

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. August 1859.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Fearful Death of a Miner.

On Saturday, John Simpson, miner, employed at the Monkwearmouth Colliery, came to the shaft mouth for the purpose of ascending the pit. He got into the iron cage, and gave the proper signals to be drawn up, but in a moment he remembered that he had left some of his "picks" and working tools behind. He then got out of the cage to get them, and while he was in the act of again entering, he was severely crushed between the cage and the wall, and fell down the shaft from a height of 350 feet to the seam below, death being of course instantaneous.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 6th. August 1859

Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Saturday morning last an accident occurred at High Heworth Colliery, by which two lives were lost. The master shifter, George Swinney, and two men named Mould and Dixon, were employed in the shaft suspended in the cage making some repairs, when a portion of the brattice gave way, and came down upon them, breaking the chain of the cage, causing it to hang on one side. Swinney clutched hold of the chain and hung there till he was rescued. Dixon and Mould fell to the bottom of the pit (a distance of 200 yards), and Dixon's body, coming in contact with a bunting, was cut completely in two. Mould's body was found at the bottom of the pit, headless.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 17th. September 1859

Accident at the Silkstone Main Colliery.

On Thursday week a fire broke out in this pit, Masbrough, near Sheffield, and the greatest difficulty was experienced in rescuing the men and boys employed. Two boys are known to have perished, and another person is supposed to have been suffocated or burned to death. The accident is said to have resulted from the overheating of a flue which ran from the engine-furnace to the bottom of the drawing-shaft.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1859.

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.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1859.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Mining in the High Peak.

A monster lump of lead ore, 3 feet in length and 1 foot thick on the rib, weighing between 8 and 9 cwt., was on Monday taken from the No. 2 level of the Peak Forest Mine. The huge mass had already been largely inspected by miners and others connected with that interest and pronounced to be the largest piece of pure metal (galena) not having an ounce of gross matter attached to it, ever brought to the surface within memory in Derbyshire. This company sold another sampling of ore on the 1st. instant amounting to £140.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1859.

Page 3 Col. 3-5.

Winning of the Coal at the Seymour Pit, Staveley.

In our publication of the 18th. of September, 1858, we had the pleasure to record the sod turning of another colliery, called the Seymour Pit, and the extensive coal and iron works of the above named place. Incredible as it may appear, we have now to announce, after the lapse of but eleven brief months, the winning of the coal at the said pit - a fact, we may say, unprecedented in the annals of the Derbyshire coal fields. The shaft is 15 feet in diameter, 166 yards deep, with 160 yards of tubbing. The seam was pricked at a quarter past two o'clock on the morning of the 10th. instant. The whole seam was cleared out on the following day, and proved to be a magnificent bed of hard coal, firm as rock, and 6ft. 2ins. thick, clean and good. There are also 11 inches of holing dirt underneath. On the whole, we should say that there is not a better seam in the Midland counties.

The railroad, which is about one and a half miles long from the junction with the Speedwell branch railway, was planned and surveyed by Mr. W.F. Howard, resident surveyor of Staveley Works, by whose direction it was executed under the superintendence of Mr. J. Gillatt. The gradients are very favourable.

It will be remembered by many of our readers that the liberal promoter promised entertainment to all concerned at the winning of the said pit, on the occasion of getting the coal. True to his word, this entertainment was held on the site of the works, on Tuesday last, the 6th. instant. A spacious tent was erected for the occasion, and the workmen and officials, to the number of three hundred, sat down to a most abundant dinner. We know it is customary to call such entertainments collations; but to our way of thinking, collation is too faint a term, too wafer-like for such substantialities, and we prefer giving an entertainment so genuinely English, a genuinely English name - a dinner. The consumers were genuinely English too, by the way the viands - by the by that's a French term, and we don't like it - the beef, the ham, and the mutton disappeared, prove themselves as indomitable at the trencher as their brave countrymen at the trenches in the Crimea War. Amongst those present we noticed Mr. Seymour, the Staveley viewer; Mr. Martin, veterinary surgeon; Dr. Hale, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Marriott, Mr. Knighton, Mr. Gillatt, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hartley, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Bedlow, etc., etc.

