

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 7th August 1858

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Advert - To Colliery Proprietors.

Patent Self-Acting Steam Break and Recording Engine, for the Prevention of Accidents by Over-Winding.

The object of this invention in its application to colliery and other winding engines, is the prevention of accidents by winding over the headgear, and especially, in deep mines, to prevent the weight of the down rope drawing the up-cage over the headgear; and to record the number of lifts made; also, to show the position of the cage in the shaft. Any portion of the invention can be used separately if desired.

The patentee, in submitting to public notice the machine, respectfully calls attention to the following:-

The self-acting break does not interfere with its application in the ordinary manner.

When the break is applied by the self-acting arrangement, the steam being admitted gradually in proportion to the lift, causes the break to be applied as gradually as could be desired.

The machine by cutting off the steam from the winding engine at given intervals, trains the engineer to a more regular and better system of winding, and is a saving of wear and tear in the engine machinery and ropes, etc.

Should the engineer reverse the wrong way, or the weight of the down-rope cause the up-cage to be drawn towards the pulley, the finger or lever, as shown over the cage in the headgear, by coming into contact with the cage as it ascends, lifts the break-valve, and thus puts on the break instantaneously and effectively.

It is well known that over-winding forms one of those sources of mischief, which still causes mining to be a dangerous employment. Many valuable lives are sacrificed annually to this class of accidents alone. But it is impossible to state the number of accidents that occur in which property alone is sacrificed by over-winding; these accident not being brought to the public notice, and, in some cases, not even being brought to the notice of proprietors. This invention deals most decisively with over-winding; and in all cases where applied, has given entire satisfaction.

The patentee, in soliciting the patronage of colliery proprietors, begs most respectfully to submit a few of the testimonials which he has received.

Holebottom Colliery, Oldham, October 29th, 1857.

Dear Sir,

The machine you supplied us with in January last, has worked with the greatest accuracy up to the present time. The Colliery Inspector for our district has expressed his entire approval of its merits. I wish you success in the sale of your machines, for I believe they are the one thing needful in the prevention of accidents by over-winding.

I remain yours truly,
Pro. Leeses, Jones, and Company
John Newton

Mr Heth. Ogden

Holebottom Colliery, Oldham, December 26th, 1857.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, feel pleasure in testifying to the utility and value of your patent steam break for the prevention of accidents by winding over the headgear. On the 25th November, 1857, we were at work in the shaft: The engine-driver started the engine so rapidly for the short lift he had to make, that, had it not been for your machine stopping the engine, we should most probably have lost our lives. The cage did not ascend more than two feet after it came in contact with the lever on the head gear, which put on the break in so effective a manner, that it brought the engine to a stand immediately, with us in the cage, about half-way up the head gear.

James Milne, carpenter, Holebottom Colliery: Residence - Potter Fold,
Oldham.
Samuel Taylor, carpenter, Holebottom Colliery: Residence - Stafford
Street, Oldham.
To Mr. Heth. Ogden.

Hedge Lane and Dryclough Colliery Office, near Oldham.

February 15th, 1858

Sir,

I have great pleasure in stating that the steam break erected by you at our Hartford Colliery is acting to our satisfaction, and confidently recommend the same as a preventative against pulleying, as its self-application is immediate if the engineer neglects his duty.

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully,
Pro. Evans, Barker, and Company
John Evans.

Mr. Heth. Ogden

Bradford Colliery, Manchester, May 6th, 1858.

Sir,

The steam break which you have erected for us at our sinking pit is giving satisfaction, and is a great protection to the sinkers.

I remain, Yours truly,
Clegg, Livesey.
For the Bradford Colliery Company.

Mr. Heth. Ogden, St. Mary's

Further particulars and prices may be known on application to the patentee, or of his sole agent. Mr. C. Brown, Barlborough, near Chesterfield.

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Fatal Accident.

