

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. September 1859.

Page 3 Col. 4.

No Headline.

The New Midland shareholders have had a meeting, and determined upon creating £2,000 additional capital, for the purpose of the continuing trial of this mine. Some of the new shareholders who have had experience in mining, are of the opinion that the mine at Ashover has not been fairly tried.

A meeting of the Haslam Pipe Mining Company, Matlock, was held on Tuesday, when it was decided to take immediate steps for the recovery of all arrears of calls due upon the shares. It did not transpire what steps the directors would take. It was rumoured that an offer had been made for the mine and the plant.

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Open-Air Meeting of Colliers.

A large open-air meeting of colliers was held on Monday afternoon, on the Wrexham race-course, for the purpose of coming to some arrangements with respect to the strike. The meeting was called by a placard signed by "A Collier"; and the men, after waiting a length of time, began to fancy they had been made the subject of a silly hoax. They collected about the printer whose name was attached to the imprint of the notice, and demanded to know the name of the party or parties who had given him instructions about the notice. This he refused to do, but promised to go in search of him, and if not found during the day, he would tell the name on the following morning. This announcement was received with loud cheers, and the printer at once left, and returned shortly afterwards with the "Collier", who proved to be a Mr. Joseph, a civil engineer. After a chairman had been appointed, proceedings commenced, speeches pro and con were delivered, the colliers having as their spokesman a person connected with the South Staffordshire mining district. The meeting terminated with the colliers appointing a deputation to wait upon a meeting of employers at Brymbo, for the purpose of demanding a rise of 4d. per day, which had been reduced by 2d., 6d. being the sum first asked.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. September 1859.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Fatal Accident at Staveley.

On Thursday, H.E. Walker, Esq., deputy coroner, held an inquest at Mr. Ratcliffe's, Miners Arms, Staveley, on the body of a boy, aged 15, named Edward Platts Stoke, who was killed at Mr. Barrow's furnace, near the railway station, on the day previous. It appeared that Thomas Ratcliffe and another man were lifting a large piece of metal with a crane, when it accidentally fell on deceased's back, who was at that time oiling some of the wheels. He died immediately. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Page 2 Col. 5.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Derbyshire.

An invention has been patented by Mr. J.T. Calow, a working joiner, residing at Staveley, near Chesterfield, for the purpose of preventing accidents from overwinding or the breaking of the pit rope. The invention is simple, yet effective. It consists of springs, just so made as to work from the cage on the conductors from the bottom to the top. There is a perforated shield over the top of the cage, which is intended to shelter the workmen in the event of anything falling from above. If the cage should be wound up too high, the chain will soon hear of it. The strength of the apparatus has been tried by a weight of about 11 tons. The first sod of a new railway from Buxton to Whaley Bridge was turned on Friday. A meeting of the North Derbyshire Mining Company was held on Thursday, Mr. W. Condell (surgeon) in the chair. A statement was laid before the meeting as to the prospects and position of the mine, which showed an actual deficiency of £550; besides which there were several accounts not yet due - one from Messrs. Walker and Company, of Sheffield, for the ironwork of the pumps and pitwork at Calver Sough. There is also an account from the Bowling Iron Company, for the payment of which provision will have to be made. After a discussion, it was moved by Mr. Booth, of Chesterfield, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that a call of 10-0d. per share should be made payable by two five shilling instalments, the first on September the 10th., the remainder on December the 10th. A resolution was passed exceedingly personal and presumptuous towards your correspondent. It was to the effect that, in consequence of the accurate reports respecting this mine, no reports should be inserted in this Journal except those sent by Thompson and Broomhead, one of the members of the committee. The great magnate, who occasionally attends the meetings from Wirksworth, had taken umbrage at our having stated an accident had happened to the pumps, and also that another call would have to be made. Now, however unpleasant it may be for the directors of the North Derbyshire to be told that they would have to pay another call, we shall never keep the fact a secret, though it may have a prejudicial effect upon the shares. We always endeavour to obtain accurate information, and if at any time we should feel incompetent for our task, we will not fail to secure service with the Wirksworth magnate to assist us. It may also be unpleasant to state generally that a call of £1 per share has been made upon the Eyam shares.

