

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. February 1860.

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Advert - Coals! Coals!!

New Lockoford Colliery.

Best Dunston coals delivered in Chesterfield and neighbourhood up to 7-0d. per ton.

Joseph Lambert and Company, proprietors.

Orders received in Saint Mary's Gate.

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Advert - Samuel and Henry Briddon.

Notice. All debts due to, or owing by the above firm of Henry and Samuel Briddon, of Brampton Moor, near Chesterfield, earthenware manufacturers, will be received or paid by Mr. Henry Briddon, senior, the surviving member of the said firm.

3rd. of Feb., 1860.

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The New Coal Mine Inspection Act.

Great interest is now being felt in the mining districts with regard to the new Act which is to regulate the inspection of collieries. If coalmasters desire to introduce anything in the new measure for the better regulation of their mines, the present is a most favourable opportunity. As we cannot pry into the secrets of the Inspectors and their answer to the letter of the Secretary of State, we have made seven enquiries and find that in the Midland Counties the operation of the Act has been satisfactory to the owners and managers of collieries. Improvements have been made in ventilation and other arrangements in the mines. We believe that all parties interested would prefer the continuance of the Act rather than the discontinuance. It is an important question whether or not ironstone mines should be included in the new Act. Many who are authorities in this question say they should be included most certainly. We gather from enquiry that accidents in ironstone mines are increasing, whilst there is a decrease in coal mines. If ironstone mines are included, it becomes a question whether the present Inspectors can undertake the additional duty. Some may be able to do so, but others cannot possibly do it. At any rate there is a very strong feeling against the appointment of sub- Inspectors by the coalowners. This is not only the feeling of the Midland Counties, as the men are at nearly all the collieries paid by weight. The past year has been a satisfactory one in the coal trade here, a considerable increase over 1858. The new furnaces put into blast must have added considerably to the production of iron. There is a reported discovery of ironstone in Lincolnshire, but as it is in the same formation as the Cleveland and Northamptonshire ores, it will only be an additional supply of inferior material which is not required.

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Mill Dam Mining Company.

The Great Hucklow Mining Company applied on the 25th. ult. to Vice-Chancellor Sir John Stuart to continue the injunction to restrain the Mill Dam Company from pumping water into their mine. After a lengthened discussion, His Honour ordered the injunction to remain in force until the mines and works have been viewed by some competent engineer, who should report to the Court his opinions as to the facts in dispute and the works, and if the parties could not agree upon the engineer, the Court would appoint one. This is quite satisfactory to the plaintiff, the injunction being continued. The shareholders were requested to pay the second portion of the call of 10-0d. per share on the Mill Dam shares, made in December, in the course of this month, for there seems some reluctance to respond to this call until the results of the present litigation be known, a fact independent of the unknown expenses the Company may become involved in, the stringent enactments of the Joint Stock Act and the penalties imposed for being in contravention of it, with the impossibility of being exonerated from liability until registration can be effected, are not calculated to give a feeling of security to the shareholders. No person has authority to enforce calls, take monies, or do any act whatever relating thereto until registration is effective, but be liable to the penalties specified as statute for presuming to do so.

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Non Payment of Wages.

John Richards, of Somercotes, and James Vickers, of Alfreton, colliers, were summoned by William Fretson, collier, for non payment of £1-3-1½d. wages in respect of work done by him for the defendants at the colliery of W.P. Morewood, Esq. Adjourned until next Petty Sessions, February 10th.

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Advert - To Lead Miners and Others.

To Be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Denham.

On Tuesday, the 21st. of February, at the house of Mr. Froggatt, the sign of the Horse Shoe Inn, Matlock.

All that mineral field and plant, known by the name of the Hasland Pipe and Shining Rock, situate at Matlock, aforesaid. The property is very extensive, and is supposed to contain very valuable veins of ore. The plant is nearly new, and includes all materials for the future working on the mine.

Sale to commence at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

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Advert - In re Anthony Ludlam, deceased.

Pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the 22nd. and 23rd. of Vict., c35, entitled "An Act to further and amend the law of property, and to relieve trustees", all creditors having any claims on demands upon or against the estate of Anthony Ludlam, late of Brampton, in the County of Derby, coalmaster, and formerly of Wilden, in the parish of Hartlebury, in the County of Worcester, engineer, who died in the month of May, 1859, and whose will was proved on the 29th. day of July of the next year(?), are, on or before the first day of April next, to send in the particulars of such claims or demands to Mr. Luke Ludlam, of Brierley Hill, in the County of Stafford, the sole executor of the said deceased, or to Mr. A. Knowles, at his office, in Chesterfield; and in default thereof, the said executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased, and will not be liable for such assets, or any part thereof, so distributed, to any person off whose claims he shall not have had notice.

