

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. March 1860.

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No Headline.

We have but little to add to our notes of last weeks respecting the lead mines of Derbyshire, several being now inundated with water. The Haslam Pipe Mine, with plant, etc., was offered by public auction on Tuesday last, at Matlock, and was brought in for £45. We learn that there is a buyer at £80, or upwards.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 4 Col. 2-3.

A Tribute to Derbyshire Enterprise.

Delicacy often debars the journalist from noticing living examples of men whose rise above the level of ordinary individuals in mind or energy in their undertakings, marks them as not only worthy of imitation, but also as types of the period in which they live. There are, however, occasions when this delicacy may be set aside, and without offence or unbecoming adulation, he may "speak of a man as he finds him", and the more especially so when by so doing the object of his remark is calculated to act as a stimulus to others, whose honesty of purpose may be cast in a similar mould. In bold and vigorous enterprises we believe Derbyshire men will bear a very favourable comparison with those of any other county in the United Kingdom, and many of them have left behind them traces which will long abide in the footsteps of time ere they are eradicated from memory. Some of these have been self-made men - men who have risen from comparative obscurity to a position of eminence, not, it may be, so much in wealth as in usefulness to their fellow men, of which they might, without running the risk of being taxed as vain-glorious, be justly proud. It is said the good men do in their lifetime invariably lives long after them, and this maxim would seem to apply as well in cases in which the well-being of a community is prompted by the establishment of works of utility, whereby labour is extended, and remunerative employment placed, within the reach of all who will honestly seek for it, as in the institution of charitable asylums which the deserving or unfortunate may flee, and find rest from life's weary pilgrimage in the trying hour of need. Each in its turn is highly commendable, and each in its claims well deserving public recognition. It is to an example of the former class we wish to point, humble in degree, in comparison with many, though by some he may be considered still worthy of being held up as one whom to follow were no disgrace, but on the contrary, a pattern from whose imitation credit and esteem may safely be won. The few remarks we are about to make need no further preface, and we will at once proceed to discharge the small tribute of respect which, with pleasurable feelings, we deem it as not beneath our notice to discharge. The individual to whom we allude is Mr. John Knowles, late of Herne House, near this town, who it is well known, has, for several years past, been connected with contracts on some of our larger public works, and more especially on those works on several of our leading railways in the country, which he has carried out in a highly creditable manner, and which has placed him in a very distinguished position among the many eminent contractors whom our extensive railway system has called into existence among the human "landmarks" of the nineteenth century. Mr. Knowles's early life received an excellent training for this formidable species of labour in railway construction, from his connection with mining operations in his native parish (Matlock), and it was mainly to men of his stamp that our older contractors looked for that practical assistance which enabled them to overcome the many formidable difficulties works of this nature presented at the earliest stages of their formation. It is not our intention to give anything like a detailed account of the different works with which Mr. Knowles has been associated, but we may mention, in passing, that he successfully carried out a portion of one of the heavy tunnels on the line of the old London and Birmingham line, during the formation of which he was bought under the favourable notice of the resident engineer of the district, who we have reason to know was highly satisfied with the sound practical knowledge which he had shown in the management of the work under his care. He has also been engaged on some of the more important tunnel works connected with the Midland system of railway lines, some of which other contractors had failed to bring to a successful termination. These he grappled with in a most energetic manner, thereby placing himself in the front rank among the many enterprising men, whose names will long continue familiar as household words in railway annals. In this

locality also his labours have secured for him renown no less honourable than that his more distant achievements have honestly entitled him to. Some few years back the sinking of the shafts of the Speedwell Pit, in connection with the Staveley Works, was confided to his care, and a most arduous task the execution thereof proved to be - in fact, we believe we are justified in saying, the most difficult work among the many similar ones which the enterprising owner of these important works had caused to be established in the locality in which they are situated. To enter into any like descriptive ??????? in regard to the underground wonders of the subterranean workings of the different colliery works at Staveley, is not our province here, and we shall, therefore, pass them over sub silentio. Suffice it to say, they are considered by eminent mining engineers as among the most perfect models of this class of mining works in the kingdom - nay, we may say in the wide, wide world, and their construction sheds a luminous halo around the heads of Messrs. Woodiwiss and Jeffcock, the well-known engineers of Derby, by whom they were planned, and of Mr. William Blackburn, late viewer of the Staveley collieries under whose personal superintendence they were constructed

Due to a very poor print of the microfilm I cannot read much more.