Mining Journal.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Eyam.

On Wednesday, the 31st. August, members and friends of the Accident Club, Brightside lead mine, held their annual festival in a large room at Mr. William Bland's, Forester's Arms. The room was very tastefully decorated with evergreens and the choicest flowers, which gave it a very imposing appearance, and, notwithstanding the wetness of the day, upwards of 70 sat down to a most sumptuous dinner of old English fare, which was well served up, and did great credit to the worthy host and hostess. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Abraham Goodwin, one of the workmen, was unanimously called to the chair; Mr. Ralph Ashton, junior, was called to the vice-chair. The chairman then ???? ???? some cheers, and delivered an able and suitable address for the occasion, commenting at large on the necessity of harmony, peace, and good-will one towards another, which was received with great applause. The chairman then proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were drunk with enthusiasm. The health of the Army and Navy were also given, and most enthusiastically responded to. The next toast was "Health and prosperity to the Brightside Mining Company", drunk with honours; Mr. Benjamin Bland replying in very suitable terms. The health of "The honorary members and friends of the Club", "Success to the North Derbyshire Mining Company", accompanied with some very encouraging remarks on their great undertaking, wishing them every success; Mr. C. Slowe replied: "Mr. Brooks, agent to the North Derbyshire Mining Company" was the next toast, and was duly honoured. Mr. Charles Slowe proposed "The health of the Chairman", in very complimentary terms, which was drunk with musical honours; the chairman responded "The health of the host and hostess" was then given, followed by others, duly responded to. Mr. Joseph Higton, secretary to the club, took the opportunity of congratulating the officers and members on the flourishing state of the funds, and recommended similar clubs to be formed at other large mines, to assist the working miner in case of accident. The conviviality of the day was much promoted by the vocal and instrumental abilities of Mr. Morton, Mr. Wall, and others, of Sheffield. At eight o'clock the National Anthem was sung, and a vote of thanks given to the chairman who then withdrew and dancing commenced, which was kept up with great spirit until a seasonable hour, when all separated highly delighted with their evenings entertainment.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Accident at Alfreton.

On Saturday afternoon, about four o'clock, a young boy, a son of George Rumley, met with a serious accident on the branch railway belonging to the colliery of William Palmer Morewood, Esq.; whilst in the act of uncoupling the wagons, he fell down, the wagons partly going over him, breaking one of his legs and injuring the other in a fearful manner.

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Page 3 Cols. 2-3.

Serious and Fatal Colliery Accident at Mosboro'.

Two Lives Lost and several Seriously Injured.

(From the Sheffield Telegraph of Friday).

An alarming colliery accident took place on Thursday afternoon at the Silkstone Main Colliery, Mosboro' Moor, the property of Messrs. Swallow. About three o'clock an immense amount of smoke was discovered issuing out of the drawing or upcast shaft; this was an indication that a fire had broken out in the pit, and we may here observe, that there is a steam engine in the pit for the purpose of securing ventilation. From the furnace of the engine there was a flue communicating with the shaft. This flue had become overheated and fired the coal through which it passed. There were thirty to forty hands in the pit, principally lads, and before they had time to collect at the bottom of the pit, the shaft had become full of smoke, and rendered useless as a means of exit. The only means of safety, therefore, was by the downcast or pumping shaft, at a depth of 160 yards, and the passage very limited, in consequence of the piping and gear of the pumps. A "gin" and pulley was therefore at once put into execution, and volunteers sent down to search for the men confined below. The first were brought to the surface at about six o'clock, and from the information that could be gathered, it seemed that immediately after the accident occurred the miners rushed to the bottom of the upcast shaft, expecting to get into the chairs and at once to be brought to the top, but finding the shaft and the neighbourhood of the engine on fire, they pursued their way up a heading or drift to the other shaft, and there waited for assistance from above.

In the meantime the man named James Travis had been placed on a stage forty yards from the surface to render assistance as the case required, and about sixty yards lower down another man named John Blackburn was stationed for a similar purpose. Up to ten o'clock the draught of ventilation would not permit of such active exertions as the men were desirous of making; the wind suddenly changing, the proper course of ventilation was established, and the volunteers had a better opportunity of carrying on their work.