The train arrived from the works about one o'clock, and mangant commenced immediately. The cloth being drawn,

Mr. Seymour rose to propose "The Queen", which was most loyally responded to. "The Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family", followed, and were duly acknowledged.

The health of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Duke of Devonshire, and Mr. Cottingham, were then drunk with cheers.

Mr. Seymour again rose, and said he had another health to propose, which he had no doubt all present would consider as only secondary to the preceding. He referred to a gentleman who was not present, but whose appearance he at every moment anticipated. He could assure them that Mr. Barrow was not the man to be absent on an occasion like the present - that he had the well-being of his workmen too much at heart to miss the opportunity of witnessing their

enjoyment. Neither was his interest confined to their comfort on the present occasion be spared. No expense to ensure their safety during the performance of their duties. In this respect he was a noble exception to his brother capitalists. He would, however, he (Mr. Seymour) had no doubt, ever continue so to act, so long as they would certainly do their duty towards him, if the just return of a fair day's work for a fair day's wage. He could assure them he was one who always fulfilled his promises, as an evidence of which assertion he would adduce the fact of their being gathered together there that day. His experience of Mr. Barrow had been of short duration, but short as it had been he could say that a kinder friend or more liberal employer to the working man he had never known. (Drunk with loud applause and musical honours).

Glee. - by Messrs. Keeton and Company, "Sweet does blush the rosy morn".

Mr. Seymour then rose to propose the health of Mr. William Barrow, Member for South Nottinghamshire, and brother to their respected employer, a man of undoubted ability, who ever commanded the attention of the House, and holding great claims upon the gratitude of his country. (Cheers).

Mr. Gibson rose and said, The duty of proposing the next toast had devolved upon him, whilst he could have wished it to have fallen into abler hands. He said the sinking of the pit had been carried on with great energy, and had been accomplished in a most remarkably short time, but he trusted the workmen would not relax their endeavours, and hoped ere long to see them sending to the surface a large quantity of the black diamonds. He believed all present is heavily joined with him in wishing "Success to the Seymour Pit". (Great Cheering).

Mr. Barrow, accompanied by Mr. Heaton, now appeared upon the ground, and the cheering was most vociferously renewed. When silence was restored, he rose and said, Mr. Chairman and Gentleman, I feel exceedingly flattered by the reception you have given me, but have a greater pleasure still in seeing you all around me. The toast, which I am informed has just been given, I assent to most cordially. In reference to a previous one, I thank you from my heart. I do hope this pit will turn out well for your sakes as well as mine. I wish this pit, moreover, to set an example to all others, and instead of being a "Farewell" pit, I trust it may only be the leader of many more. (Cheers). I have no doubt you think I am a little harsh and unkind, when I wish you to work hard, but it is for your benefit as much as mine. I work hard myself and when a boy was made to acquire habits of industry. I should like to see this pit worked regularly; it would prove better for all of you as well as myself. It will procure you regular wages, and be conducive to your general comfort. I am quite aware that the master, and men must mutually benefit each other. The master cannot do without the men, nor the men the master. (Cheers). You all know my motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work". I am quite satisfied, master and man must pull together. (Hear, hear). My wish is to see all the people about me happy and comfortable, but at the same time I hope all desist from extremes in enjoyment, and avoid all intemperance. This course of conduct affects not only yourselves but others, for by being idle as a result, you rob your sober companions of their employment, as I said before I do hope this pit will set an example to the other pits and show what Staveley can do. (Cheers). The manner in which you have followed out Mr. Seymour's, or I might say my instructions to him - in the sinking of the pit, has pleased me much, and I cannot help thinking you mean to follow them out still. Long may you live to work this pit, and long may I live to enjoy the benefit. (Loud Cheers). I am obliged by the kindness in which you have drunk my health, and beg to give that of Mr. Seymour, hoping you will aid him in carrying out my instructions and set an example of regularity and system, and we shall all then receive the benefit. (Loud Applause).