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Page 4 Col. 4.

The Colliers' Strike at St. Helens.

A deputation of the manufacturers of St. Helens waited on the proprietors of the neighbouring collieries, last week, to ascertain if there was any prospect of a speedy settlement of the existing strike. On representing the serious consequences of their works being stopped, they were shown that the colliers were already earning very high wages, many as much as 8-0d. or 9-0d. per day, and all averaging as much as 6-0d. per day for eight hours work, besides having the fire coals given them: and they had lately only worked about four days per week, and the masters could no longer submit to this system of agitation and dictation. They offered to submit their pay books to the deputations, or to any other gentlemen, in proof of their statements. In reply to a question, the coalowners said that when the price of coal was at the same rate as in 1854, they would agree to pay the colliers the same rate of wages they then received. The deputation stated that they were not authorised to make or accept any proposal on the part of the men, and merely wished to do all they could personally to put an end to the strike.

Warrington Guardian

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert - Old Forge Boiler Works, Chesterfield.

John Arnold, manufacturer of steam boilers, copper brewing pans, and all kinds of plate work.

Large Stock of Boiler Plates always on hand.

N.B. Repairs promptly attended to.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 10th. March 1860.

Page 2 Col. 3.

A Tribute to Derbyshire Enterprise.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to an article under this title, which appeared in our last weeks impression, and correct several errors which appeared therein. In one part of it we find the following sentence: - "In noticing the winning of the coal at the Seymour Pit of the same works, in the columns of this paper on the 20th. August last, it was stated, "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 coalfields. The shaft is 15 feet in diameter, 166 yards deep with 160 yards of tubbing". At the time we gave insertion to these remarks, we were not aware that these facts were not exactly the true facts of the case. Exceedingly meritorious as the energy displayed by Mr. Emerson, the sinker, most undoubtably was, we believe that the palm in this respect belongs to another personage, and that personage is none other than Mr. Knowles, as the short statement we are now about to mention will incontestably prove". We beg to inform our readers that the paragraph inserted in our columns on the 20th. of August last is perfectly untrue, and that Mr. Knowles has nothing to do with the pit whatever. The article was supplied to us by a person in whom we have always placed confidence, and very sorry are we to find that he has been led away with a deal of false information, and, in justice to Mr. Seymour himself, and R. Barrow, we felt bound to correct so gross an error. Several other circumstances there mentioned are not correct.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

No Headline.

It was intended to have held the annual meeting of the North Derbyshire Mining Company about the present date, but in consequence of the overflow of the mine with water it has been determined not to hold the meeting until May next, when the directors fully anticipate the sinking operations will be at the vein, and that some lead will be raised. The engineer at the works has left, and another person has been appointed in his stead.

The Eyam Company had a sale of ore on Thursday last, the produce of different portions of their property.

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Page 3 Col. 2.

Fire in a Coalpit at Sheffield.

On Wednesday evening, about half past four o'clock, the stable in the extensive colliery at Sheffield, known as the Soaphouse Pit, the property of the Sheffield Coal Company, was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was immediately given, and the colliers were got out of the pit, and precaution taken to stop the further progress of the fire. The stables are about 50 or 60 yards from the bottom of the downcast shaft, and all air that led to their locality was at once cut off. Engines from the Sheffield and North of England fire offices were taken to the spot, hose carried into the pit, and it only remained to test the supply of water against the progress of the fire, consequent on the admission of air to enable the fireman to get at it. The pit is one of the most extensive in the country, running under a great portion of the town of Sheffield, and three or four miles away in the country is its upcast shaft, by which a great number of the miners made their escape. The cause of the occurrence is unknown, but the supposition is that it is the result of negligence on the part of the horse-boys.