Dated this 14th. day of February, 1860.

Adam Knowles, Solicitor to the Executor.

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Fall of a Boy down a Pit Shaft.

An inquest has been held at Wednesbury on the body of an unknown boy, who fell down the Blue Fly coalpit, at the Mesty Croft Colliery. John Sheldon, a collier, deposed that on the 9th. instant he saw the lad on the pit-bank, at about 6 in the evening. He (witness) afterwards went down the pit, which was about 50 yards deep, and commenced work. At a subsequent period he was startled by hearing something falling down the shaft, and immediately something came heavily to the bottom. He went to the mouth of the pit, and saw deceased in a frightful condition, his thigh and leg being broken, and the bones of the head knocked in. Thomas Corser, also a collier in the same pit, gave confirmatory testimony, and it appeared that the unfortunate deceased had gone to the colliery to ask for work; but Mr. Hammond, one of the proprietors of the pit, ascertaining that he had neither father or mother, took him to his house, and gave him something to eat. He appeared very cheerful, and sat in the brewhouse for some time. No-one saw him alive afterwards, and the presumption is that he wandered about the pit-bank, was deceived by the light from the fires, and fell down the shaft. By the direction of the coroner, an open verdict was reached to effect that deceased came to his death from injuries sustained from falling down the pit in question, but how he came so to fall there was no evidence to show. As deceased has not been identified, it may be well to state that a lad appeared before the coroner, and said that he had seen deceased, and knew that he had been working for a Mr. Tolley. Deceased wore a moleskin jacket, corduroy trousers, no waistcoat, calico shirt, white cotton stockings, and buckled garters. His age was supposed to be about twelve years.

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Colliery Explosion - Three Men Killed.

An inquest was held at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, on the bodies of James Cadman, 22, Patrick Gavan, 32, and William Gent, 47, colliers, who had died from the effects of injuries received by an explosion of gas in one of the pits of the Foley Colliery, the property of Mr. Sparrow, on Wednesday week. Mr. Wynne, Inspector of Coal Mines for the district, was present at the inquiry. On the day named seven men, including deceased, were working in the pit by the aid of naked candles, when firedamp entered the working, was ignited by the candles, and exploded with terrible effect. The whole of the seven men who were in the working were severely injured, and deceased more especially, and from the effects of their injuries they died a week after. One of the others was dreadfully burnt, the skin of his hands was taken off, and he received injuries on other parts of the body, but, however, he as well as the three others who were more fortunate than their deceased companions, are in a fair way of recovering. It is strange that, knowing gas to exist in that part of the pit, these men should have worked with naked candles, although the greatest amount of blame is to be attached to the ground bailiff, and the latter of whom happened to be Gent, one of the deceased, who was generally considered to be a careful, steady man, for allowing naked candles to be used in the pit. The butty has already severely paid the penalty for his rashness, but the ground bailiff, who is perhaps the most culpable, was severely lectured by Mr. Wynne, and warned of the probable consequences of not paying more a particular care in the discharge of his responsible duties. The agent of Mr. Sparrow, who was also present, came in for a share of censure, and was advised by Mr. Wynne as to the future working of the mine. It supposed that the immediate cause of the explosion was the descent of a quantity of earth close to the working, which had the effect of driving the foul air in with great force. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Fearful Colliery Explosion near Barnsley.

Eleven Men Killed.

On Wednesday afternoon, much excitement was occasioned amongst the colliers near Barnsley, in consequence of a report that a colliery explosion of a terribly fatal character had occurred at one of the Messrs. Charlesworth's collieries, situated at Higham, about 3 miles from Barnsley. Hundreds soon wended their way to the scene of the occurrence, when it was found that a serious explosion had taken place, by which eleven men and boys were killed, and three others so seriously injured that only slight hopes are entertained of their recovery. It appears that between one and two o'clock, the bottom steward, Mr. Ainsworth, whilst in the pit, had his attention attracted by some slight noise, immediately after which some men came from the bottom, and informed him that an explosion had taken place on the north side. He then went to the top, and having got assistance, without delay descended. He discovered in that part of the pit, where 14 men and boys were at work, that only three were alive. These were with all possible speed brought to the top, and conveyed to their homes. The bodies of the eleven poor fellows were then brought up, and presented a most painful appearance, they evidently having suffered not only from the firedamp, but also from the afterdamp, being much bruised and burnt. The bodies were at once removed to their respective homes. Several of the wives of the men were present when the bodies were got out, and it needs scarcely be said that a scene of a most distressing and painful character occurred, as each blackened and bruised, yet recognisable, husband or son was claimed. The pit, which is situated in a rather wild part of the district, has been hitherto very free from accidents; the owners, the well-known and wealthy firm of the Messrs. Charlesworth's having introduced into their numerous collieries all the aids for the prevention of accidents which modern science has developed. The colliery is a very extensive one, 210 yards deep, in which three seams of coal are worked, the deepest, the well known Silkstone bed, being 210 yards deep. It was whilst working at this seam that the accident occurred. Happily the explosion was confined to one of the workings, otherwise a more serious calamity might have taken place, as there were at least 120 men and boys in the pit at the time. It is rather singular that, contrary to explosions from firedamp, no report was heard, the men at the top not being aware of the matter until the bottom steward communicated the fact to the manager, Mr. Depledge, who was untiring in his efforts to render assistance to the unfortunate sufferers, as well as to the bereaved widows and parents who were present. The cause of the accident does not as yet appear to be known, but will be made known at the inquest, which will probably take place yesterday (Friday). The names of the killed are John Wilson, wife and four children, Higham; Joseph Wilson, his son, aged 14; William Depledge, single, Barugh; David Jagger, 75, married, no children, Cawthorne; George Jagger, 14, grandson of the last named; Henry Blackburn, 12, Cawthorne; George Summers, 12, Cawthorne; John Cawthorne, 35, wife and three children, Cawthorne; George Clerk, 25, single, Higham; John Whitehead, wife and three children, Higham; Henry Brown, 12, Higham.