Mr. Seymour said, I feel highly complimented by Mr. Barrow's manner of proposing my health. It shall always be my endeavour to carry out his instructions to the best interests of both master and workman, and trust that you (the workmen) will not rest satisfied until you have seen

1,000 tons a day issue from that shaft. I am satisfied that with the improved science, and the energy of the men of the present day, we may have the underground works for 1,500 tons per day. Men, what shall hinder us from regularly getting to bank 1,000? But your co-operation is necessary. You must do your duty to me, and I'll do mine to Mr. Barrow. I can assure you that the shaft has gone down to my entire satisfaction, and if I can do anything towards making this pit the first in the Midland Counties, it shall be so, and trust it will only be the leader of many more. Hitherto we have been entirely successful. I know the croakers have been eagerly waiting for a failure from behind the hedge, but we have redeemed our promise and got "doon afore twelve months". As for our worthy employer's satisfaction, I think his presence here this day is a sufficient guarantee. For twenty years or more I have been professionally acquainted with many coalmasters, but will say I never knew a more liberal or better master than Mr. Barrow for the working man. There is one good quality which you must all appreciate. Your money is always ready. That is never wanting. At many places, when a man has earned his wages, half of it goes in deductions, and in some cases is not forthcoming at all. This you cannot say of Mr. Barrow. My instructions also are to always to work safely with the man, and do justice between the employer and employed. This I shall always endeavour to do, but call upon you in return to give me your hearty co-operation. Then Staveley will flourish, she shall flourish. I thank you for the honour you have done me in drinking my health so cordially. (Cheers).

Mr. Seymour again rose, and said he had another toast to propose. The health of a man who had established considerable claims upon them with his constant endeavour to promote their moral improvement. In order to do this, from personal experience he (Mr. Seymour) knew he had placed himself under considerable restriction in order that he would back his precept by all the force of example. It was his wish to do them all good, and he (Mr. Seymour) called upon them to acknowledge their obligations by heartily drinking the health of Mr. Heaton. (Drunk with musical honours).

Mr. Heaton rose and said, It's a poor heart that does not warm up on an occasion like the present, and I can assure you mine is warm although I have not joined you at the wine and beer. I am told that I am not looking so well as I was twelve months ago. Now I am not going to make a teetotal speech, I think it would be very much out of place. Nevertheless I must tell you that I am no worse and don't care how many of you become teetotallers and how soon. Let me enjoin upon you to be temperate this day. I wish to see all happy and you will make me so; don't let Mr. Barrow hear of any drunkenness, or see your names recorded in the columns of the Courier or Times, as disorderly. I think we have three grounds for rejoicing this day. One. You should rejoice on Mr. Barrow's account. That the sinking of his shaft has been brought to so successful a termination. A person said to me a short time ago, "Mr. Heaton, you have always a stereotyped speech for Mr. Barrow. Now I am happy to say it is a stereotyped one. I am happy to say they can always consistently make it a stereotyped one. There are few men of whom you can always speak the same. You must keep crossing out and making alterations. But this, I am proud to say, is not the ????? with Mr. Barrow. I am not going to say he is without faults, who of us present is; but I can still speak of him as I have always done. I can assure you that he is one who improves upon acquaintance. There are many men whose best qualities lie on the surface, but with Mr. Barrow, you will find the deeper you dig the better the mine. I am also proud to say to you sinkers that you have done your duty, and hope you will continue your exertions and bring to the surface that beautiful coal. Two. We shall reduce the years of labour for hardworking now is thus offered out. A mine of wealth in truth is honest labour. What is wealth? Gold and silver, say you? No. It is successful ???????. Money, gold and silver may leave us, and does leave us as weekly records testify. But these are only the representatives of our wealth, and although, they may take away our coin, they cannot take away our sinews and labour. Three. You should rejoice that such coal is given to us, and look upon it as an eminence of God's goodness towards us. Labour is a great necessity, and we ought to be thankful for so bountiful a field for its exercise. And we may depend upon it that coal is not placed there without design. For ages has it laid

