

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. April 1859.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - Sudbrooke New Colliery.

The proprietors of the Sudbrooke New Colliery, on Barlow Road, are prepared to supply coals at 4-6d. per ton at the pit for cash, and 7-0d. delivered in Chesterfield; Slack at 2-3d. per ton.

Orders given to Mr. Walton, Spencer Street, will receive prompt attention.

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Explosion of Firedamp.

Sometime between ten and eleven o'clock on Tuesday forenoon an explosion took place in the shaft of the colliery at Spa Clough, in the occupation of the Revd. W. Thursby and General Scarlett. The colliery is about 2 miles from Burnley, and close to the cemetery. About the time named the banksman, John Crossley, had gone down the shaft, there being something amiss with the "float", which indicates the quantity of water in the pit. On being drawn up, and when near the top, he saw a ?????? on the third stay; he returned to fetch it, having a lighted lamp in his hand. He had no sooner commenced his descent when the gas took fire, and blazed out of the top of the shaft. The poor fellow was immediately drawn up, and found to be severely burnt about the head, face, and hands. He now lies in a dangerous condition. There were three others within a short distance of the bottom of the shaft, who were slightly injured.

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No Headline.

At the monthly meeting of the Manchester Statistical Society, held on Monday evening, Mr. John Robertson read an interesting paper on "The Insalubrity of the Deep Cornish Mines, and in consequence the Physical Degeneracy and early Deaths of the Mining Population".

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Page 2 Col. 4-5.

No Headline.

The Wallsend Company have for some time manufactured a coke greatly in favour with the brewers at Burton-on-Trent, were they enabled to double the supply, it would meet with a ready market there.

The lead mining interest in Derbyshire is gradually improving. We hear that it is likely that there will be another dividend declared shortly by the Mill Town Mining Company. The New Midland Mine is in about the same position as noticed some time ago. The Haslam Pipe Company are having great difficulty, owing to the non-payment of the calls. The preparations at Mill Dam are progressing favourably, with regards to the erection of the engine and other plant necessary for the works.

The works of Messrs. Firth, of Whittington, are being considerably extended, with a view to meeting the extensive demand for steel iron, which is made by this firm, who are the proprietors of the patent in this country.

Messrs. Bainbridge and Company, who have taken to the colliery lately in the possession of the West Staveley Company, have commenced the erection of thirty additional coke ovens, and they are about to carry on the large coking trade.

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Advert - Sudbrooke New Colliery.

On Barlow Road, Chesterfield.

E. and A. Nicholls, proprietors of the above colliery are prepared to supply great coal, at the pit, at 4-6d. per ton; slack at 2-3d. When delivered in Chesterfield, 2-6d. per ton extra, for cash.

Orders received at the pit, or by Mr. B. Alton, Spencer Street, and Mr. Cadman, West Bars, Chesterfield.

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Page 1 Col. 3.

Advert - T.O. Pierce's Grassmoor Coal.

Birchill New Colliery, Hasland.

Orders and Cash received by G. Thompson, grocer, Beetwell Street, Chesterfield, or by Isaac Attrill, at the colliery.

6d. per ton off for cash within a week.

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The Midland Railway and Whittington.

We are glad to be able to announce that the directors of the Midland Railway Company have made a survey for a site on which to build a station at Whittington, and have fixed on a most eligible spot where the line is level with the surrounding land. It is a flat of land on Mr. Merrion's farm, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Dawson, and near to the new steel and iron works lately established by Messrs. Firth and Company. The rapid progress that Whittington has made of late, owing to the various new works which have been opened up, and the rich and valuable mineral and coal productions of the neighbourhood, have rendered it of much importance with regard to its contributions of traffic to the railway, and the step which has been determined on had become absolutely necessary, and will doubtless well remunerate the Company for the expense to which they may be put. The future of Whittington also presents an aspect of a very cheering character when we look at the building sites offered to be let on lease for 99 years at a very low ground rent, and the land already meted out for building new streets. The easy terms on which the land is offered will doubtless be a great inducement to parties desirous to build. It will be seen by an advertisement in another column, that Mr. Higginbottom is offering land for building purposes on peculiarly advantageous terms.

