly. It seems to be generally thought that nearly all the poor fellows have been killed instantaneously, and never been able to leave the places where they were working. At the time of the explosion the great number would be in their benches or working places, and their first ????? on the occurrence would be to run out of the bench as speedily as possible, and get down the bordgates to the bottom of the shaft. The bodies not being found in the bordgates must be in the benches, and the inference is, that from falls of roof or the prevalence of after-damp, the miners were prevented from leaving their workplaces, and any inspection of these has, as yet, been impossible, owing to the devastation caused by the falls.

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Page 4 Col. 3.

The Darkness of the Pit.

More than two months have elapsed since the occurrence of that terrible explosion at Lundhill Colliery, whereby nearly two hundred men were swept into eternity at one fell swoop. But it is only now that the water, admitted to extinguish the fire, has been so far removed as to allow the recovery of any considerable number of the bodies. So decomposed and disfigured are those hitherto removed, that a committee of medical men have pointed out the disadvantages of allowing any attempt at recognition by friends or relatives. The remains hitherto recovered present the appearance of having been subjected to the action of both fire and water, since the pit was on fire for three days before the water was turned in. An admirable example, in order to avoid as far as possible the dangers of naked lights, has been lately set at the Balleswidden Mines in Cornwall, where the works have been erected, apparatus is now being fitted for the purpose of introducing gas into the pit in place of candles. We see no reason why the electric light should not be adapted to this purpose.

Lancet.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

Fatal Boiler Explosion in Cornwall.

A terrific boiler explosion, which was attended by the loss of three lives and severe injuries to others, besides damage to property, amounting to nearly £400, took place on Friday at North Wheal Vor Mine, in the parish of Breage, Cornwall. It appears that five men, named William Grenville (engineman), William Henry Williams, Samuel Reynolds, John Pope and William Yates (miners), were in the enginehouse between four and five o'clock in the morning, when, it is feared, through the carelessness of the engine-man in not attending to the feeding of the boiler, a terrific explosion took place, John Pope was killed on the spot, having been blown from the boiler-house to a distance of 76 yards. Yates and Grenville were so severely scalded that they soon afterwards died, and the other men sustained serious injuries by having been more or less scalded. The end of the boiler in which the tubes were was blown out, and the boiler-house thrown down.

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Page 1 Col. 1.

Advert - Tenders,

For building coke ovens will be received at the Wallsend Colliery office, on or before the 25th. of May. A description of ovens may be seen at the Company's works, Newbold, on application to the under viewers.

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Wages Claim.

James Croft was summoned by John Dakin, for 10-6d. wages, for work done at Staveley, defendant being a sub-contractor at Mr. Barrow's works. Defence set up was that complainant was by the piece work, and not by the day. This, however, was not clearly proved, and an order for the sum claimed was made, with 4-6d. costs.

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Page 2 Col. 3.

Lundhill Colliery Explosion.

Lundhill, Saturday night.

In addition to the 24 bodies recovered during Thursday night and up to Friday morning, another body was found in the evening. During the whole of Friday night and the greater part of Saturday, the men were busily engaged in clearing away the debris from the bord gates on the north side, and up to seven o'clock brought out nine bodies, all of which were claimed, with one exception.

Eighteen of the bodies recovered were interred this day, fifteen in the vault at Darfield. As the funeral cortege was passing from Lundhill to Darfield, a woman named Ann Brookes, a relative of Amos James, one of the unfortunate men, was following as a mourner, in company with her sister, when she was suddenly taken ill, staggered, and fell. She was taken to the house of Mr. Inchbold, of Darfield, but before reaching there life was extinct.

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Page 4 Col. 2.

The Strike against the Davy Lamp.

On Monday afternoon, a meeting of the men on strike at the Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery, was held at the Cross Keys Inn, Hoyland Common, near Barnsley, Mr. Potts in the chair. There was a good attendance. The chairman stated that the deputation had had an interview with the masters, when the latter agreed to allow the men to blast with powder as before, but they were fully determined not to allow the use of candles. One of the men, named Ward, warned the meeting against coming into antagonism with the masters without possessing the means of carrying out their strike to a successful issue. His own experience of strikes, and he had been in several, was that they nearly always failed. The safest course would be to give the lamp a fair trial, before making a breach between their employers and themselves. A resolution, was agreed to that the men should return to their work, so as to give the lamp a fair trial. The meeting terminated by the formation of a club to provide for the relief of sufferers by accidents and other matters.

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Page 2 Col. 1.

No Headline .

On Monday morning, a collier, named Thomas Kershaw, aged 22 years, died at Rook, near Shaw, in Crompton from the effects of injuries received in the Bank House Colliery, belonging to Samuel Wild and Co., on the 12th. instant. It appears that he went to work in an old working with a naked candle, without orders from the foreman. An explosion took place, and he was severely burnt. Medical aid was procured without effect.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Lundhill Colliery Explosion

The operations during the past week, so far as regards the recovery of the bodies, have been very unsuccessful, only 12 having been found. This is on account of the state of the workings, more particularly those on the North side, a great portion of which has fallen in, causing an immense amount of labour in removing the hundreds of tons of rubbish. On Saturday, the engineers, Messrs. Nicholas Wood, Elliott, Woodhouse and Holt, accompanied by the colliery viewers, (with the exception of Mr. Webster), who have the management of the works at present going on, descended the pit, and then rendered a most minute inspection of it, so far as they could. On the South side they were enabled to penetrate to a considerable distance. On the North side, the state of the roof was such as not to admit to examining to any extent. C. Morton, Esq., the Government Inspector, accompanied the gentlemen on their examination. The inquest will be resumed on Thursday.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

No Headline.