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Saturday 17th. March 1860.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Fatal Accident in a Pit.

On Thursday the 8th. instant an accident occurred in one of the Oakerthorpe Coal and Iron Company's pits, which resulted in the death of Luke Slack, a resident of Spa Lane, Chesterfield. It appears that deceased and James Knowles, who are in the employ of Mr. Stephen Sayers, of Chesterfield, went down the pit at about half past seven in the morning in question, for the purpose of taking out a few bricks and fastening a "stay" in. They were about six yards from the bottom, and after they had taken out several bricks they examined it inside, and thought it quite safe, when they were in the act of taking out another brick and the whole of the above fell upon them. Knowles was a little bruised; but Slack had his leg broken in three places and was so fearfully cut and bruised in different parts of his body that he expired shortly after. His body was removed to the Butcher's Arms at Oakerthorpe, near Alfreton, where an inquest was held before Mr. Busby on Wednesday last. Knowles could not account for the accident at all. He said, "I don't know how it could fall without it was in consequence of us taking too many bricks out. We have had as many out before, and if there is any fault it rests on us". The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". Deceased was a member of the Benevolent Lodge, in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, held at the Griffin Inn, Brampton. He was interred at the Trinity Church, on Monday afternoon, a number of the officers and brothers of the various Lodges in the town arraigned in scarves, with two mutes attending, show that respect, which is in the heart of all true Odd Fellows, and which a worthy brother like Slack is entitled to. He has left a wife and eight children to deplore his loss; and here is a good proof of the benefits of Odd Fellowship. The widow receives £10 from his Lodge to inter her husband, and will receive £18 for herself and 10-0d. each for 4 children, under fourteen years of age, from the widow and orphans fund which will no doubt set her up in some small business to obtain a respectable and honest livelihood.

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Page 2 Col. 5 to Page 3 Col. 1.

Mining and Metals in the District.

The iron trade has not been so healthy since our last, owing to various causes. We have heard a rumour that Mr. Richard Barrow, proprietor of the extensive coal and iron works at Staveley, is about to retire from business, and that the whole of the mines and plant are to be offered for sale by private contract, the sum named being £200,000. We merely give this statement as we have heard it, without vouching for its accuracy. We can only add that such an event would not surprise us, in it would have occurred some years ago had not Mr. Barrow possessed a mind and a degree of energy and aptitude for business which few gentlemen of his age have shown. Mr. Barrow is growing infirm, is extremely wealthy, and latterly his health has been giving way. The reasons, therefore, are sufficient to induce a belief that the events to which we have alluded is not improbable, and that Mr. Barrow may have come to the determination to separate himself from the labour and anxiety of an enormous trade. We believe that the Staveley Works are the largest individual commercial undertaking in England. The withdrawal of Mr. Barrow from Staveley Works would be an event of deep regret to the inhabitants of Staveley and the surrounding places. The directors of the North Derbyshire Mining Company anticipate having the new shaft sunk down to the vein in about two months, when they will be able to prove the mine. Eyam is improving, and the shares this week have moved a little upward. Mill Dam remains firm, and the operations at the Peak United are still more encouraging. Mill Town mine is doing well, and the men are getting good ore. It is intended by the New Midland Company to sink a new shaft at Westedge, near Ashover. Numerous signed petitions have been sent to London this week from different parts of Yorkshire, Derbyshire against the educational clauses in the Mines Inspection Bill.

Mining Journal.

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Page 3 Col. 3.