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Hastings, Bart, and another v. Knowles.

This action, it will be remembered, was tried at the Leicester Summer Assizes, 1858. The action was brought by Sir Charles Abney Hastings, Bart, and John Balguy, Esq., (as executors and trustees of the late George, Marquis of Hastings, deceased), against Mr. John Knowles, of Chesterfield, for digging fireclay, which he had purchased from an owner of the surface, under Ashby Woulds, in the parish of Ashby de la Zouch, which the plaintiffs claimed as part of the minerals under the Woulds reserved for the Lord of the Manor by the Enclosure Act, for which minerals they held a lease. At the Assizes a verdict was taken for the plaintiff, with liberty reserved to the defendant (on certain facts stated by the judge) to move the Court of Queen's Bench to set aside the verdict and enter a non-suit or verdict for the defendant, and damages, if the verdict for the plaintiffs remained undisturbed, to be settled by arbitration. The defendant's counsel accordingly moved the Court of Queen's Bench last Michaelmas term, when the Court refused to rule, against this decision the defendant gave notice of appeal, being at first resolved to obtain the decision of the Court of Error. Lately, however, a settlement has been proposed and accepted upon the terms of the defendant paying £500 damages, and £1,000 for costs, which amounts have, we understand, been paid. Thus, we believe, the important question at issue (which involves a considerable extent of clay under the Woulds) may be considered to be set at rest.

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Mining and the Metal Trades in this District.

The uncertain state of Continental politics has had the effect for some time past of inducing great caution amongst iron-masters; and now that we are to have a General Election, and trade disquieted, there is little probability of things settling down for some time to come. The demand for finished iron is tolerably active, and orders are numerous; but we hear of an increase in the system of underselling, which at this period may no doubt arise from the necessity of more needy makers to realise to meet pressing engagements. The demand for pig-iron is active, prices very firm; a good indication of the consumption of iron. The steel trade at Sheffield is in an improved state, and the demand for springs for railway rolling stock is considerably on the increase. The coal trade is duller this week than it has been during the previous month, arising mainly from a decrease in the consumption for household purposes.

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Frightful Colliery Accident - Loss of 25 lives.

The scene of the present catastrophe, which has resulted in the death, by drowning, of no less than 25 men and boys and several valuable horses, was the Main Colliery, situated near Brynoch, a short distance from Duffyn House, and about 2 miles from the town of Neath. The accident took place on Wednesday last. In the morning, the men and boys, to the number of 80, descended the pit as usual, in the vigour of youth and manhood, with light hearts, and buoyancy of spirits. They repaired to their various occupations. Things went on smoothly till about eleven o'clock, and whilst the borers were engaged in driving in a southerly direction, they unfortunately struck into the workings of an old colliery called the Fire Engine Pit. In the heading worked by Thomas Barker and Philip Thomas the side borehole came in contact with them, and the water began to flow apace. The men lost no time in attempting to plug the hole, but their efforts soon proved fruitless. Seeing the danger that now threatened them, the alarm was given, and there was a general rush to the mouth of the shaft, the only way of escape. The engine was brought into requisition, and not a moment lost in bringing up the men. Expeditious as they were, however, the flow of water was too impetuous for them, for in a very short time it was found that there was a perfect torrent pouring into the workings and rapidly extending itself even to the mouth of the shaft. Tram and after tram was sent down with the greatest possible speed, and in a short time 55 men and boys, and two horses were rescued. The number left in the pit is supposed to be about 25, all of whom, it is feared, must have perished. Nearly all have left several children to mourn their untimely end. As soon as the news of the disaster extended, the friends and relatives of the colliers repaired to the spot. The scene that ensued was of the most heart-rending description. As soon as it was found that no more men could be saved, two powerful engines were set to pump, and brought up as many as 432 gallons per minute. In addition to this, another powerful engine was set in motion, which pumped out 900 gallons per minute. By incessant working the quantity underwent but little diminution. One boy saved himself by clinging to a horse's tail. As soon as the water is pumped out, a searching investigation, no doubt, will take place.