there buried from the light of day, it is the surface vegetation of the world in its youth, and is now laid bare for our use and benefit. It is in truth a wondrous provision, and should excite our deepest gratitude. For these three reasons let us therefore rejoice, and Mr. Barrow is about to be repaid for his capital and enterprise, and there is opened a level for your labour, and we should have so rich a gift bestowed upon us. I beg most heartily to thank Mr. Seymour for the handsome manner in which he proposed my health, and all of you for responding to it. In conclusion, allow me to remind you of old Admiral Nelson's motto, "England expects every man to do his duty". (Cheers).

Mr. Barrow then rose and said, There is a gentleman whose health I wish to propose whom you all know and think highly of, I mean Mr. Woodhouse. Having been so long connected with Staveley, I can't omit on this occasion proposing his good health. (Drunk with applause).

Mr. Barrow again rose and said, I am sorry that I must leave you all shortly, but I must give you a few more toasts before I go. Mr. Seymour talked about the money always being ready, there is the gentleman here, surrounded by his staff, who keeps the purse-strings. If he didn't take care to have the money ready on the payday we should all do badly. I wish to propose the health of Mr. Robinson and his staff. (Drunk with musical honours).

Mr. Robinson in reply, said, Mr. Barrow, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I have great difficulty in finding words adequately express how deeply I feel Mr. Barrow's kind notice of myself and the gentlemen with whom I have the pleasure of being connected. I think I can speak for myself and them, that we, in truth, rejoice to serve him, and I beg to assure him that if we can in any form contribute to make that pit the most successful one in the Midland Counties, we shall be proud to do it at all times. I beg most cordially to thank Mr. Barrow and you all. (Cheers).

Mr. Barrow; Now you have so heartily responded to my last toast, I will give you another. I will if you please give you the master-sinker, Tom Emerson. I have the more pleasure of doing it, and of being able to say that there has been no accident, but the one which happened to himself, which I deeply regret. This, however, did not occur at the pit, and apart from the credit of sinking the pit without an accident, he has put her down in so remarkably a short time. I shall never forget his expression at the sod-turning, that he'd "hey her down afore twelve months". (Loud Cheers).

Mr. Heaton then rose and said; Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, whilst celebrating the winning of this pit, we must not forget that other pits have been sunk in this parish. You will all remember one Sunday at Springwell, some three or four months ago. We must not forget the manager of that pit. I beg to propose the health of Mr. William Buxton. (Cheers).

Mr. Barrow again rose and said, It is very unfortunate that I cannot express myself as many present might do. Children very often become greater than their fathers. ????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? and I'm very glad to see them. We have an overman and that the mother of the Seymour pit here present, (I call Speedwell the mother of Seymour), I mean Thomas Heywood, I think I saw his face just now. He is an old hand. I think I remember him some time when I was a boy. (Loud Cheers and Laughter). At all events he has been connected with Staveley ever since I came to it, and I beg to propose his health with the other overmen, Frank Pigford, Thomas White, George Ord, James Bell, Richard Happlewhite, etc. Thomas Heywood I look upon as father of them all. (Great Cheering).

T. Heywood, in reply, said, Mr. Barrow, gentlemen, you must excuse my way of making a speech. I am not a "edicated" man. My speech shall be short and sweet. Here's a health to Mr. Barrow, as an industrious man; Mr. William Barrow, a credit to his country; a health to Mr. Seymour, that John Bull man, and Mr. Heaton, the kind-feeling man. (Cheers).

Mr. Heaton: There is an old saying, "Absent and Forgotten". However true this may be at times, let it not be true of us this day. There is an old servant (not from his own wish) absent this day. He is connected with the future working of this pit, or if he doesn't dispatch your coals there will soon be a stoppage, and you'll cry out, "What's this all about?". I beg to propose the health of Mr. Ireland. (Drunk with Cheers).