An inquest was held at the Midland Railway Station, Staveley, on Monday last, before Mr. Busby, coroner, on the body of James, son of Samuel Berrisford, miner, of Barrow Hill, aged 6 years. It appears that deceased was standing on a siding belonging to R. Barrow, Esq., in front of some empty wagons, and an engine, which was coming up the line, set them in motion. Having knocked the child down, it ran over its head and killed it on the spot. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

Illustrated London News

Saturday 14th. August 1858

Fatal Colliery Accident

At one of Mr. Nixon's collieries at Mountain Ash, near Aberdare, a stage, crowded by a number of carpenters and sinkers, suddenly gave way, and was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a considerable depth. Two men, named William Rees and Richard Jones, were brought out dead. Two other poor fellows were very much hurt. The others had contrived to save themselves by clinging to the sides of the shaft, their hold upon which they maintained in an extraordinary manner.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 14th. August 1858

No Headline

On Friday week at Curder (Cinder) Hill coalpit, near Nottingham, two men, named Thomas Haywood and William Goulder, bricklayers, working in one of the pits, 475 yards in depth, arching the "main road," removed the "centres," and, the brickwork not being secure, a portion of the arching fell upon the poor men, crushing them to death.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 14th August 1858

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Frightful Death of two Men in a Coalpit.

On Friday evening last, the 6th inst., a most melancholy accident occurred at Minder (Cinder?) Hill Coalpit, near Nottingham, by which two men; named Haywood and Goulden, were killed on the spot. By an error in judgement, rather than through carelessness, they removed the "centres", the brickwork not being in a secure state, when, unfortunately, a portion of the arching fell upon the poor men, crushing them to death.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 21st. August 1858

No Headline

The deepest coalpit in Great Britain, and probably in the world, has, after nearly twelve years' labour, just been completed and opened at Dukinfield, Cheshire. The shaft of this pit is 686½ yards deep, and the sinking of it cost £100,000.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 21st August 1858

Page 2 Col. 1

A Letter - Mining Speculations.

Sir, As mining operations in this district now occupy a large share of attention, perhaps you will permit a few observations upon the subject, through the medium of your journal.

The minerals of Derbyshire, now they are becoming more generally developed, prove the source of considerable wealth to the owners, and different districts where located; but the adventurers who provide capital to work minerals, are not always rewarded.

In order to win and work minerals successfully, ample capital, much practical knowledge, and a large amount of application are required, where all or any part of these essentials are wanting, the probable result will be failure more or less.

The banding together of individuals to raise mining capital is good in principle, and when a company obtain practical men to lead the way, sufficiently interested to give their time and experience for the benefit of all concerned, the shareholders generally obtain valuable assistance in the employment of their capital upon favourable terms. But when a company is got up for the mere purpose of trafficking in shares, rather than the legitimate object of mining, the shareholders are in a very different position, and one not long to be envied. A short period will suffice to show the absurdity of paying large premiums, or even premiums at all, upon shares in mines, possessing neither working plants nor visible property of any value. The enthusiastic speculator sets out with an El Dorado in his mind's eye, but at length his pet scheme is upon its merits, now comes reflections. There is also another test, calls upon shares, "Ah, there's the rub."

Thus the natural line of resolution is sickled over the pale cast of thought, and enterprises of great pith and moment are from their currents turned away, and they lose the name of action. The risk ever consequent upon mining, ought not to be increased by mania or excitement similar to that prevailing for some time past, it is at once a trap for the unwary.

Those who have a knowledge of mining are not likely to be caught, as they would require some proof before investing in any mine, that it was likely to prove a profitable working, and if a company they would expect to see suitable parties at the head. The probable outlay and the time required before yielding a return of the capital, would no doubt enter into their calculation, and I venture to think this class of speculation would require a very clear margin before paying premium, especially when dividends appear remote.

The disasters arising from abortive schemes and airy nothings, no doubt tend to throw discredit upon undertakings really entitled to "local and name", but it has, nevertheless, the healthy effect of placing all upon their merits, and this will soon put an end to wild speculation.

The deluded, who have paid large premiums upon shares, which are now at considerable discount, no doubt feel surprised at their position, and may indeed exclaim,

"Can such things be, and overcome us like a summer's cloud without our special wonder"

Permit me to remain, Sirs, Yours truly, W.B.

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Page 2 Col. 3

Melancholy Accident at Wheeldon Mill.