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Colliery Strike.

The whole of the pitmen employed at the Newfield and Binchester Collieries, Hunwich, near Bishop Auckland, the property of Mr. Ralph Ward Jackson, of West Hartlepool, to the number of about 300, struck work on Wednesday last, in consequence of an alleged breach of contract on the part of the owner. They state that the measure tub by which the coals had previously been measured had been removed and a larger one substituted, thereby entailing upon them a greater amount of labour than was anticipated when they entered into their engagement. Summonses for desertion were immediately taken out against three of the number, John Hardy, Thomas Hardy, and George Boothwright, and the charge was heard before the Bishop Auckland magistrates upon Thursday. The greatest excitement prevailed in and around the Court. The Bench committed them to seven days. An open-air meeting was consequently held in the town, at which strong dissatisfaction was manifested.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 16th. April 1859

Frightful Colliery Accident in South Wales.

Through the flooding of a coal mine in Glamorganshire there has been a great loss of life. As there was only one shaft to the pit, and as the full number of men were at work when the water began to pour into it at a very rapid rate, as many as twenty-five persons are believed to have been drowned. We give from the Cambrian some particulars of the painful event :- "The scene of the present catastrophe was the Main Colliery, situated near Bryncoch, and about two miles from the town of Neath. The colliery is the property of Messrs. Fox, Redwood, and Co., under whose auspices it was reopened about two years and a half ago. The accident took place on Wednesday week. In the morning the men and boys, to the number of eighty, descended the pit as usual. The colliers repaired to their various occupations, and some took their turns as explorers of drifts. The object of the explorers of drifts was to obtain an additional pit as an upcast shaft. This, we understand was done at the suggestion of the Government inspector, who objected to the men having only one way for ingress and egress to the colliery. Things went on smoothly until about eleven o'clock. At this time, while the borers were engaged in driving in a southerly direction, they struck into the workings of an old colliery, called the Fire Engine Pit, and the water began to flow apace. The men lost no time in attempting to plug the hole, but their efforts soon proved fruitless. The water hurled them back by its volume and pressure. The alarm was given, and there was a general rush to the mouth of the shaft, the only way of escape. The usual danger-signals having been exchanged with those at the mouth of the pit, the engine was brought into requisition, and not a moment lost in bringing up the men. Expeditious as they were, however, the flow of water was too impetuous for them, for in a very short time it was found that there was a perfect torrent pouring into the workings, and rapidly extending itself even to the mouth of the shaft. Tram after tram was sent down with the greatest possible speed and in a very short time fifty-five men and boys and two horses were rescued. The number left in the pit is supposed to be about twenty-five, all of whom it is feared must have perished. As soon as news of the disaster extended, the friends and relatives of the colliers repaired to the spot. The scene that ensued was most heartrending. Parents, brothers, sisters, and friends assembled in groups, mingled their lamentations, and rent the air with their cries. In the midst of all this, everything was done that art and practical experience could suggest by Mr. Graham, the superintendent of the cutting, and those under him, to drain the pit. As soon as it was found that no more men could be saved, two powerful engines were set to pump, and the trams were converted into water-tubs. These were sent up and down by the engines with marvellous speed, and brought up 432 gallons per minute. In addition to this another powerful engine was set in motion, which pumped out 900 gallons per minute. By incessant working it was found that in twelve hours the water was lessened about five feet. As a proof of the rapid manner in which the pit was overflowed, we may mention that in two hours after the discovery of the accident the water flooded the shaft up to a height of sixty-three feet. By four o'clock it had reached eighty feet. Some of the men and boys saved had a very narrow escape. One boy saved himself by clinging to a horse's tail. The horse, having reached the shaft in time, instinctively jumped in as one of the tubs reached the bottom; and, by clinging to his tail, the lad saved his life. A man, named William Taylor, succeeded in saving three boys while they were plunging about in the bottom of the shaft. Another man was clutched whilst he was about to sink from sheer exhaustion. The foreman, who was in the pit when the water broke in, fell a victim while endeavouring to warn and save others. He has left behind a wife and seven children."

