

Illustrated London News

Saturday 3rd. April 1858

Discovery of a Lead and Silver Mine Worked by the Romans.

Captain Reynolds, of Llanidloes, has discovered a valuable lead and silver mine, at Snowbrook, situate at the base of Plinlimmon, about eight miles north-east of Llanidloes. A sample of the ore has been assayed, and produced 80 per cent for lead, and 20 ounces of silver to the ton of lead. The mine is an old Roman working, and in all probability had not been opened for 1500 years before Captain Reynolds made the discovery.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 3rd April 1858

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Chapel Dale and Hard-Rake Mine.

The first annual meeting of the shareholders of this mine was held on Wednesday, at the Block (Black) Rock Inn, Castle Street; Mr. John Pitt in the chair. Mr. Esam, Secretary, read the report, which was simply a detail of the operations in the mine during the year. The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report, and in doing so, said that information or to give any explanation that shareholders might require. He thought it well to remark that there were two difficulties alleged to exist in this undertaking - first, that there was likely to be an overflow of water in the mines; and second, very little ore to be get. As to the first, he was happy to say that that had been disposed of most satisfactorily in the report. The report stated that an engine had been put down for the purpose of pumping, and that after sinking three fathoms, the water was got rid off and ore found in a considerable quantity. As to the ore, he had only to remark that, after sinking three fathoms, they realised nearly ten tons. (Hear, hear). To his mind, the report was highly encouraging. The directors felt every confidence in the undertaking, and ere long he believed that the shareholders generally would have reason to feel a similar confidence in it. Mr. B. Schofield seconded the adoption of the report, and it was carried unanimously. A further resolution appointed Messrs. J. Pitt, William Wyatt, John Fordham, W. Hobson, John Elliott, Joseph Smith, and F.J. Mercer, to be the committee of management for the ensuing year.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 10th. April 1858

No Headline

The Burra Burra copper-mines in South Australia now give employment to 1013 miners, and support a population of nearly 5000 persons.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 10th April 1858

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The Mill Dam Mine.

Mr. Murton, the manager of the Mill Dam Mine, reports as follows up to the 27th. ult: -
"We have measured 27 loads of ore this week, and have 30 more at surface ready for dressing. The bottom workings are progressing favourably. The Hill Top Company (the mine next to Mill Dam) have measured 100 tons of ore, and have 60 loads more to measure, the produce of 14 weeks working. This ought to stimulate us to get a shaft down the Old Men's working forthwith.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 10th April 1858

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No Headline

The West Staveley Colliery Company have called their creditors together, and the works are about to change proprietors. The liabilities of the Company are stated to be £25,000, and the assets £70,000, a great portion of which is not available without the raising of further capital.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 17th April 1858

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Advert - Sale by Mr. S. Denham

Tapton Colliery, near Chesterfield

Valuable Steam Engines, etc.

To be sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Denham, on Tuesday, the 20th April, 1858, the remaining valuable plant and materials on the above works, consisting in part of one excellent 40 horse high pressure engine with boiler and rope drum; one 18 horse ditto, 37 yards of lift pumps, 10¼ inch bore, with bucket and clack door pieces complete; two working barrels with flanges to match, one 8½ inch bore and one 10¼ inch bore; offices, workshops, pit tools, 16 sets of pony and ass harness, office fittings and stationery, safety lamps, oven water pipes, and sundry other effects.

Tapton Colliery is about 1 mile north of Chesterfield, and adjoining the Midland Railway and the Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal.

Sale at 11 o'clock.

Chesterfield, April 8th, 1858.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 17th April 1858

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Summonses for Wages.

Martin Tagg was summoned by John Gilberthorpe for non-payment of £1-0-0d, and by William Marhurst for £0-14-0d for ironstone getting. Joseph White was summoned by Arthur Bown for non-payment of £1-10-9d and by Joseph Key, of Barlow, for £2-5-9d for wages. Thomas Rodgers, of Tupton, was summoned by George Lowe, for non-payment of £0-14-6d wages. The magistrates made orders for payment in each case.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 24th. April 1858

No Headline

An Explosion took place on Friday morning (last week) in one of the coal-pits on the estate of Lord Vernon, at Poynton, Cheshire. There were 240 workmen in the pit at the time of the explosion. Three of them were killed - James Ridgeway, John Ridgeway, his father-in-law, and John Cooper. Within two hours all the other men were extricated in a state of stupefaction, but they have since recovered. The explosion is supposed to have arisen from the removal of the top of a Davy lamp by one of the workmen.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 24th April 1858

Page 2 Col. 2

Leeds Coal Miners and the Fifteen Percent Reduction.