Seriously Injured.

Henry Wilson, Higham; John Wilson, his son; John Crossley, Higham.

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The Strike of the St. Helens' Colliers.

Although the notice given them by the colliers of the St. Helens district had expired several days, it was not definitely fixed whether a general strike should take place before Monday evening last, and up to the present time many of the colliers have remained at work. On Monday a meeting was held on the Moor Flat, and by adjournment, at the White Lion Inn, where a general strike was resolved upon, in order to obtain an advance of 10 percent upon the present rate of wages. The colliers, on the whole, have been very desirous to come to some amicable arrangement with their employers, and have shown no disposition to make any advance, and, consequently, it is feared that a strike will not only become a general one, but of some duration. Already there are hundreds walking idly about the streets, and it is calculated that if all in the district turn out, not fewer than 3,000 persons will be idle. Two small proprietors in the neighbourhood are reported to have consented to the advance, but these will only employ some 30 or 40 colliers.

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The Ironmasters and the Budget.

On Wednesday the iron and coal masters of Birmingham and South Staffordshire assembled as a body for the first time since the Budget has been made public. The Budget was the topic, and there was much unanimity of opinion, there being scarcely anyone present who did not bestow upon it an almost unqualified laudation, not because of its supposed immediate benefit to this particular interest, but because of its grand comprehensiveness and the thorough soundness of the principles upon which it is based. In its minutiae, however, serious exception was taken to the penny tax on all units counted on shipboard as all iron is counted on board; and as in some cases as many as 200 bars have been required to make a ton, the tax will be equal to a prohibition. The three-quarter round bars number a hundred to the ton, and a penny per bundle on ?????? would amount to 3-4d. duty. Mr. John Hartley, a senior partner in the firm of Messrs. G.B. Thorneycroft and Company, has written to the Right Honourable C.P. Villers, one of the members for the borough, and to Mr. Foster, one of the members for the southern division of the County, himself the head of a leading iron-making firm in this district. The fact, as it became known on the 'Change, caused much satisfaction. It is not supposed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer intends to apply the penny tax to such cases, but the fact of the rule, as at present interpreted, applies to iron is sufficiently alarming. We may add that it was to be feared that the Glasgow masters have to yield to the colliers.

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The Colliers' Strike at St. Helens.

The strike of the St. Helens colliers has become more general every day, but although a week has elapsed since its commencement there are as yet a great many at work at the various pits in the district. It is, however, calculated that between 1,000 and 2,000 persons are out. Meetings have been held every morning on the Moor Flat, by the colliers who have been addressed by delegates from the coal districts adjacent to St. Helens. Various resolutions have been passed, but none have apparently contributed towards a settlement of the question. On Saturday, three gentlemen in the town, W. Pilkington, Esq., Junior, D. Gamble, Esq., and Mr. R. M'Gill, who had consented to endeavour to arrange matters between the coal proprietors and their men, met the masters and had a long consultation together, but with what result is not yet transpired. However, from what had previously appeared, the probability is that a compromise will be proposed during the ensuing week, which will most likely be agreeable to all parties. Several acts of intimidation have been resorted to during the past week towards those who continue to work, and on Friday the colliers went in groups to different shop-keepers asking relief. On Saturday, Captain Elgie, and the Assistant Chief Constable, visited the town to consult with the magistrates, and no doubt such measures will be taken as will prevent any disturbance taking place, should the action continue.

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Fatal Accident at Masbro'.