At ten thirty about fourteen or sixteen had been rescued, the principal colliers who had assisted in their deliverance being Frith, Berresford and Ellis Hulley, the former of whom had rescued no less than six. In consequence of the narrowness of the shaft, instead of an ordinary chair being employed, it was found necessary to use what is technically called a "horse", a plain seat, the men securing themselves to it by means of a strap, and in order to facilitate their operation two of these "horses" were first used instead of one. The plan required very great caution, but notwithstanding every attention to this point, a distressing circumstance occurred, which resulted fatally. A lad named Kirkby was being taken up, and when he reached the station where Blackburn was placed with two lanterns, he thought he had arrived at the top, and endeavoured to disengage himself, and in so doing fell to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of about sixty feet. His screams, which were heard by those in the pit, were described as heart-rending; and as no more was heard of him after the fall, the conclusion is that he was killed on the spot. In consequence of the darkness of the pit, and the immense amount of water which was draining into it, there was great difficulty in keeping the men's lanterns burning.

At about a quarter to twelve, immediately after Hulley had brought up two youths, and was preparing to descend again an explosion occurred in the workings below, the effect of which was most alarming in the shaft where the men were congregated, and also on the surface. For a time all hopes of rescuing the hands remaining in the pit were given up. In a short time the shaft cleared a little, and the horse was sent down for the man Travis at the first stage, and he came up in safety. Travis could give no account of the others lower down the pit, and the "horse" was again lowered, the crowd at the top breathlessly waiting the result, fearing that all below had perished. The "horse" was allowed gradually to descend, and when it arrived at Blackburn's stage the signal announced that he was safe, and shortly after he was brought to the top in an exhausted condition. After being partly restored he stated that immediately after the explosion he could hear some of the men shouting below, and that he believed they were all safe. The explosion extinguished his lights for many seconds, but on the shaft clearing they came light again.

Notwithstanding the favourable report given by Blackburn, it was still considered not safe to send anyone down, and the "horse" was therefore again lowered empty, fortunately most of the men at the bottom were able to attach themselves to it; but the work of drawing them up was one of great difficulty, requiring extreme caution, as the explosion destroyed the signal apparatus, the ropes of which were liable to become entangled with the "horse", and also from other obstructions which presented themselves at different points in the shaft.

The last man brought up before our reporter left (making twenty six or twenty seven) was named Glassby. This was a little after one o'clock this morning. He stated that three men were still in the pit, but in consequence of being severely burned by the explosion they were unable to come up without assistance, and he also added that two youths, one the lad Kirby, and the other named Stephenson, who was supposed to have been knocked off the stagings, either by Kirby in his fall, or some of the debris, were both dead, and he was not aware whether any others of those he had named were remained alive.

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Page 4 Col. 3.

No Headline.

On Tuesday an inquest was held at Orrell, near Wigan, on the bodies of two workmen who were unfortunately killed at a new "sinking" of the Norley Coal Company. An accident had, it appears, happened to the "cage" by which materials were drawn up to the mouth of the pit, and before it was properly repaired, and indeed during the reparation of the disaster, the deceased were drawn up in it. The rope broke near the top of the pit, and the two unfortunate men were precipitated to a depth of 64 yards. Of course they were picked up dead. A third workman was in the cage, but he managed to catch hold of the rope by which they were drawn up, and, after an extraordinary exertion to ascend to the top.

The Mining Journal

September 10th 1859

Nidderdale Mine.

They have already sunk an air shaft, which effectively ventilates the workings at Sir Thomas White's Shaft, and are driving on the Wonderful Level, in which a promising vein was caught on the 6th of September, from which they are now raising good bouse ore. Holebottom Shaft has been cleared out to a considerable depth, and zinc air pipes are being fixed in Perseverance Level to ventilate it. This level will be cleared out and driven on as fast as possible.

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Saturday 17th. September 1859.

Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Notice.

All persons having any claims upon the estate of the late Samuel Briddon, of Brampton Moor, earthenware manufacturer, deceased, are requested to forward particulars thereof to the undersigned, on behalf of the administratrix; and all persons indebted to the said Samuel Briddon, are desired to pay the amounts owing to me forthwith.

