

Derbyshire Times.

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Advert - Tenders for Coal.

The Nottingham Gas Light and Coke Company are desirous to receive offers for supplies (amounting in the aggregate to 40,000 tons) of Soft Coals and Soft Cobbles or Nuts, for the period ending 30th. June, 1861.

The large coals and the cobbles or nuts are to be separately delivered, and as from time to time directed, by and at the expense of the contractors, upon the Gas Company's Station, at the East Croft, at Nottingham, and at the Midland Company's Railway Station, at Nottingham, and also on the Gas Company's Railway Sidings at B(?)radford and Basford respectively, and at and after the rate of one-sixth part of such total quantity in each calendar month, commencing with the month of July next, till the Company shall be satisfied with the amount of accumulated stock, and afterwards at such rate as shall be from time to time directed, till the agreed quantity shall have been delivered.

The Company will undertake to receive from each person or firm, whose tender may be accepted, a total quantity of 500 tons at the least; but they do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or other tender or tenders, till after a satisfactory trial of the Coals and Cobbles or Nuts, to which such tender or tenders may relate, shall have been made. They are to be the best of their kind, and as free as possible from sulphur, bats, bind, refuse, and dirt; and shall be weighed (20 cwt. to the ton) upon the Railway's Machine, or upon such other machine as may be mutually agreed upon.

Payments will be made monthly, if and so long as the contract shall be duly fulfilled, to the extent of nine-tenths of the amount of the invoices, and the balance will be discharged on the satisfactory completion of the contract.

Sealed tenders (to be made on forms obtainable at the Company's Office), specifying the description of Coals and the pits at which they are to be raised, and stating the prices for deliveries at the several places, and in manner and subject to the conditions aforesaid, must be delivered at the office of William Hunt, Esq., Clerk to the Company, on or before noon on Thursday, the 12th. day of April next, and the acceptance of any tender or tenders shall be announced within fourteen days then next after.

The contracting parties will be required to execute a formal agreement under seal, to be prepared by and to the satisfaction of the Solicitor of the Company.

(By order of the committee),
T. Hawkesley,
Engineer to the Company,

Nottingham Gas Office, 20th. March, 1860.

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Accident in a Coal Pit.

On Tuesday last Mr. Busby held an inquest at the Municipal Hall, Chesterfield, on the body of John Cody, an Irishman, who was killed in the Hollingwood (Do Well) Pit, near Staveley, by a "clod" falling on him. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". Deceased was interred in the cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, on the Roman Catholic ground amidst a large concourse of spectators.

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Frightful Accident at Whittington.

On Monday last, Mr. Busby, held an inquest at the Wellington Hotel, New Whittington, on the body of a boy named John Pearson Whittaker who came to death by the following distressing circumstances on Saturday last. It appears from the evidence of James Burley, and engine tender in the employ of Messrs. Firth, that deceased was employed to drive a small engine, and witness drove a large one, in the rolling mill. Deceased had stopped the small engine and was prising the large hammer which is connected with the engine, with a crowbar. Whilst he was doing this the engine was started by someone else, and witness heard a scream, and then a person shout "Stop the engine - the lad's dead". The engine was stopped and deceased was found to be jammed between the "grace" and the wall. When the engine was started he would be on the crowbar, and it would have thrown him up and the wheel moving would have pulled him down into the cog wheel race, and crushed him between the stonework and the wheel. He was crushed into a space of 5 inches, and when found was quite dead. His arms and ribs were frightfully mutilated, and his thigh broken. The man who touched the engine had no right there as it was not his work; but the engine was very easy to start. After a deal of evidence had been taken, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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A Miraculous Escape.

A few evenings ago, Mr. Tagg, of Dirlow Farm, near Ashford, was going home about 9 o'clock, when on the hillside known as the "Harrock", he saw what he supposed to be an earthslip, as though some old mineshaft had run in; but, as the night was dark, he was unable to examine it. Having a rope in his hand he threw one end into the supposed chasm to ascertain if he was correct, and after satisfying himself he proceeded homewards. The circumstances haunted him all night, and as soon as daylight appeared he returned to the spot to examine it more minutely, he now heard someone in a low feeble voice ask for help, and on enquiring who is was, was answered "George Keeling; and I have been here since nine o'clock yesterday morning". Mr. Tagg at once procured the assistance of Messrs. T. Platts, R. Wilson, G. Baguley, and others, who placed a large pole across the declivity, and let down a cart rope over the centre, to which the poor man attached himself, and in about half an hour was drawn to the surface supposedly uninjured, save from the cold and the cramp, owing to the peculiar position he was in. He had fallen sixteen yards and then lodged on a ledge in the shaft, and supported himself in this perilous position by placing his hands alternately on the opposite side of the shaft. The debris had all sunk below him to an unknown distance, and his escape may be termed quite miraculous.