Mr. Barrow: Before I go I must call your attention to one who has done he can today to promote my pleasure and your comfort - I mean John Gillatt. He must excuse titles, I know him by no other name than as John Gillatt. (Cheers).

Mr. Gillatt, in reply, said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am much obliged to Mr. Barrow for proposing my health, and beg to thank him. But I have a word to say to you workmen. I want you to take my example. I have been in Mr. Barrow's employment for upwards of 19 years. During that time I have never spoken to him about my wages, yet he has raised me four or five different times. Now I want you workmen to do the same, and depend upon it if you are deserving you'll get the same. I never asked. If you don't believe me, Mr. Barrow's there, "Ax him". (Loud Laughter and Cheers).

Mr. Barrow; I was complimenting Emerson and the sinkers for having no accident. I think there is also something due to Mr. Gibson and his staff for protecting them in the wet, and making such excellent tubbing. I beg to propose the health of Mr. Gibson and his staff. (Drunk with Applause).

Mr. Gibson, in reply, said: I believe that I may say without affection that I cannot find words sufficiently strong to express my gratitude for the kind manner in which Mr. Barrow has proposed the health of myself and staff. I thought the foundries were at a discount. We are generally in low water just now, I trust ere long things will take a turn. I shall not trouble you with any eloquence of mine, for I possess none, but simply beg to wish Mr. Barrow success, not only in the Seymour Pit, but in the foundries likewise. (Cheers).

Mr. Barrow; The last toast I shall be able to give you is one I think you all will readily join with me in - Sweethearts and Wives. (Cheers). This reminds me of those ladies who, not quite twelve months ago, threw the sod over the left shoulder, which has so happily and speedily returned over the right. I think we are much indebted to them, and I beg to include Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. Gibson, who accompanied them, in the toast. (Loud Prolonged Cheering).

Mr. Seymour returned the thanks.

Glee, by Messrs. Keeton and Company.

Mr. Barrow and Mr. Heaton now left the crowd amidst renewed plaudits.

Mr. Seymour then rose and said, having proposed the health of gentlemen connected with every department of the works, we must not omit one, who is indispensable to all. He was one whose services were greatly undesired, yet were equally sought for where they unfortunately might be required. The doctor was a man who none of us could do without. He had pleasure in proposing the health of Dr. Hale, the works physician and surgeon, who during the brief time that he had been amongst them, had evidenced that he would do everything in his power, to fulfil his trust, and alleviate the sufferings of the people. (Drunk with Cheers).

Dr. Hale, on reply, said: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, and good friends all, as Mr. Seymour has just remarked I have not been amongst you long, and I trust during the time I have been amongst you I have shown the consideration and care for your welfare, that your praise should merit. It shall always be my aim to study your interest in preference to my pocket. It so happened that the first day I appeared amongst you was the worst for your sake, and inefficiently provided as I was, I had on that day to attend many accidents. Amongst others was a fracture of a limb and most of my brethren, I am sorry to say, would have made an amputation, and so might I, had I cared less for the limb and more for my purse. I was determined, however, to save the limb if possible, and the result is it is now doing well. I do not mention this, however, from any invidious motive, but simply as an illustration of the treatment you can expect to receive at my hands; and even of that I trust you will receive very little. Health is, indeed, one of the greatest blessings the Almighty has bestowed upon us; and however welcome a doctor may be under necessity, I trust you will require as little of his aid as possible. (Cheers).

Mr. Seymour then proposed the health of

Mr. Martin, who said he scarcely knew how to address them. He certainly could not on the same grounds as Dr. Hale, for where that gentleman could restore, he (Mr. Martin) must destroy. However, in his profession he had long been connected with the Staveley Works, and had always used his best endeavour to further its interest. It was true that he did not visit them so much as he had done, as he thought it was now time he retired into a more private life. He had worked hard in his youth, and his sons who were carrying on the profession must now do the same. But, nevertheless, whenever Staveley Works required his services, whether it might be in the pit or elsewhere, he would not be wanting to do his best to meet its wants. With his hearty thanks for the honour they had done him, he begged to wish them all every success. (Cheers).