Mill Dam Mining Company.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in the Mill Dam Company was held at the house of Mr. Taylor, the Albion Inn, Sheffield, on the 28th. ult. About 20 persons attended. A statement, already copied, of the accounts was produced, and the motion made they should be passed, when one of the shareholders objected to their being so summarily passed without examination, and moved as an amendment that passing the accounts should be postponed for a month, to give time for examination by the company as was the practice with railway and other public companies. The amendment was seconded, but being opposed by the secretary, it was negatived. It had been generally understood that the last call made in December would clear the mine from debt, but this was not the case, for the statement produced at the meeting showed that notwithstanding the large sums that had been received in calls, there were debts amounting to nearly £1,000 now standing against the Company (exclusive of law expenses); to meet which another call would become necessary, and accordingly another further call of 10-0d. per share was ordered. The gentleman who had moved the amendment then enquired why the Company had not been registered as advertised in the prospectus, and where the deed of settlement was lodged? The secretary replied that they had been advised the registration was not necessary, and the deed of settlement would not be shown to anyone until the litigation in which the mine is not involved was ended. The gentleman then said that being a large shareholder he had come a long distance to attend the meeting, and also that he had not paid up the last call, and wished the directors to understand that he would neither pay it nor any other call that might be made, until the Company was registered as required by law. It appeared from the abstract of accounts laid before the meeting, that other shareholders had not complied with the order last made. That the directors might also proceed against him as they thought proper, to bring the question to issue; and that he should take such measures as he might be advised under the Acts passed for the regulation and winding up of joint-stock companies, or otherwise. He added that the meeting had no power to pass the accounts without examination; and notwithstanding any vote, such as that passed at the meeting, the Court of Chancery provided a speedy and effective mode of having the accounts thoroughly investigated, as well as to compel the production of the Deed of Settlement under which the Company was formed.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Important to the Managers and Sub-Managers of Collieries.

On Friday last, at the Alfreton Petty Sessions, James Haywood, deputy manager of the Pinxton Company's Carnfield Colliery was summoned for neglect of duty in not examining the mine previous to the descent of workmen. A workman entered a part of the mine and fired some gas by which he was severely burned. The deputy Haywood ought to have examined this part and to have taken steps to remove the danger before the workmen entered. A penalty of 10-0d. and costs was inflicted, the magistrates remarking that as this was the first offense and that the men bore a steady and attentive character, the penalty was only light compared to what would be inflicted for a second offense. We hope that this will be a caution to all parties interested in the management of collieries.

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Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - Near Matlock Bridge.

To be sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Denham.

On Wednesday, April the 4th., 1860, at half past ten o'clock, at the Haslam Pipe Mine, the whole of the plant and mining equipment, comprising new gin and headstocks, two new ropes 92 yards long, a quantity of batten boards, spades, shovels, wheelbarrows, 4 gear barrels, two iron baskets, 7 21 feet ladders, iron rails, iron waggon, partitions and bearers, doors and frames, 2 large water tubs, 2 large water barrows, saw, block and steady, oak chest, and a quantity of materials useful for mining purposes.

Matlock, March 24th., 1860.

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Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - Brickyard, Corbriggs, Hasland.

Sheds, Clay Mill, Moulds, Tools, Barrows, Planks, Spouting, etc.

To be sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Denham.

On Wednesday, March 28th., 1860, at One o'clock.

Drying Shed, with boarded roof, 97 feet long, 18 feet wide, which will be offered in lots. The principals and timber are good, a portion only recently having been erected.

An excellent clay mill, in good working order.

A quantity of planks, from 12 to 21 feet long; joists, spars, laths, a hundred drying boards, upwards of 80 yards of solid spouting, 3 and 6 yard lengths, 3 kiln barrows, 2 brick barrows, brick and pantile moulds, trestles and boards, flue doors, grates, and dampers, brick tables and tools, and a quantity of pan tiles.

Also, an 8½ inch cart, useful grey horse (aged), cart harness, and in-pigged gilt.

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Page 2 Col. 4.

No Headline.