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Wages Claim.

George Fletcher summoned William Eyre for non-payment of two days wages, 4-0d. per day, due to him. Defendant denied the claim by saying complainant had never worked for him by the day - the work he had done was piece-work. Robert Limb, who gave evidence in a very concise manner, spoke to meeting the parties in a public house, and he there saw the accounts of each, and the item 2 days, 4-0d. per day, was on them both. Charles Mason, a collier working in the same pit, was called, but his evidence being unsatisfactory, the magistrates adjourned the case for a fortnight to enable both parties to bring forward more witnesses.

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Extensive Robberies at the Staveley Iron Works.

Frederick Clarke, of St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, was charged with stealing a quantity of steel, copper, brass, and blacksmiths tools, which will be found enumerated in the following evidence, the property of R. Barrow, Esq., of the Staveley Iron Works. Superintendent Radford, of the Borough Police, Chesterfield, sworn: I saw Mr. Barrow on the Saturday last, and in consequence of information I received from him, I went with Inspector Gulley to the prisoner's house in St. Mary's Gate. We made a search of the premises and in a box in the kitchen I found 19 copper burrs, a copper screw, and a piece of copper boiler plate. At that time the defendant was from home. I directed a constable to remain in the house for the purpose of detaining the prisoner when he came home. On my return about four or five o'clock, I found the prisoner in custody at his house. The copper burrs and other property I ordered to be brought into the place where prisoner was. It was done, and I then told him he was taken into custody on a charge of stealing the property. I asked him if he could give me any satisfactory account as to how he became possessed of the property. I told him to be careful what he said, for what he did say I should use in evidence against him. He said he had given tuppence, threepence and sixpence for some of it, but the things were found there and he should have to stand to it - he expected he should get transported for it, but it was useless bringing any person in it. I then had the whole of the property removed and the prisoner to the lock-up. Inspector Galley corroborated the evidence of the above witness, and said he found the property, consisting of several hundredweight of material, under a quantity of chips in the cellar. Thomas Frost, foreman of the ironworks belonging to Mr. Barrow, said that prisoner was a striker for a boiler maker. On Friday night he saw the defendant in the yard, and saw him pick up the piece of steel engine spring produced and put it in his pocket. He asked him what he was going to do with it, and prisoner said he was going to take it to Handley Wood to have some steel clippits made from it. He cautioned him as to taking material, as he might be brought into trouble. He reported him to Mr. Gibson, the manager of the works, and the property was found in prisoner's house. John Thorley, foreman of the locomotive department, identified a piece of engine spring, and he produced the corresponding part, which fitted exactly. A number of other gentlemen, occupying responsible situations at Staveley, clearly identified different articles, and proved to having ordered prisoner off the works after hours. After a deal of evidence, the prisoner was asked if he anything to say in answer to the charge. He said, "I am sorry for the charge, but I have been lead into it". He was then committed for trial at the Sessions. Mr. Busby appeared for prosecutor, and Mr. Cutts was engaged for defendant, but being from home he was represented by Mr. Peacock, his clerk.

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No Headline.

On Thursday last, at the Municipal Hall, the inquest adjourned from the proceeding Saturday on the body of Patrick Kenny, an Irishman who was killed at the Do-Well Mine, Staveley, was resumed. After the examination of two witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". The family has been again this week very distressed by the melancholy death of Thomas Kenny, son of the above, who died from ?????????? on Monday last.

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Malicious and Dangerous Mischief.

Some evil disposed person or persons between the hours of Saturday evening the 7th. instant and Monday morning the 9th. instant, severed the wire rope used for running coal trucks on the incline at the Marehay Colliery, near Belper. A reward of £10 is offered for the conviction of the guilty party.

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The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

April 11th. - The Easter holidays have interfered with the regular course of business; but irrespective of this circumstance the trade of the past week has been duller than ever. A depressed tone pervaded the quarterly meeting at Wolverhampton, and masters appear now to be solicitous for orders, though, as far as we can learn, all works are making full time. As we intimated last week, there will be no alteration in the rates of iron for the coming quarter.

The coal trade is exceedingly brisk, and the demand in some instances exceeds the supply. The practice of leaving work by the colliers on a Monday has obtained such a firm hold on the men, that the coalmasters find it difficult to break through it, and the result is that in several instances committals to prison have been made whilst other coalmasters have advanced the wages of all men who shall have worked full time through the week.