Richard T. Gratton,  
Solicitor for the Administratrix.

Chesterfield, September 15th, 1859.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. September 1859.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Breaking into a Counting House.

In the course of Saturday night last some thieves broke into the counting house at Wingerworth Ironworks, an entrance being effected by taking a pane out of the window on the south-west side of the office, unfastening the window, and getting into the office. A person from Clay Cross had occasion to visit one of the men about four o'clock, and was going down the road leading to the works when he caught sight of a man coming through the window of the counting house. He made an attempt to pursue the burglar, but was prevented by a pond of water intervening, before he could accomplish a circuit the rascal escaped. It is supposed that a confederate gave timely warning. The discoverer of the burglary then gave intelligence to the nightwatchman of what happened. It was found that the thief or thieves had strewn the contents of some drawers on the floor, but nothing appeared to have been taken away.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

No Headline.

The new pits recently opened at Staveley are augmenting the supply of these extensive works, and have enabled the spirited proprietor to meet the enormous demand made upon him. We have nothing to report this week in reference to the lead-mining interest in Derbyshire. The failure of the supply of ore from Eyam appears to have cast a gloom over most other mines, and rendered things exceedingly flat and quiet.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. September 1859.

Page 3 Cols. 4-5.

The Fatal Colliery Accident at Mosboro' - Four Lives Lost.

In addition to the facts stated in our last, we give the following:-

At about a quarter to twelve o'clock an explosion took place in the workings of the mine, and blew with such force up both shafts, especially up the downcast shaft, that for a time all hopes were given up for the safety of the men still remaining in the pit, and the "horse" was sent down empty, first to the men on the stages, and afterwards to those at the bottom. They were found to be all safe and the work proceeded, the last man got out alive being George O'Gee, one of the hurriers, who was safely landed at the surface at about four o'clock on Friday morning. It was then stated that four still remained in the pit, and that they were all dead, and as the flames were making headway towards the bottom of the downcast the difficulties of securing them were increasing. The two volunteers who were most successful in that dangerous task were Frith Beresford, and Ellis Hulley, whose intrepid gallantry was deserving of the greatest praise. On reaching the surface the colliers seemed to be suffering most from cold and wet, some of them being literally half-drowned, and the fresh air had the effect of making them sick, and for a time some of them were all but laid prostrate by the sudden change. At the time the explosion occurred a crowd of people was gathered round the top of the shaft, but these were suddenly blown away, and in the mine below one of the men said that he and a rail he was sitting on were completely lifted up the shaft, by holding fast to the rail he fell into his former position. The man Hulley had just landed two at the pit's mouth and was preparing to descend again, being in fact suspended over the hole, but beyond suffering slightly from the sulphur, and the sudden stopping of his breathing, he was not injured. It was stated by the men who were in the pit that immediately on discovering the fire they all collected together, and tried to extinguish it with water, from the reserve that supplies the engine, but only having one bucket they were unable to do so, and the smoke prevented them from getting to the bottom of the upcast or they would have been brought out in the chairs. The fire, they stated, originated in that part of the flue nearest the engine, where it was protected by bricks, and the supposition is that it has been caused by the bricks having become heated, and whilst in that condition coal has fallen on top of them, and having become fired, communicated with the mass around. In addition to the explosion that took place a little before twelve o'clock the miners state that there was a slight explosion shortly after the fire broke out, but that none of them were injured by either of them. On Friday morning, at about eight or nine o'clock, the bodies of Naboth Kirkby, aged 19 years, and Hugh Bird, aged 16 years, were recovered by two of the volunteers and brought to the surface, but nothing could be seen of the other two, Henry Stevenson and Charles Meggitt. There is not the slightest hope of believing that they are alive, for the last man who ascended stated that the fire was working its way to the bottom of the engine shaft, and in addition to this the place was really so wet and cold that there is not the slightest probability that they will be able to live in it. This remark should more apply to Meggitt, as Stevenson was killed by the fall of Kirkby. At four o'clock on Friday morning after it had been ascertained that all that were alive had been got out, the fire-engines played till about eight o'clock into the upcast shaft, at which hour, or a little after, they returned home. The flames ??????, however, still supposed to be raging in the neighbourhood of the engine between the bottom of the shafts, but the quantity of smoke emitted from the pit's mouth is not so great as on Thursday night. How the fire is to be extinguished has not yet been determined; at present the drainage water from the pit is allowed to accumulate, but it will at least be a period of two or three months before this can reach the level where the fire is burning, and unless it is put out by a fall of earth, or some other