On Saturday last, a fatal accident occurred at a coalpit in Over Hulton belonging to W. Hulton, Esq., by which John Unsworth, aged 42, residing in Westhoughton, met with an most frightful death. He was employed as a fireman at the colliery, his duty being to go down the pit in the morning before the other workmen, for the purpose of seeing that all was right. On Saturday morning he left home about 5 o'clock to attend to his duties, and at 6 o'clock, when the workmen went down the pit, they discovered the body at the bottom; he was quite dead, and his body was frightfully mangled. The pit is 191 yards deep, and it is supposed that he accidentally fell down. He has left a wife and seven children.

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Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Two Guineas Reward.

Brass Stolen.

Whereas 1 tallow-cup, 2 pairs of cups and under brasses, 5 siphons for oil cups, 1 bush, 1 handle, top of water gauge, and half bottom of water gauge, have been stolen from the West Staveley Colliery, Whittington.

Notice is hereby given, that a reward of two guineas, will be paid to any person giving such information as may lead to a conviction of the guilty party, by applying to

James Radford, Superintendent of Police, Chesterfield, May 18th. 1857.

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Page 3 Col. 3.

Lundhill Colliery Fund.

The artisans and workmen employed on Staveley Works have, in a most liberal spirit, contributed the handsome sum of upwards of £38 towards the above fund, for the relief of the numerous widows and orphans rendered destitute by the terrible calamity which occurred from the late colliery explosion there.

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Page 3 Col. 4.

No Headline.

In consequence of the Barnsley Board of Guardians having discontinued relief to any extent to the widows, caused by the Lundhill catastrophe, several of the towns, including Sheffield and Wakefield, have declined sending the sums subscribed by them, which in the two last named towns amount to more than £3000. These towns state that in subscribing to the relief of the sufferers, they did so on the understanding that the money should in no way go to relieve the ratepayers of the Barnsley Union in maintaining their own poor. For the purpose of coming to an agreement on the subject, an extraordinary meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday. Reporters having been requested to withdraw, a short discussion ensued, after which a deputation from the relief fund committee were introduced. Mr. B. Parker, one of the deputation, in an able address, enforced the claims of the widows and orphans on the consideration of the Board. Whatever care and precaution might be taken serious and fatal accidents would occur in getting the Barnsley Coal. He thought that nothing should be done to deter the benevolent and philanthropic from coming to the relief of the sufferers by such accidents. Mr. C. Newman, one of the secretaries of the fund, read a letter from the engineer of the firm Messrs. Woodhouse and Jeffcock, calling the attention of the committee to a paragraph which they had seen in the papers, as to the relief given by the guardians. The firm had collected £835, and had sent £95 that morning from the collieries of Earl Granville. They asked for an explanation, as the money sent by them was not intended to relieve the ratepayers of Barnsley. The committee would have to return the subscriptions if the Guardians refused to do their duty. They had not yet visited Manchester or Halifax, it being expected that in the former place the fund would be considerably augmented. The deputation having retired, the subject was discussed by the Board, who agreed to allow relief to the sufferers to the extent required by the committee.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

County Court, Chesterfield.

Cooper and Heaps v. Higginbottom.

Plaintiffs are ironstone-getters, and defendant a contractor, at Whittington. Mr. Busby appeared for the defendant. Plaintiffs sought to recover the sum of £5-16-8d., a balance alleged to be due to them for wages. This case occupied the Court a long time, but the plaintiffs failing to prove the justice of their claim, his Honour gave judgement for the defendant, whose set off was £149-17-3½d.

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Page 3 Col. 3.

Colliery Explosion at Ince, near Wigan.

On Tuesday, at noon, a terrible explosion took place in a coal mine belonging to the Kirkless Hall Company, at Ince, near Wigan, by which five persons were killed and thirteen more or less injured. There was less than an average number of men at work, owing to the annual pleasure fair at Wigan having taken place the day before. As soon after the explosion as practical, men were sent down the pit to render assistance to the injured, and Robert Crompton, Ralph and John Whittle, and John Banks, were brought out dead. A boy named John Skinner, was brought up in a state of insensibility, and died soon afterwards. Crompton had been married on the preceding day to the widow of a collier who was killed in a previous explosion of a similar kind. Thirteen other men and boys were afterwards brought up, some of whom were severely burnt, - one of them, Samuel Banks, being unlikely to recover. The cause of the accident has not yet transpired.

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Page 4 Col. 3.

Lundhill Colliery Explosion

Upwards of 13 weeks have now elapsed since the occurrence of this dreadful calamity, and as yet little more than half the number of bodies have been recovered. Such is the state of devastation caused by the falling in of the roof in the workings of the colliery, a considerable time longer must elapse before the work of recovery can be completed. At the conclusion of the inquest on Friday, the engineers, after having held a consultation, decided that the time had arrived when the management of the operations for the recovery of the remaining bodies and the restoration of the mine did not require their personal supervision, and their labours were, therefore, brought to a close. It was then arranged that Mr. John Brown, of Barnsley, mining engineer, associated with Mr. J.T. Woodhouse, as consulting engineer, should take charge of the colliery, with a staff of approved officers and men.

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The Prince of Wales in a Coalpit.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Newcastle on Tuesday; and visited Houghton Pit, the property of the Earl of Durham, which his Royal Highness descended, and was conducted through some of the workings. The royal party were conveyed from the bottom of the shaft down "the engine plane", into the workings, in coal tubs, and remained in the pit about an hour and a half. The young prince was shown the mode of working the coal, etc. He evinced no symptoms of trepidation at the prospect of being let down the yawning abyss, and in this respect his conduct strikingly contrasted with that of the late Emperor Nicholas, who after preparing to descend a coalpit in this neighbourhood, his heart failed him when he reached the mouth of the shaft, and he declined the perilous journey, declaring that it was like looking down into the infernal regions.