The case of the imprisonment of the several colliers in the employ of Messrs. Lucas, coalmasters, of Dronfield, is creating considerable excitement. They were committed to Derby House of Correction for one month for leaving their employ. The case of the men, which was advocated before the Eckington magistrates by Mr. Roberts, of Manchester, the "Collier's Attorney-General", is that they refused to go to work on account of the defective state of the rope. Two of the men belonging to Messrs. Lucas's works are to be tried today at Hemsworth Sessions for leaving their work, and they will, in all probability, be convicted and sent to prison. The friends of all the parties imprisoned, who are sympathising with the sufferings of the families of the men, have petitioned Parliament for their liberation, but the Secretary of State has not interfered; indeed, the term of imprisonment will soon have expired.

The effect of the late heavy fall of rain is still preventing the successful working of several of the Derbyshire lead mines. Mill Dam is at present drowned out, as is also the adjoining mine of the Great Hucklow Company. There is no doubt but that the Mill Dam Mine will yield well during the coming summer, and that with the present plant the working operations may be carried on vigorously. The Hucklow Company have been drowned out since December the 4th. last, and it is probable that the water will remain for several weeks longer.

On Thursday last the Eyam Company sold 40 tons of ore, and the mine is in an improving condition. A Sheffield shareholder complains to us that the Company holds rich possessions easy of access, without making the best use of them, having one mile of vein unworked, which until lately produced from £6,000 to £9,000 per year profit. He contends that the Company could prove the vein in five different places, at an average of £100, and the cost of working would be less than at Dusty Pit, by the easier extent of the water; and he asks why it is this valuable portion of the Company's property should be held in reserve, whilst a more promising part is being worked at the cost of the shareholders. The Brightside Mine is steadily improving, and working to a profit, so that the directors have a confident hope that it will soon be in the dividend list again. The North Derbyshire Mine is in about the same position as last reported.

A dispute is now pending between the Peak United Company and the Norcliff Sough Company respecting the boundary of the two mines. The Peak United charge the Norcliff Sough

Company with working the boundary of their mine. A Barmoot Court is called for the purpose of settling the point in dispute.

The share market is flat, with the exception of Mill Dam, Eyam, and Peak United shares, all of which have improved in value. North Derbyshire, Peak Forest, and Mill Town shares are lower. The latter Company have had an excellent weigh of ore this week. The carrying of the line of rails through the Peak of Derbyshire will alter the aspect of many of the mines, by enabling proprietors to substitute steam power for manual labour, arising from the cheapness of coals.

Mining Journal.

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Wages Claim.

The adjourned hearing of the claim of George Fletcher, for 8-0d. from William Eyre, was again brought forward, but as we gave the details in our journal of the 31st. of March, and as nothing new was elicited further than the work was not done according to contract, we decline giving the evidence. After witnesses had been examined pro and con, the Bench dismissed the claim, complainant having to pay costs for witnesses expenses.

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Clay Cross.

A public meeting was held at the above village, on the open ground opposite the Primitive Methodist Chapel, at seven o'clock, in the evening to hear an address from Mr. Joshua Wood, general secretary of the National Labour Alliance for the Payment of Wages without Stoppages. Mr. Wood opened the meeting by describing the objects of the National Labour alliance to put down all stoppages of payments, by forming a mass union of all trades in both the Midlands and Lancashire and Manchester and Yorkshire, under the patronage of an attorneys Roberts and Briggs, who were to be treasurers for the Union. By this means they might overcome the "coal-kings", "cotton-kings", and "bag-hosiers", and be able to protect each from the wicked stoppages and robberies practised upon the poor men. The speaker then pointed out the doctrines of the Manchester School, and the selfish principles en Calculated by that class who were destroying all morality and virtue in the press of Englishmen, and that if constitutional and legal remedies were not successful, another and more violent course would ensue, insurrection, anarchy, and ruin to all classes. As the friend of both classes he would advise the masters to stop their onward course, or it might be too late. The speaker then described the weighings practised by a firm in Scotland, in which the deficiency amounted to 4-6d. per head each 14 days, that this system more or less was practised in all coal mines, iron mines, etc. The framework knitters were subjected to heavy stoppages, and these were increasing daily. Something ought to be done, and nothing but union and united action would accomplish this. After speaking for upwards of three-quarters of an hour, the speaker moved the following resolution, viz.: -"That we, the miners and operatives of Clay Cross resolve that a mass union, be formed for the payment of wages without stoppages, and for the just protection of our interests". Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a seconder to this resolution, as the agents of the masters were present, marking out those who were most active in taking part in the proceedings. At last the district secretary, Mr. Bafer, came forward and seconded the resolution, which was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously. After this Mr. Binns, the head agent, was seen in the background, persuading the men to leave the meeting, and offering free admissions to Henry Vincent's lecture. This move failed; all the men adjourned to the Furnace Inn, and after a short speech from Mr. Wood, the remaining resolutions were proposed, and fourteen members were enrolled, and a lodge formed at once in connection with the "Mass Union". The meeting separated at a late hour. Another meeting was announced to take place at seven o'clock, at Long's Row, near Clay Cross.

