

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. May 1859.

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The Strike at Ruabon Colliery.

The men, to the number of about 500, still remain on strike at this colliery. We are given to understand that if they yielded up to the employers wishes of cleaning coal before sending it up, they would lose about 6-0d. each per week.

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Advert - To Sinkers.

To Let by Tender, the sinking of two pits to the Blackshale coal, about 40 yards deep; the one 9ft. 6in., the other 8ft. 6in. in diameter, at Dronfield. Further particulars may be known on application to H. Rangeley, Esq., or to Mr. Goodwin, mineral agent, Chesterfield, to whom all tenders must be sent in, on, or before Monday, May 23rd., 1859.

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Fatal Accident.

On Saturday last, by adjournment, an inquest was held at Clay Cross, before Mr. Busby, coroner, on view of the body of George Jackson, aged 22, who, it appeared, met with his death by being run over on the incline railway connected with the Clay Cross works. The evidence was to the effect that as the deceased was riding on a brake van he, by some means, fell off, and the waggon passing over him caused death to ensue shortly afterwards. Verdict accordingly.

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The Iron Trade.

Wolverhampton, Thursday - At Birmingham today, as Wolverhampton yesterday, business was stagnant. Malleable iron-makers reported the receipt of no orders of note as the result of the week's correspondence from either home or foreign customers. The last American mail brought scarcely anything except information of tolerably large consignments were going out upon sale, and that very low rates were being accepted by some houses here. These facts, with the circumstance that by this time they had crossed the Atlantic the intelligence of the effects which the Italian War had had upon the commercial classes of this country, lead to the expectation that the Americans will hold back as much as possible for some time, expecting a general fall in prices. Low prices have no doubt already been taken for malleable iron. A transaction in bars of a very fair quality was booked at Wolverhampton at £7 per ton. Pigs continue unsaleable. The few transactions of the week have been for exceedingly small quantities, and at prices which are regarded as a barometer to the necessities of the makers, which are variant.

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No Headline.

A hound, called Rokeby, belonging to Mr. Trelawney, during a recent run, fell into an old mineshaft within the precincts of Dartmoor, and after remaining at the bottom for 13 days was rescued by a miner, and is recovering from the effects of his long fast.

Cornwall Gazette.

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No Headline.

A fire broke out at the engine house of the West Silkstone Colliery, on Saturday night, and one of the watchmen employed by the company unfortunately lost his life. The watchman had gone to sleep in the engine house, it is supposed the fire occurred by his accidentally overturning his lamp. The fire was soon got under, but the unfortunate man died in great agony early on Sunday morning.

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Advert - On Sale - A Direct Acting Pumping Engine.

With suitable boiler and fittings; together with 12 yards of 6 inch pumps and working barrel complete; also the brickwork, chimney stack and buildings comprising machinery house, and smith shop.

A respectable person buying this plant would be treated with for it to remain and work several acres of coal connected therein at a low royalty. Apply to William Baker, Chesterfield.

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Matlock - Mining Dinner.

The working miners and the agents of the "Seven Rakes" and "Cawder" lead mines, were on Saturday last treated to an excellent dinner at Mrs. Roper's, The Queens Head Inn, Matlock Bridge, the chief proprietor, Herbert Milnes, Esq., being the donor. About a hundred famous board-fellows did full justice to a plentiful supply of all substantial, many of the delicacies ?????? ???; the chair being safely occupied by Mr. Milnes. After "The Queen" and other loyal toasts had received full honours, the chairman, in a brief speech, stated that many thousands of pounds had been expended on the two mines; some, perhaps, disadvantageously, but he hoped the present prospects were of a nature to promise some remuneration to the company. Mr. John Marriott, agent, said they had been working on the "dead horse" for six or seven years, during which time, however, much money had been expended, and this expenditure must have been beneficial to the neighbourhood. The speaker concluded by giving the health of the company. The toast was ably responded to by the chairman, who expressed a fervent hope that some of the lost money would find its way back into the pockets of the proprietors. Mr. Milnes said that ill-natured reports had been circulated stating that he had coerced some of his workmen in the matter of politics, but this he strenuously and emphatically denied, as did also the workmen. Mr. W. Fogg, of Bonsall, gave a lengthy and sensible speech, in which he touched generally on the mining prospects of the county, and sat down amidst much applause. The chair was vacated about dusk, but many of the miners made a lengthy and convivial evening of it, and harmony was commencing when we left the room.

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Mining in the High Peak.

On Monday the Peak Forest Mining Company sold by tender, on the mine, its first sampling of ore, 10 tons, at £13-5-6d. per ton, amounting to £132-15-0d. It is little more than 12 months since this company turned the first sod, and during that short period two spacious walled shafts have been sunk and completed, one on the eastern boundary, 40 fathoms deep, from which a level has been driven, and the present sampling of ore taken. A gate is being cut some fathoms above this level, which is expected to add largely to the yield of ore. One huge piece weighing upwards of one hundredweight, was a few days ago brought to the surface. The other shaft, some distance westward on the same vein, has been sunk to the depth of 31 fathoms. The sinking of this shaft will have to be continued some four fathoms more to reach the run of ore known to exist at that depth. Each shaft is fitted up with an excellent horse gin, and all necessary appliances needed for the efficient working of the mine. A house and office for the manager has been built on the spot; a blacksmith's and carpenter's shop, and a roomy shed for the reception of ore, has also been erected. In the 40 fathom level rails have been put down to facilitate the exit of the material, and no more water has to be drawn that is required for the washing and dressing of the ores. It is somewhat satisfactory to the proprietors to add that, although so large an amount of work has been completed in so short a time, no more than £1 per share has been called up, and expended, one fourth of which was paid for the purchase of the mine; and taking into account the progress which has been made, and the extent of the Company's plant, coupled with the future prospects which the mine holds out, it is a matter of considerable encouragement to the shareholders.