The colliery works at Denby, near Belper, in Derbyshire, will afford employment to a large number of men. Some borings for coal have been made on the estate of Mr. Colville, with very satisfactory results; and during the next year the works will be in operation. Some very excellent beds of clay have been found.

There has been nothing during the week in the Derbyshire Lead mines to call for remark. The share market is dull, but Mill Dam is about the only stock in which much business is to be done, the prices of several mines being merely nominal. A old mine, now being worked by a company, and called "Boothley", is causing some little talk, but before anything can be done the company must erect a plant to enable them to sink below the old miners workings.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Death by the Falling in of the Roof of a Coal Pit.

On the 14th. inst., Mr. C. Swann held an inquest at the Dog and Duck, Sutton-in-Ashfield, touching the death of Joseph Hayes, aged 16, collier, who was killed in an awful manner on the Saturday previous, by the falling of some bind or stone. Dan Jackson, collier, said he had known the deceased about a year, being a fellow workman in the same pit. Deceased was the son of John Hayes, and was 16 years of age. He and the deceased worked together in a coalpit, called Langton Pit, and on Saturday morning, the 10th. instant, they went to work about 6 o'clock. They were both leading coals. About twelve o'clock the deceased was throwing substance away from the "islands" which supported the roof, and whilst he was doing so the bind came tumbling down, falling on deceased's back, knocking him down. About a ton of bind fell on the deceased. His body and head were but partly covered. He (witness) was about a yard from deceased when the accident took place; but some of the bind fell upon him. The deceased lay on his belly with his legs doubled under him, and the stone lay upon his back and legs. He called another collier named Pepper, and with his assistance removed the stone from the deceased's back. The moment the stone fell upon him the deceased said, "Oh Dear", but never spoke again. He breathed only about two minutes after he was extricated from the bind. He was then taken out of the mine and conveyed to his house at Sutton-in-Ashfield. John Wilson and Robert Pepper were the butties for the pit, and it was their duty to examine the roof, and where it wanted propping or making safe to insert props. Wilson was not in the pit that morning, but Pepper was. He never tried the roof where they were at work. He did not think the roof was in a decayed condition the morning when the accident occurred, and was of the opinion that no blame could be attached to anyone in the mine. The inquest was adjourned till Monday last, when the evidence of Pepper, one of the butties of the pit, was given. The Inspector of Mines did not appear. Pepper said that it was his duty to examine the roof in the pit and keep it in good order. On Saturday, the 10th. instant, he was at the Langton Pit before deceased came to work. He did not sound the roof where he was working, because he thought it was in a good condition. The jury returned the following verdict, "Accidentally killed by the falling of bind from the roof of a coalpit".

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Neglect of Work.

John Godber summoned John Bamford and Samuel Wass, colliers, of North Wingfield, for absenting themselves from work without notice, contrary to the rules of the colliery. Mr. Busby appeared for the complainant, and intimated to the Bench that as colliers generally were receiving good wages, he hoped they would inflict a somewhat heavy fine, so they might remember it in the future. Both prisoners pleaded guilty to the charge, and they were each fined 8-9d., to be deducted from their wages, in addition to 2-6d. fine, in compliance with the rule, and to return to their work.

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Saturday 31st. March 1860.

Page 3 Col. 1.

No Headline.

On Saturday last at the Buxton Lime Works, George Haynes, one of the quarrymen, while in the act of boring for a blast, a "shell", some six or seven feet long, by three feet wide, and six inches in thickness, fell, from the face of the rock above, upon the poor fellow causing instant death.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. March 1860.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Derbyshire.