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Page 2 Col. 4.

Colliery Accident at Grassmoor.

A serious accident happened to a man named William Johnson, on the 7th. inst., whilst working in a pit in the quarry, Grassmoor. It appears that he was about to descend the pit and had got into the "corve" when the rope became detached and he was precipitated to the bottom. When found he was frightfully crushed in the lower part of his body. He was conveyed home, and Mr. Mackarsie, of Clay Cross, called in. On Monday last the medical gentleman gave up all hopes of his recovery, and he died the next day. On Wednesday, an inquest was held by C.S.B. Busby, Esq., on the body, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Fatal Colliery Accident.

An inquest was held on Friday afternoon, at the Infirmary, before Thomas Badger, Esq., coroner, on the body of John Allsopp, aged 22, who a few days ago received severe injuries at a colliery whilst at work. It appeared that deceased was employed at a colliery at Coal Aston, near Dronfield, which is in the occupation of Mr. Rhodes, at the Intake, and whilst at work a large quantity of coal and earth fell upon him. He received severe injuries, and was taken to the Sheffield Infirmary, where he died on Wednesday last. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Colliery Explosion.

On Saturday last, a slight explosion of firedamp occurred at the Sovereign Pit, Silkstone, belonging to W.R.C. Clarke, Esq., by which a man named Hobson was burnt, but not seriously. The explosion was caused through the carelessness of Hobson, in unlocking his lamp and putting off the gauze, by which state it was found by a deputy after the explosion. Fortunately the explosion was confined to the immediate portion of the pit in which Hobson was working, or the consequences might have been more serious. As this was a violation of the General Rules of the colliery, and the accident might have been of a serious nature, it is stated that the delinquent will be brought before the magistrates.

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A Fatal Boiler Explosion.

A little after six o'clock on Friday morning last, a loud report was heard to issue from Messrs. Lloyd and Foster's Old Park Colliery, between Wednesbury and Darlaston. It was soon ascertained that a large boiler had exploded. The engine is used to work the skips in two shafts leading to extensive limestone mines, in which about a hundred and fifty miners are employed. Whilst the skip was descending one of these, about 120 yards in depth, with its freight of miners proceeding to their daily labour, that the explosion took place. In bursting, a part of the boiler struck the machinery, and a large piece of heavy wheel, which was dislodged fell upon the head of an Irishman, who was quietly eating his breakfast by the boiler fire, and killed him on the spot. The stoker, Thomas Grice, and the engineer, John Meekin, were thrown down, and partially buried under the rubbish, but neither of them were seriously injured. Fortunately for the men in the skip, which was set free by the breaking of the machinery, there was a cage and guides to the skip, and although it went down with fearful rapidity, and on arriving at the bottom rebounded up the shaft for some yards, nobody was hurt, with the exception of one man, who had his shoulder dislocated. The men in the pit were drawn up by horses in the course of the day, a very slow process.

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Appalling Death of Two Men.