On Saturday last, a shocking accident occurred to a young man named Herbert Holt, son of Mr. John Holt, boat proprietor, of Staveley. It appears that deceased and another man were loading some ironstone into a boat, and to save the trouble of shovelling the stone from off the wharf into the boat, deceased put two "scotchers" against the canal side, and backed the horse and the cart load of ironstone against it. When he had just got the body of the cart on the swing to tip the ironstone, one of the scotchers gave way, one wheel slipping into the boat, pulling the horse and cart on their side onto the ironstone in the boat. Deceased, to escape, had jumped into the boat but was knocked down, the shaft falling on his back and the horse on his head, breaking his neck and back, and fearfully mutilating him in other parts of his body. Mr. Sawby, who lives at the lock, called out for assistance, but deceased must have been killed instantaneously. The body was recovered in about half an hour after the accident, and removed to the New Inn. The horse was fearfully mangled on its sides, shoulders, and legs. A large hunk stuck into its left shoulder, and to extricate it at least half a pound of flesh was cut from it.

An inquest was held before Mr. Busby, coroner, on Monday, when a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. Deceased, who was much respected, had been a teacher at the Wesleyan Sunday Schools for some years, and his father had been superintendent of the schools for the last 30 years. The body was at once removed to Staveley, in a light cart, to be interred the same evening, and on its entering Staveley, a large body of teachers, principally respectfully dressed in white trousers and black coats, met the corpse, and on its being put on a table, a very impressive hymn was sung over it, after which it was removed to the Old Church. Where a service was gone through by the Reverend Mr. MacFarlane. The body was interred in the burial ground near the Church, amidst a large concourse of spectators. His death was deeply lamented by a large circle of friends.

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Page 2 Col. 4

The Mining Districts.

The commissioner appointed to enquire into the state of the population of the mining districts has just made a brief report, embodied in a blue book of 36 pages. The commissioner cannot learn that there is any foundation for the surmise that the employment of females has been resumed in the collieries of South Wales and elsewhere, except in a few districts near Nantyglo, where the practise (we are not told why) has never been entirely eradicated. The prosecutions for employing boys under ten years of age tends to check the illegal practise. The prospects of a new mineral district near Dronfield, between Chesterfield and Sheffield, appear to be very favourable, and in the course of a few years, a numerous mining population may be expected to be gathered there. A vast deal has been done of late years to produce a more healthy and satisfactory state of society in the mining districts; the adoption of "prize schemes", for the purpose of promoting the education of the miners, has been hitherto successful, and the examinations have been most satisfactory. The improved state of feeling between masters and workmen is noticed with pleasure. The strike at Aberdare last winter is noticed incidentally, and it is estimated that £50,000 was lost in wages alone; but this is an exceptional case. The agitation in Yorkshire and Lancashire, to combine for raising the price of coal and the rate of wages is much deplored. The Reports of the Inspectors of Coal Mines state that although the loss of lives for every 1,000,000 tons of coal raised has been much reduced by the improved management produced by the rules adopted under the sanction of the Secretary of State (Mr. Dickinson's Report for 1856-7, page 33; Mr. Higson's, page 43; Mr. Morton's, page 55), nevertheless the annual loss of 1,000 lives points to the fact that institutions such as the mining school, above adverted to are urgently required, "where men in humble life could acquire an education in such matters relating to coal mining as would enable them to become competent managers and underlookers", and by means of which the men generally might have opportunities of having their minds awakened to the principles, the observance of which their own safety so entirely depends.

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Saturday 21st August 1858

Page 2 Col. 4

Fatal Accident.

Mr. Busby held an inquest on Thursday last, at Clay Cross, on the body of a boy, 12 years of age, named Isaac Fletcher, who was killed on Tuesday by a large quantity of binding falling on him whilst at work in one of the Clay Cross Company's pits. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Derbyshire Times

Saturday 21st August 1854

Page 4 Col. 2

An Invention for the Prevention of Accidents, by Over-Winding.

Mining operations, are becoming more or more a subject of national importance and interest, in proportion especially, as coal and iron are called into requisition by the wants of time. But, while coal finds its entrance into almost every dwelling, we are too apt to forget the dangers to which the poor man is exposed in digging it from the bowels of the earth and making it fit for everyday consumption. What employment is there that is so dangerous, and which is continually attended by such a frightful array of appalling accidents, as mining in general, and coal mining in particular? Amongst some of the causes are, a neglect of ventilation in the pits, fire damp, and the miners themselves imprudently taking off the gauze of a Davy or safety lamp, exposing all the miners in the pit to sudden and violent death.