unexpected means, the proprietors may have to resort to covering over both the shafts to prevent the circulation of air. The mine was visited on Friday by Mr. Hedley, of Derby, the Government Inspector; and we ought also to state, amongst others who offered their assistance on the night of the catastrophe were Mr. Harwood and Mr. Jones, surgeons, of Eckington, Mr. Thorpe, surgeon, of Staveley. It might also be stated that the pit is well ventilated, and has generally been considered a safe one, and, like most of them in this locality, the workmen have not used Davy lamps. The following are the names of the men who were in the pit at the time the accident happened: - killed: Naboth Kirkby, 19, filler; Hugh Bird, 16, hurrier; Chas. Meggitt, 12 or 13, hurrier; Henry Stevenson, 12, door-trapper - Rescued: William Shepherd, horse-driver; William Holden, hanger-on; Robert Hawkins, engine-tenter; Jas. Michell, hanger-on; Richard Herring, coal-getter; John Kaye, coal-getter; Richard Meggitt, filler; Joseph Glasby, filler; William Brammell, coal-getter; John Coates, coal-getter; John Bred, coal-getter; John Metcalfe, hurrier; Ian Stevenson, hurrier; Isaac Plant, coal-getter; Septimus Plant, coal-getter; Richard Blackburn, coal-getter; Alfred Riley, filler; Henry Wood, filler; Jon. Kaye, hurrier; Thomas Sissons, hurrier; Henry Bayley, hurrier; George Plant, coal-getter; William Currey, filler; Benjamin Barber, filler; John Lomas, coal-getter; John Turner, filler; Thomas Dean, hurrier; William Meggitt, tenter; George Gee, hurrier.

On Saturday morning H.E. Walker, Esq., M.D., Deputy Coroner, opened the inquest on the bodies, no evidence was taken, proceedings being taken merely to enable the bodies to be interred. The jury having viewed the bodies of the unfortunate youths the inquest was adjourned till the 5th. of October.

Another attempt was made on Sunday morning to recover the bodies of two boys still remaining in the pit, but owing to the heat and smoke at the bottom of the downcast it proved unsuccessful. In order to remove this obstruction, a fan was on Monday erected at the top of the shaft, and a current of air driven into the mine; and it was expected that in a day or so this plan would so far succeed as to enable another descent to be made.

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Saturday 24th. September 1859.

Page 4 Col. 2.

Fatal Pit Explosion.

A fatal explosion has taken place at the Gospel Oak, near Tipton, in South Staffordshire, at a colliery belonging to Messrs. Walker, ironmasters, of that place. To this colliery there is a bye-pit, at the bottom of which there is a "sump", or well of water, 18 yards deep. Out of the shaft of the bye-pit two headways or levels have been driven about 164 yards to another pit, to carry the water out of the latter. The levels or headways were about 6 feet high in some parts, and the first is about 117 yards down the shaft. Some rails requiring to be taken out of the headway, James Taverner, a sinker, and two other men descended to the first level, taking with them two lighted candles. Immediately upon reaching the level a quantity of sulphur exploded, and Taverner was blown down the shaft, and fell into the "sump". When the body of the unhappy man was discovered, it presented a shocking appearance. It was sadly burnt, and the neck was broken. The other two men referred to have escaped with their lives, but they are much burnt. It is alleged that on the morning of the accident, a ground bailiff instructed the deceased to take the safety lamp with him, but that he replied there was no necessity for this, as the place was safe. The inquest has been opened, but adjourned, in the hope that the two injured men may be sufficiently recovered to enable them to give evidence, and in order also that Mr. Longridge, the Government Inspector for the District, might examine the pit.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

No Headline.

The South Wales coalfield is about 75 miles long and 25 miles wide. Sir William Logan had estimated its thickness at 13,000 feet, and it contains 100 beds of coal varying from 1 inch to 90 feet in thickness.