On Saturday afternoon last a shocking and fatal accident occurred to a boy named Henry Cardwell, aged 9 years, whilst playing in the yard of the Midland Iron Company, near the Masbro' railway station. The deceased and some of his companions were amusing themselves in the yard of the above Company, and whilst the deceased was stood against the buffer of one of the railway carriages, a truck, from some unassignable cause, ran down the line, striking him on the head, and crushed it between the buffers. He died almost instantly, and an inquest was held on the body the same evening, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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No Headline.

The Mining Journal of last weeks says: - "Reference was made in our last to the separation from the Staveley Works of its confidential manager, Mr. John Heaton, who has now left the place. Mr. Heaton, in Mr. Barrow's absence, signed an agreement between Mr. Barrow and Mr. Morrison, for Mr. Barrow, but without his sanction or authority. Mr. Barrow repudiates it, and an expensive course of litigation has been going on since; and the next step is to be an appeal before the Lord Chancellor with a view to render the agreement null and void.

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Wm. Lucas v. Geo. Damms.

The plaintiff, a colliery owner, of Dronfield, sought to recover £4-0-0d. for coal supplied to defendant. It appeared from the evidence that in the year 1852 there was a gentleman named Johnson connected with the firm, who had since died. The defendant worked as gardener for him, and thinking his scale of remuneration rather low, he applied to Mr. Johnson to let him have coals free. He agreed to do so, and on those grounds refused to pay the present claim. The plaintiff said he knew nothing of what Mr. Johnson did, but on looking over the bill appended to the summons, his Honour found the coal was put down to two different dates, and finding it did not correspond with the book, he was disposed to believe defendant's statement, and judgement against the plaintiff was accordingly given.

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Jonathan Bennett v. John Collis.

This action was brought to recover £5-0-0d., viz., £1-11-11d. due for ironstone got out of a pit, 7-0d. for hire of gearing, and £3-0-0d. for damages sustained by being discharged from a contract, which, with other little items made up the amount to £5-0-0d. Mr. Busby appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Cutts for the defendant. It appeared that in September last defendant came into possession of a piece of land measuring nearly a rood. He engaged plaintiff to get the ironstone underneath at the rate of 5-6d. per ton. There would be about a 1,000 tons in the whole. He (plaintiff) had a quantity of gearing and pit machinery taken to the place, and commenced work. The ground was represented to him as dry, but when they got down to the mineral they found they could not get on, as they were nearly "swam" out with the water. They had to leave it several times in consequence, and on one morning defendant went to the ground and discharged Bennett from finishing his contract, set men to work on his own account, and used some of plaintiff's materials. The defence was that plaintiff engaged to work the pit, but was very seldom there to superintend the work. The pit was neglected repeatedly, and in consequence of that neglect about 20 tons of the ironstone had fallen in, causing a deal of damage. There was, as one witness stated, very little water in the pit - "theer moite be a leetle sup, but it woor nor much", as he himself went to work in it the same day as plaintiff had represented their work as five feet in it. His Honour did not think that plaintiff had at all proved his case, and he gave judgement for £1-11-11d., which sum had been previously paid to plaintiff's daughter for her father, but he had refused to accept it.

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The Colliery Explosion near Barnsley.

On Saturday evening the jury empanelled to enquire into the circumstances attending the deaths of the men killed at the Old Silkstone Colliery, at Higham, again assembled and after viewing the body of John Crossley, who had since died, adjourned till Thursday. The remainder of the bodies were interred on Sunday, those of David Jagger and his grandson, Levi Cawthorne and his son, George Summers, and Henry Blackburn, in the churchyard of Cawthorne, which presented a scene of the most painful description. A large number of persons were present from Barnsley, Silkstone, Dodworth and adjacent colliery district, over the whole of whom a mournful impression seemed to prevail. The funerals were attended by a large number of mourners, and the members of several sick clubs to which the deceased belonged. The church was crowded, and the funeral service was impressively performed by the Revd. C. Spencer Stanhope, assisted by the Revd. J. Badnall. The body of William Depledge was interred at Darton church, and that of Joseph Crossley at Gawber. Amongst the instances connected with the catastrophe, the following may be interesting. On John Wilson, one of the killed, coming home a night or two previous, he seemed much depressed in spirits, and told his wife that he feared something was about to occur to either himself or his brother Henry, but he hoped, if anything occurred to him, he should be brought home dead, as he should not like to lie on a sick bed. After making this remark, he raised his son, and wished him to be a good lad and do whatever he could for his mother and him. In a few hours afterwards, the lifeless bodies of both himself and his son were brought into the house. His brother Henry and nephew, who lived close by, were also carried to their home, seriously injured. The two survivors of the fourteen still remain in a precarious state, little hope being entertained for their recovery.