There is no diminution in the demand for coal, but of the contrary, an increase, especially in the enquiry for coal for steam purposes. The coalmasters of Derbyshire have set their faces against the practice which has now prevailed for some time amongst the men of wholly or partially ceasing to work on Mondays. In some districts the practice has become so common amongst the men that they appear to regard it as a recognised custom. The men at many of the collieries have been cautioned that proceedings will be taken against all who might absent themselves on the Monday, except in cases of indisposition, in some score instances the absentees have been brought before the magistrates and fined for neglecting their work. It was shown that the absence of men, in some instances, occasioned a material loss to the proprietors of collieries by the stoppage of their plant, whilst in other cases, men disposed to work could not on account of the absence of others. The new works at Marehay are being proceeded with vigorously, and there is little doubt of the success of the Oakerthorpe Company. In the South Yorkshire district great activity prevails, and the new route to Liverpool has proved a great advantage to the proprietors. The Derbyshire lead mines are making steady progress. Eyam is looking better, and there is a disposition to buy stock in the market, but we shall have to wait some time for a return of the prosperity which this mine enjoyed some time ago. The miners at Peak Forest are getting some good ore, and they have opened some ground which appears to promise well. The Mill Dam Company having been restrained from pumping in the new shaft are directing their energy to the getting of ore in the Gateside Mine, and we understand they are now getting ore above the water level. Another company is being formed to work a mine adjoining Mill Dam, the idea of the promoters being that the pumping at Mill Dam will relieve them from water. At the Mill Dam Mining Company's general meeting recently held in Sheffield, much dissatisfaction was expressed by some of the parties at the accounts being passed without the shareholders having an opportunity of examining them, and intimation was given of a recourse to legal measures to compel their production. Since then a statement, professing to be a statement of the accounts, has been sent out by the secretary, but this has not given much satisfaction to the shareholders. The sort of information it gives may be judged off from the fact that no date is given for its commencement, nor the quantity or price at which the ore raised at the mine was sold - merely an entry of £378 odd for "ore sold". Another entry, "by cash of calls up to and including the call made on February the 24th., £2,129", has puzzled the shareholders considerably - no one seems to know how many or to what particular call this item refers, and specially the statement that it includes the "call made on February the 24th.", is quite unintelligible. No call was made of February the 24th. last, and if it refers to a call in a February in some former year the date ought to have been given. But if it means the call made last meeting, February the 28th., the extraordinary course has been adopted of including in the accounts as cash received money no part of which has been received, and the payment of which the directors were expressly informed at their meeting would be contested. The effect, however, of taking credit for this call as "cash received" would be to reduce the appearance of the debts owing by the Company to the extent of £1,000, and their liabilities, instead of being shown to amount to £1,746-14-11d., appeared on the statement to £746-14-11d. only, exclusive of the law expenses attending the Chancery proceedings of the Great Hucklow Company. There is also an entry of £280-5-0d. arrears of calls. The shareholders naturally ask who these defaulters are, and why another call of 10-0d. per share is made while so large a proportion as one fourth part, and more, of the amount of the last call is unpaid, until proceedings have been taken to compel payment by these defaulters? Altogether, the opinion generally expressed is that a strict

investigation into the past management and present state of the Company has become absolutely necessary. The directors of the North Derbyshire Company are making great efforts to get the sinking operations as forward as possible, so that by the time the general meeting is held, in May, they will be in a position to inform the shareholders that the shaft at Calver Sough has been sunk down to the vein. The directors will be compelled to make another call to pay, on account of the exceedingly heavy expenses occurred in sinking, etc. The last sale of ore at Mill Town Mine, Ashover, was 135 loads. The New Midland Company have begun to sink a new shaft at Westedge. An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the Oakamoor and Stanton Mining Company was held at the King's Head Hotel, Derby - Mr. R.J. Butler, the chairman of the Company, presiding. A resolution was passed confirming the articles of association. The accounts of receipts and expenditure for 10 months ending December the 31st., 1859, were submitted to the meeting, and, after a lengthened and animated discussion, were ultimately passed. It was stated that arrangements had been made with Mr. J.G. Binns, to direct operations developing the ironstone portion of the property, which has given general satisfaction, on account of his experience and ability.

Mining Journal.