Correspondent.

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No Headline.

On Friday night last, eight pigs of lead, the property of Mr. John Brown, were stolen from Staveley. The lead had been placed for convenience near to the Staveley Works, and the following morning it was missing.

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The Imprisoned Colliers.

The following has been addressed to the Editor of the Derby Mercury:
Sir,

Several very unfair articles have appeared in different newspapers respecting the committal to Derby Gaol of Joseph Salt, by myself and Mr. Need (six others having been previously committed by me), for insubordination and refusal to work at Mr. Lucas and Company's coalpits. Mr. Roberts, of prisoners behalf, laid the whole case before the Home Secretary, and I think it only right that his decision should be published. I enclose a copy of the communication from the Home Office.

Yours Obliged,
Henry Bowden.

Southgate House, Chesterfield, April 18th., 1860.

Whitehall, 12th. April, 1860.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to thank you for your report on the case of Joseph Salt, and to acquaint you that, under all circumstances, he does not propose advising any interference in the prisoner's sentence.

I am, Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant,
J. Clive.

H. Bowden, Esq.,
Southgate House,
Chesterfield.

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Important Decision as to the Ventilation of Coal Mines.

Court of Queen's Bench, Saturday.

Knowles, Appellant; Dickinson, Respondent.

In this case the appellant had been convicted by the magistrates in Petty Sessions at Bury of a violation of the 11th. section of the Act for the Inspection of Mines (17th. and 18th. Victoria, cap. 108), and fined forty shillings. He then demanded a case to be stated by the magistrates for the opinion of this Court, under the 20th. and 21st. Victoria, cap. 43, and the case so stated set out the facts proved before the magistrates, and their finding that the mine in question was insufficiently ventilated. It appears that the mine was in ordinary use, but the works had been suspended on the Sunday, and on the Monday morning the fireman, whose duty it was, went down into the mine to see the ventilating apparatus put in order, so that the mine might be rendered safe for the men to go back down to work. He took with him several men to assist him; and, when the men went down the pit, the gas which had accumulated exploded, and by that explosion and by the firedamp several of the men were killed or injured. The question for the determination of the Court was, "are owners of mines obliged to keep their pits ventilated between Saturday night and Monday morning, the working of the pit being then stopped?"

Mr. Manisty, Q.C., for the appellant, contended that the mine was not being "worked" at the time of the accident, and, consequently, the case did not come within the 11th. section, on which the conviction was founded.

Mr. Justice Blackburn said the Act required the mine when being worked to be "constantly" ventilated.

Mr. Manisty said the working of the mine had been stopped for a time, and the men were getting it ready to go on again.

The Chief Justice: Surely owners of mines are not at liberty to expose to danger the lives of those whom they send to examine the pit.

Mr. Manisty said that if the Court were of opinion that the mine was being "worked" within the meaning of the 11th. Section he could not argue the case further.

Mr. Welsby, who appeared for the respondents, was stopped by the Court.

Lord Chief Justice Cockburn said the mine was being worked day by day, though not between the necessary hours of rest or on the Sunday. The required amount of ventilation must be kept up, and for the want of this the men who went down were injured. This action showed the wisdom of the legislature and expediency of the enactment.

Mr. Justice Crompton and Mr. Justice Blackburn were of the same opinion.

Conviction affirmed.

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Pierce v. Thornley

This was a claim for £5-13-4d. for money borrowed. The plaintiff was Francis Oliver Pierce, of Sheffield, and formerly a coal proprietor at Chesterfield; and the defendant, Richard Thornley, is a farm labourer. Defendant put in a set-off of £5-14-6d., which the defendant claimed as wages for his wife at 6-0d. per week for 19 weeks for attending to the weighing machine and weighing coals. The plaintiff in reply to the set-off, said he never consented to allow defendant's wife anything, and he paid defendant 16-0d. per week as a banksman, and that he allowed house rent and coals free in consideration for weighing. His Honour said that if defendant's wife had been allowed wages she would have been paid weekly. Judgement for plaintiff for amount claimed.

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Lomas v. Addy.

The plaintiff was William Lomas, coalminer, Dronfield, and the defendant was Mr. Joseph Addy, proprietor of the Frith Wood Colliery, Dronfield. The claim was for £8-9-7d., for day work. Mr. Chambers appeared for the defendant. The case was one of no public interest, and Judge having expressed his inability to decide the dispute satisfactorily to his mind, the case was referred to arbitration.