A meeting of the colliers out on strike in Leeds was held on Thursday evening, in the Temperance Hall, York Street. The chair was occupied by Mr George Walker, of the Bank, shoemaker, and there might be about 150 colliers present. The meeting was called by the Coal Miners Association of Leeds. After some very pertinent and moderate observations had been made by the chairman - who expressed his sympathy with the employed at the same time that he bore justice to the employers of labour with whom he was acquainted, the audience was addressed by Mr Thomas Cliffe, of Leeds, on the subject; "Coal Masters and Coal Miners, their duty and their needs." The speaker deprecated strikes, and showed how injuriously they generally worked and he further advised co-operation and organisation as the best method of the employees in their proper position. After all, a working man's capital was his labour, enterprise, and industry: and unless the working class were educated the master would possess a certain advantage over them. If the miners of Yorkshire placed themselves in communication with the colliers of Northumberland, Durham, Wales, and the other large coalfields, then a systematic and general basis of action might be agreed upon, but without this organisation the isolated bodies of miners would be without protection and safeguard. Some remarks in a similar strain were afterwards made by the chairman, William Pease and D. Thorpe, the secretary of the Association. It appears that the notices expired about a fortnight ago, and that the men at several collieries on the York Road have since been out on strike. We subjoin a return:-

Colliery	Proprietors	Number of Hands on Strike
Waterloo	Kirkby and Fenton	120
Rock Collieries	Lassey and Wilcocks	60
Alma Colliery	Robinson and Harrison's	60

The men, as above observed, have now been out for about a fortnight, and the pits are comparatively deserted. Towards the close of the meeting it was suggested by one of the speakers that a compromise should be made with the masters, and that the men should resume work as seven and a half percent reduction of their late wages, but the proposal was not taken up. A collection was afterwards made in aid of the fund of the Coal Miners' Accident Society.

Leeds Times

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 24th April 1858

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Fire at a Coal Pit Heading

On Saturday afternoon last the explosive air contained in one of the headings connected with the coal pit at Birdholme, near Chesterfield, was fired, which for a time threatened most disastrous consequences. Within the last few months a new shaft had been sunk to the Tupton coal measures, on the rise of the hill, skirting the south side of Birdholme valley, which is 400 or 500 yards in length. In this a large quantity of explosive gas exists, which it has been found necessary to cut off from the main works by what is technically called a "brick stopping", of 18 inches thick. A slight leakage of the confined gas has been going on for some time past, and at a distance from this spot a fire board was put up, warning workmen of danger, and as a caution not to proceed any further with their light. Notwithstanding this caution, a labourer, proceeded up the heading with a naked candle, when, immediately after, the gas fired and burst forth into a terrific blaze, the flame of which roared with a fearful noise resembling the rumbling of distant thunder. The man had a most miraculous escape from instant death. He rushed through the flame, and without any light made his way along the heading as well as he could striking himself against the sides and top by which he was severely bruised. After a time he reached the stabling, where he found an underground viewer, named Smith, when he loudly began to call "Fire! Fire!", but he was so bewildered that for some minutes he could give no definite intelligence as to what had occurred. Steps were at once taken to rescue 15 men, who must all have perished had the fire communicated with the gas confined within the stopping, in which case an explosion too awful to contemplate must have resulted, as many hundreds of thousands of cubical feet of explosive material would have been fired. Luckily the air current was kept right, which prevented ignition of the vast bulk. The phenomena around the spot where the gas ignited was grand, but too dangerous to be watched with interest. As soon as all the workmen had been removed from the underground working, the heading was flooded, and thus after a time the fire was damped out. The pit works were stopped two or three days till the water could be pumped out the mine.