But there are other sources of accident, which in their annual aggregate, amount to a very great destruction of life and property - such as falling of the pit roof, breakage of ropes and chains, and far from last, over-winding. Government has done much in late years to check recklessness in mining operations, and in many instances employers themselves have certainly done much to alleviate the condition of the miner, and make his occupation attended with less danger.

But that there is much more to be done, before mining is rendered as safe an occupation as other trades in general, needs not the sagaciousness of a sage to prove, and any invention which is calculated to diminish or avoid any of the sources of mischief we have enumerated, claims not only the serious and dispassionate attention of mine proprietors and miners, but the attention of the public generally. We have, therefore, great pleasure in bringing to the notice of the public a patent "self-acting steam break and recording engine", for the prevention of accidents, by over-winding. The patentee and manufacturer (Mr. Heth. Ogden, of Manchester) in the application of the invention, places an auxiliary steam cylinder to measure and determine any number of revolutions, which the depth of the shaft requires the winding engine to make; this is effected by the machine cutting off the steam of the winding engine at a required interval, and applying the break when the lift is completed. The auxiliary cylinder is connected direct to the steam boiler. So that the connection of the cylinder to the boiler being complete the engineman cannot tamper with it. It will be therefore easily seen, that should the steam be shut off (at a boiler) in the winding engine, it is always present at the break if any contingency may arise. The steam is therefore admitted to bring the break into action, through a system of proportionate and measurement to the depth of the shaft, which is effected by a small pair of wheels, conveying motion from the flywheel shaft of the winding engine, to a series of semi-revolving cams, contained to two separate concentric grooves, their office being to lift a lever mounted on a centre, to which is attached a valve spindle and a common slide valve. When, therefore, a lift is complete or thereabouts, the valve is simultaneously lifted sufficiently high to permit steam to enter underneath the piston of the auxiliary cylinder, and thus bring the break into action. The afore-mentioned lever is constructed to move laterally or sideways, that the engine-man can place it into the two concentrated concentric grooves containing cams, therefore, when one lift is complete the lever by being removed sideways (from the full part of one to the empty part of the other groove), causes the steam to be exhausted through the valve releasing the break, and leaving the engine ready to proceed to the next lift, and at this point if the engineman should start the engine the wrong way, and thus draw the upper cage towards the pulley, there is a finger placed in the headgear, which by coming in contact with the cage, as it ascends, lifts the

break valve, and thus the engine is brought to an immediate stand. What the governor balls are to the ordinary steam engine, the steam break complete is to the winding engine, while regulating the supply of steam, and thus training the engineman to a better and more regular system of winding. The machine, if desired, shows the position of the cage in the shaft, and records the number of lifts made.

Who can read the accounts of the fearful accidents occasioned by over winding that from time to time shock the public mind, without breathing an inward wish that something might be discovered, in order to prevent the accidents by over-winding, we need only refer to two of the most recent cases - one on the 2nd of June (of which we gave particulars at the time), at Coates Park Colliery, near Alfreton, by which the lives of five persons were in jeopardy, and one of which only escaped without injury by leaping from the ascending cage. Two were killed on the spot, and the other two were fearfully injured. The other accident occurred on the ? ultimo, at Poole's Fields, Wolverhampton, where three persons were drawn to the pulley, two were fortunate in leaping out of the cage, and thus saving their lives, but unfortunately, the third person was hurled down the shaft, and dashed to pieces.

We understand that Mr. Ogden will erect his break on the principle of "No Cure No Pay", and will guarantee that should the engineman be suddenly incapacitated by accident or death, that the engine will cease working at the proper time. An invention doing this must be worth the attention of all who are engaged in mining operations, and we trust the patentee will be amply rewarded for his skill and ingenuity.

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Page 2 Col. 3

No Headline.