A most appalling catastrophe occurred at North Shields, last week. In the outskirts, there is a landsale pit known as Preston New Winning, and the waterworks company have arranged for a supply of water from it. Between four and five o'clock, Mr. Thomas Wilson, foreman to Messrs. Hepple and Landells, engine-wrights, and Mr. Thomas Proctor, foreman to the waterworks, descended into the pit to look after the workmen employed putting the pipe in. They went down in a cage, and scarcely got to the bottom when a most frightful catastrophe occurred. The banksman, John Hardman, had not noticed that the cage had gone down, he being engaged in talking to some cartmen. He pushed a tub to the shaft, but observing, too late, that the cage had gone, he held on by it. It dragged him after it, and he and it fell down the shaft. They fell on Mr. Wilson, who was killed on the spot. Hardman's back was broken, and he died very shortly after. The tub also struck Mr. Proctor, breaking one of his thighs, and otherwise injuring him; and from enquiries made on Wednesday morning, there were very slight hopes indeed of his recovery.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Notice to Creditors.

Whereas, a petition of Joseph Salt, at present and for four months and twenty days last past, of Bowshaw, in the parish of Dronfield, in the County of Derby, coal-miner, previously for seven months of Jumble Hole, in the parish of Brampton, in the said County of Derby, ironstone getter, previously for fifteen months of Mickley, in the said parish of Dronfield, colliery manager, and before that of Cowley Bar, in the said parish of Dronfield, beer-house keeper, and coal-miner, previously of Sloads, near Dronfield, and aforesaid, in partnership with one George Swinden as colliers, before that of Stubble, near Dronfield, aforesaid, in partnership with James Bateman and others, as colliers dealing also in groceries, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Derbyshire holden at Chesterfield, in the said County, that an interim order for protection from process has been given to the said Joseph Salt, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, that the said Joseph Salt is hereby required to appear in the said Court to be holden at Chesterfield aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 23rd. day of May, 1859, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes. And notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Joseph Salt, or who have any of his effects, and not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. William Wake and George Weller, registrars of the said Court, and their offices at Chesterfield, in the said County.

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Strike at Ruabon Colliery.

Owing to a new plan of cleaning coal before getting it out of the pit having been introduced by the proprietors, the workmen are now on strike, believing they cannot get good wages if they comply with the new arrangement.

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The Midland Mining Company v. John Parkin.

Plaintiffs sought to recover £4 for various calls of shares in the above company from defendant, a joiner, residing at Clay Cross. Several applications have been made to him but he has taken no notice of them. He did not appear, and the amount, with the costs, was ordered to be paid forward.

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Supply of Coal.

Messr. de Carnal, in a statistical work on coal digging, states that the quantity of coal dug in 1857 amounted to 125 million of tons. The lands where the coal is procured may be estimated at 8,000 square miles, and the mean depth of the beds of coal at about 31 feet. The mass of coal, then, known to exist, would form a cube of 10 miles. If we compare this enormous bulk of coal with the quantity annually consumed we may confidently affirm that there is enough to last for 36,000 years. The coal dug in 1837(?) amounted in value to £37,500,000 sterling. In England some calculations have been made with regard to the yield of coal in our own country, according to which the coalfields of Great Britain yield 63,000,000 tons of coal per year. A better idea of the immense commerce of England could not be formed than by stating the fact that in Manchester and its environs motive steam power equal to 1,200,000 horses is constantly maintained, to support which there are consumed 30,000 tons of coal per day, or 9,500,000 a year. In the manufacture of salt alone about 3,000 tons are consumed per day, or 950,000 a year. The transatlantic steamers of Liverpool and other ports consume 700,000 tons year, and the manufacture of gas absorbs at least 10 million tons per year. The export of coal from England reached, in 1858, 6,078,000 tons. It is estimated that England alone could furnish enough coal for the consumption of the whole of Europe for the space of 4,000 years.

Bulletin.

The Mining Journal

April 30th 1859

Craven Moor Mines

Derby Shaft has been sunk for 2 feet since last report, and the underlie of the vein has changed; it is now four feet to the south, with a little ore. The 42 Fathom Level is opened out to the new ground, which looks hard, with a little ore in it. I hope this will improve as we drive west. There is a little ore in the 56 Fathom Level.