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Milltown Mining Company (Limited).

(From the reporter).

The half yearly meeting of this Company was held at the Commercial Hotel, Chesterfield, on Thursday afternoon, 12th. instant, Charles Binns, Esq., in the chair. The Secretary (Mr. T. Wilkinson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the statement of accounts, the following Report of the Directors was submitted to the meeting and unanimously approved off; -

"Gentlemen - Since the last half-yearly meeting your directors have been principally engaged in exploring the mine, and the half-yearly accounts show that £286-16-10d. has been spent in accomplishing this object, and, we are happy to state, with every prospect of success, for at no time has the mine presented so satisfactory an appearance as it now does.

Your directors do not propose at present to extent these exploring drifts, but to continue their attention on the work opened out, as there is as much work going on in getting ore, as the engine, with the great amount of work it has to do in drawing, pumping, and crushing to accomplish.

If the mine continues as at present, it may be desirable to erect an engine for drawing only, but your directors will not incur this expense without due consideration.

Although we have to regret the small amount of profit on the half year, amounting only to £22- 10-11d. we have to congratulate the shareholders in the success which has attended the cost incurred in the exploration

(There are now about six or seven paragraphs missing, due to a hole in the paper which was microfilmed).

We have, within these last few days, found the vein on the north-east side, but at the time of writing this report, sufficient progress has not been made to prove its merits; but I have no doubt from the minerals it contains and the dirt in it, that it will be a fruitful vein and will not require so much getting as the Milltown Vein; I believe sufficient of it is known for me to conclude that the expense of driving will be dispensed with both in this and the bottom drive.

If ever the Milltown Mine presented an encouraging appearance, it is at this time; we have near seventy miners at work, or getting ore (exclusive of the dressers) with every probability of materially increasing their numbers.

I have the honour to be,
Your humble servant, John Boden.

May 9th., 1859."

This report was likewise approved of, and the shareholders present expressed themselves highly satisfied with the undertaking and sanguine as to the ultimate richness of the mine. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors (who were re-appointed) for their valuable services.

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Explosion of Firedamp.

On Tuesday morning, about seven o'clock, an explosion of firedamp took place at Mr. Clarke's pit, Haigh Lane, near Renishaw Ironworks. The explosion took place in one of the workings, from what cause we have not ascertained, and five men were seriously injured. There were about twenty workmen in the pit at the time.

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The Late Colliers' Strike near Barnsley.

On Wednesday, at the Barnsley Court House, William Clarke, and 13 other turn-outs at East Gawber Colliery, were placed in the dock before J.S. Stanhope, Esq., and E.C. Taylor, Esq., on a charge of assaulting George Brown, Robert Howell, John Bailey, and John Gillespie, persons at present working at the East Gawber Pit. About 16 weeks ago, a turn-out took place at the above pit, nearly the whole of the men leaving their employ. A number of new hands and some of the old ones have since been working at the colliery as what are termed "black sheep"; these latter number about 40. These men, in returning to and from their work, have been subject to every kind of insult by the old hands. On the 16th. inst. these insults, which had been confined to opprobrious epithets, assumed a more substantial form. On that day one of the men at present working named Brown, went to a beer-house adjoining the colliery, where he was attacked by a party of about 40 turn-outs, who kicked and used him very severely. Gillespie and the other complainants came to his assistance, when they were also assaulted, the mob ?????? them to the works and threatening to murder them if they continued to work. A night or two afterwards another party of ruffians went to the colliery, smashed the windows of the cottages and buildings, leaving the place with a desolate appearance, but with regard to the latter outrage we believe no one has yet been apprehended. The assault upon complainants, it was alleged, was premeditated; and Mr. Shaw, barrister, (instructed by Messrs. Newman and Son of Barnsley) hoped the Bench would make an example of the prisoners. a number of witnesses were called, and the cases, which were taken together, occupied the time of the court for nearly three hours. Mr. Clough (of Pontefract), who appeared for the defence, addressed the Bench at considerable length on behalf of the prisoners. The magistrates then retired, and after a short consultation, convicted John Swift and five others in the penalty of five pounds each, while the remaining eight were fined one pound each and costs; in default of payment to stand committed to Wakefield House of Correction for two months each, with hard labour. The cases created great interest, the Court and its approaches being crowded with spectators.

Illustrated London News

Saturday 28th. May 1859

Remarkable Instance of Self-preservation.

The Newcastle Chronicle records a startling incident which occurred at the Keld Head Lead-mines last week, and which exhibits a remarkable degree of presence of mind and promptitude of action on the part of an inspector of the works. The gentleman had occasion to enter one of the mines, and descended two or three shafts, (i.e. from a higher to a lower level). Having completed his survey, he started on his return to the mouth of the mine, but was somewhat surprised to find that none of the workmen were in that part of the mine. This surprise deepened into alarm when he arrived at the foot of one of the shafts, where he had usually been drawn up, and found that it too, was deserted. He contrived, however, to scramble up to the next higher level. Here he discovered a train of gunpowder, laid for the purpose of blasting the very spot of earth on which he was standing. The match was lit, and the insidious spark rapidly scintillating towards the train of gunpowder, which would, in an instant, have scattered the ore into a thousand atoms, and hurried the unfortunate man into eternity. But he seized the fatal match, and escaped the catastrophe. The workmen, who were not aware of any one being in the mine, after firing the train, had retired from the mine to avoid the effects of the explosion.