The Dunston and Barlow Company's works at Sheepbridge, near Chesterfield, are progressing satisfactorily towards completion. The new blast furnaces are nearly finished. The works are already affording employment for about 400 hands; and as soon as the furnaces are completed that number will, no doubt, be considerably augmented.

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Eyam Mining Company.

The committee, at their meeting at Eyam on Thursday, sold 62 tons of lead ore, and at the previous sale 81 tons - in all 143 tons, raised during the past 7 weeks. They also declared a dividend of 20-0d per share (£1,400), payable on the 7th of September. The works are reported to be in a very good state.

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Page 3 Col. 1

No Headline.

A vein of limestone, of remarkable purity, has been laid open close to the railway station at Mansfield, with which the Midland Company have already connected the line. They anticipate considerable benefit to the neighbourhood, as the lime prepared from it and (apparently, with no more care than usual), is found to possess some very superior qualities for agricultural purposes, and great saving of distance will be effected by those who have thereto been necessitated to bring the lime from the more distant kilns, and especially to those farmers who have produce to deliver on our railway.

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Page 3 Col. 2

Fatal Accident in a Pit.

An awful fatality occurred in a pit at Pinxton, near Alfreton, Chesterfield, on Tuesday morning, about six o'clock. It appears that a collier, named Joseph Knighton, was in the cage, descending the shaft to go to work, and when within a short distance of the bottom the conducting rods broke. The cage then came into collision with a splinter of the wood which projected, and the man was thrown to the bottom of the shaft, the cage falling on him mangling his body in a fearful manner. His body was removed to his father's house close by. An inquest was held on Thursday, before Mr. Busby, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

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Page 3 Col. 4

Bakewell County Court

Hall v. Hill

Plaintiff and defendant were residents near Tideswell, and it appeared that some time ago entered into partnership as mine speculators and there was an agreement in writing for 25 years. The claim was for £11-11-4d, which plaintiff alleged to be due to him from the defendant. Mr. Branson, of Sheffield, for defendant, objected to the jurisdiction of the Court, the partnership being still in existence, and His Honour agreed therewith, informing plaintiff that no partner could sue his co-partner until after dissolution, and upon an account then stated, non-suited the plaintiff.

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Page 3 Col. 4

Bakewell County Court

Important to Lead Miners

Gregory Orr v. John Oliver

Mr. Stone, for the plaintiff, stated the action was brought to recover £1 as nominal damages against defendant, who is a miner at Longstone, working on land occupied by plaintiff, and by reason of the negligence of the defendant and other miners, the plaintiff was prevented from using a large portion of his farm, comprising a tract of land of 50 acres. The defendant had been served with notice to fence out his buddling hillock and works according to the 5th article of the Mineral Customs Act, and had neglected and refused to do so, and the present action was commenced for the purpose of warning other lead miners working in the same locality an example of their liability, more than to recover adequate damages sustained. Plaintiff then proved defendant's mining operations were imperfectly fenced to prevent cattle trespassing at the holes and works used by him, and that in consequence thereof, and of other miners working on the same part of his farm, and from losses before by his cattle being injured and poisoned, he had been compelled to pasture on other land, and lost the herbage of the land in question, which was large enough to summer 8 cows upon. Mr. Thornhill, agent to F.H. Wright, Esq., the landlord, and Mr. Wager, farmer, both of Longstone, corroborated the plaintiff. Mr. Branson, defending, contended plaintiff had not sustained damages from the defendant, and that the land being fenced off before the Mineral Customs Act passed, such fence had been kept up, and the plaintiff took the land subject to the Customs. Mr. Bentley, the agent of the mine, was called to prove there was a fence round the land, and it was kept in repair. On cross-examination, he admitted the fence he meant was round the part of the land he considered should only be used by miners, and it was probably eight miles round. His Honour held defendant liable after notice, and gave judgement for plaintiff for amount claimed.

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Page 4 Col. 2

No Headline

Mr. Tremenheere, in his report on the state of the mining districts, just published, says: -
"On reviewing the events during the past trying year throughout the whole coal and iron districts of England and Wales, it must, I think, be admitted that they indicate a greater prevalence of sound sense and judgement on the part of workmen in dealing with the difficult question of wages, and on the part of both masters and workmen the growth of a better understanding and of more mutual confidence".