Mr. Seymour then proposed the health of Mr. Matthew Marriott, which was drunk with musical honours, and duly responded to.

Mr. Seymour then proposed the health of Mr. Henderson, which was most cordially received and honoured.

Mr. Keeton and the Mosboro' Brass Band was in attendance, and during the entertainment played several opera and oratorio selections. Amongst others the "Misere", another selection from "Il Travatore", and the "Hallelujah Chorus", were remarkably well performed, and excited universal admiration. A Medley song too, by Mr. John Cooper, a member of the above band, was much applauded.

The whole proceedings were conducted with the utmost decorum, and were concluded about six o'clock in the evening amidst general good humour and happiness. A pleasanter meeting of the class we had seldom witnessed, and great credit is due to the excellent manner in which the arrangements were carried out. We must most cordially wish "Success to the Seymour Colliery", and trust Mr. Barrow's words may prove true, and she is in truth not "Farewell Pit", or this the "Farewell Fate".

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Richard Parks v. William Higginbottom.

This case, a dispute relative to some boat-loads of ironstone, again came up for hearing, Mr. Cutts appearing for plaintiff and Mr. Busby for defendant. It is unnecessary to repeat the facts as they have previously appeared in our columns. Judgement was given for defendant, the cost of the last trial to be defrayed by defendant and also not to be allowed any costs for the present trial.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Explosion of Firedamp in the Tredegar Works.

On Saturday morning an explosion of firedamp, caused by the incautious and, indeed, reckless use of the named light, occurred at the colliery No. 8 of these works. There had been a fall on the Friday at the part of the pit where the accident occurred, and a quantity of explosive gas had consequently accumulated. On Saturday morning, two of the miners, named Williams and Bartey, went to work carrying with them a naked candle, the exposed light had no sooner come in contact with the flammable gas than it ignited, and an alarming explosion took place, by which both of the men were burnt in a dreadful manner. Surgical assistance was procured for them with all possible dispatch; and it is hoped that their eyes may be spared, for they were in both greatly injured.

Illustrated London News

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Explosion of Firedamp at the Tredegar Works.

Last Saturday morning an explosion of fire-damp occurred at Colliery No 3 of these works. There had been a fall on the Friday at that part of the pit where the accident occurred, and a quantity of explosive gas had consequently accumulated. On Saturday morning two of the miners, Williams and Bartey, went to work, carrying with them a naked candle, and the exposed light had no sooner come in contact with the inflammable gas than it ignited, and an alarming explosion took place, by which both the men who had acted so recklessly, were burnt in a dreadful manner.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 20th. August 1859

No Headline

The colliers employed at the Westminster, Frood, Vron, Brynmally, and Brymbo Collieries are at present out on strike, demanding an advance of 6d per day.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. August 1859.

Page 3 Cols. 1-2.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

August 18th. - The prospects of the iron trade continue to manifest a gradual improvement, and during the week the orders received from the States have been much larger than usual. There is also a better enquiry for iron from the colonies, and little alteration has been experienced with regard to the home trade. We hear very favourable accounts of the healthy position of business, but few instances of underselling can be recorded. We may note increased demand for railway iron and railway springs, which have now become an important branch of the Sheffield trade. The enquiry for Derbyshire pig-iron is steady, and prices are now very firmly maintained.

The coal trade is active, considering the season of the year, whilst the demand for manufacturing purposes has increased. The rates are tolerably steady. The strike at the Thornccliffe Silkstone Colliery still exists, and is causing much inconvenience to the proprietary and much misery to the men. We would faintly hope that measures will be at once taken to bring it to a termination; but the men appear so resolute, and possess so perniciously, that mediation would be likely to have but little effect.

We have frequently noticed in these columns the happy development of the mineral interest in Derbyshire, and we have this week to record with pleasure the opening of a new colliery at the famous Staveley works. We say famous, because there are few individual undertakings in England of equal extent. Within the last eighteen months two collieries, capable of producing a large quantity of coals, have been sunk from the sod and put in actual working operation. The first was the New Hollingwood pit, which was commenced after the catastrophe at Staveley, which resulted in the death of 12 persons. It was resolved in September last to sink a new pit to the Staveley Top Hard coal, this was commenced under the direction of Mr. Martin Seymour, a North Country gentleman, who was appointed colliery viewer soon after the death by accident of Mr. Cooper, who occupied a similar position. The working arrangements of Mr. Barrow are on a first class scale, and as soon after the turning of the first sod was possible a new railway of about a mile and a half in length was commenced at the junction of the line in the Speedwell Colliery. The line was designed by Mr. F. Howard, surveyor to the Works, and executed under his immediate superintendence by Mr. John Gillatt. The earthworks are slight and the gradients fall favourable. The sidings at the pit will be self-emptying, both of the empty and loaded wagons falling onwards as required down an incline by the action of gravitation. The shaft, about 15 feet in diameter, has been sunk to the depth of 166 yards, and in the remarkably short space of about ten months and three weeks to the Top Hard coal. We believe the shaft is intended to be made to answer two purposes, drawing coals and ventilation, so that it will answer the purposes of upcast and downcast shaft. A level, communicating with another shaft, has been driven nearly up to the new pit, which is called the Seymour Pit, and when this is brought through the ventilation will be complete. The shaft is lined with tubbing until within a short distance of the bottom, and on Monday last the first holing was opened out. A piece of solid coal measuring twelve feet was brought to the surface, while Mr. Barrow invited seven gentlemen on Monday connected with the coal-trade and railways to visit the new colliery. They consisted of Mr. Jackson, M.P., and a partner in the Clay Cross Works; Mr. W.H. Barrow, M.P. (brother to Mr. Barrow of Staveley); Mr. Barrow, J.P. of Sydnop; Mr. Markham, of the Midland Locomotive department; Mr. Ramsbottom, of the London and North-Western Railway, etc. These gentlemen, with some few others, proceeded by special train on the colliery railway and station to the new pit, went through these extensive works, which cover an area of several miles. On arriving at the

pit the party inspected the plant and several specimens of the coal, and a very high opinion was expressed of its quality, judging from appearances. It was remarkably clean. After the plant had been examined the party re- entered the train, which had now attached to it a truckload of the new coal, over which was waving a Union Jack. The sinkers, who appeared a fine body of active fellows, cheered lustily as the train drove away. This description of coal is very scarce in Derbyshire, and as it will be valuable for steam purposes, the demand no doubt will be very great. It is now being tried as a ?????? of coal.

There is nothing new in the mines of Derbyshire, the North Derbyshire pumping shaft broke on Tuesday, and sinking was suspended.

A monster lump of lead ore, three feet in length and one foot thick on the rib, weighing between eight and nine hundredweights, was on Monday taken from the No 2 level of the Peak Forest Mines. The huge mass has already been largely inspected by miners and others, and is pronounced to be the largest piece of pure metal (not having an ounce of gross matter attached to it) ever brought to surface within memory in Derbyshire. This company has sold another sampling of ore on the 1st. instant, amounting to £140.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

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The Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery Strike.

On Friday night, some evil disposed person or persons placed a bottle containing gunpowder, to which was attached a fusee, in a small greenhouse situated in a garden in the occupation of Mr. George Taylor, a foreman employed at the Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery. The explosion of the gunpowder caused a loud report, the whole fabric, which contained a number of plants and other articles, was entirely demolished. Taylor appeared a week or two ago at the Barnsley Court House as a witness in a charge of assault which was preferred against several of the men on strike at the above colliery. This, coupled with his continuing to work at the colliery, is believed to have prompted the depredation.