

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. May 1860.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - West Staveley, New Whittington.

Ballarat Colliery. - The Miners Strike.

Friends,

This is to inform you the cause of our condition. They have given us fourteen days notice for these alterations. We have riddled the coals at 1-6d. per ton for best coals, and 10d. per ton for slack - 20 cwt. to the ton imperial; Our masters want to give us 1-10d. for 28 cwt. to the ton of best coal, picked by the hand, and all the rest to be filled with the shovel for 1-0d. at 28 cwt. to the ton. And the masters want to take all the draughts at the machine if it does not come or draw the half hundredweight, which will make us have to get 30 cwt. to the ton. And we, as miners, think it not right of our masters to impose upon us in that kind of manner, and we don't intend getting it for them.

Brother miners, just take this into consideration.

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Advert - To Mill and Colliery Owners.

Wheel Bands and Strapping for Machinery, of the best quality, and as cheap as any house in the trade, at J. Harrison's, Curriers, Packer's Row, Chesterfield, 4th. of May, 1860.

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Stealing Picks.

Isaac Steele charged John Nightingale with stealing a pick, his property. The complainant said he was employed on the Sheepbridge Works as a collier. On the 18th. of April he left his work, and placed his pick with the others. When he went to work the next morning, about five o'clock, the pick was gone. It was marked on the iron and the shaft. From information he received he went to defendant, who was then at work in Pearson's Pit, and there saw a lot of picks, amongst them his own. Mr. Busby appeared for defendant, and cross-examined complainant, and he replied as follows: - About 200 work in Fowler's pit. Each man has picks of his own - some will have three, some four, others five and six. The picks are not alike - some have thick shafts, and some slender. I was not present when the prisoner took the picks from under the "stage-hole". We did work together. The engineer at the pit proved to seeing the prisoner at the pit on the morning in question, between four and five o'clock. There are others about at the same time. The prisoner was given in custody, and acknowledged the offence saying that he had no picks, nor any money to buy some. Also that he had taken four picks at different times. The Bench then stopped the case, and committed the prisoner to Derby for fourteen days. He was then charged with stealing another pick, the property of William Siddall, at the same time, was found guilty, and had a like sentence passed on him, one to commence at the termination of the other.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Fatal Colliery Accident near Frome.

An explosion, attended with the loss of three, and probably four lives occurred on Thursday last, at the New Pit at Vobster, near Frome, leased by the Westbury Iron Company. A shaft had been sunk, and the working of coal had been superseded by its being walled up. A portion of the masonry had been completed on Thursday; four men were proceeding with it. Having bricked up the shaft three or four yards above the workshops, they incautiously supposed that all danger from firedamp was at an end, and accordingly laid aside their safety lamps provided for their use, and took down candles, as being more convenient. They had no sooner got down, than a tremendous explosion occurred; the platform, with the men at work upon it was forced a considerable way up the shaft, and then fell to the bottom, where there was several feet of water. Such was the force of the explosion, which was heard a mile or two off, that the shed at the top of the shaft was blown to atoms. Of course the alarm and dismay which usually accompany such distressing accidents were manifested in the neighbourhood. Prompt measures were taken for ascertaining the fate of the sufferers, and in about two hours two lifeless bodies were brought to the bank; the other two were in a most pitiable state, though still living - one died the same evening, and the fourth is not expected to recover. Two of the deceased have left families to mourn their parents untimely fate.

Western Daily Press.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. May 1860.

Page 2 Col. 2-3.

Letter - The Miner's Strike at the Ballarat Colliery, New Whittington, near Chesterfield.

Sir,

I hope you will grant a portion of your valuable space for the insertion of the following remarks on the above subject, as it is only by the means of the publicity afforded by the press, for the full and free expression of public opinion, that we can hope to put down a public abuse. In your last weeks paper the miners at the above mentioned colliery made a public statement of the reasons which induced them to strike work, and requested their brother miners in the district to take their grievances into consideration; and as I have had 35 years practical experience in mining, I consider myself competent to form a just opinion on the subject. I wish to say, in the first place, that I do not know, personally, a single individual at the place in question, neither master, agent, nor man, and can therefore have no interest whatever in thus publicly interfering in the dispute, except a feeling of sympathy, which every human being ought to feel for others who are suffering the torture of the oppressors yoke. In the second place, I am no advocate of strikes in general, except in very extreme cases, and when all other moral means of coming to a reasonable arrangement have been tried in vain; but the propositions made by the masters at Ballarat to their men are so insulting to the feelings of every honest man who understands them - so oppressive and so glaringly unjust - that no man ought to think for a moment of submitting to them. Since the public may be appealed to for aid in supporting the said miners and their families, until the dispute between them and their masters is amicably settled, or they have obtained employment elsewhere, the public have a right to know whether such a call on their sympathies and benevolence is founded on justice or not. I have, therefore, made the following analysis of the subject, by which they will more clearly see the depth of its baseness, for it does not lie immediately on the surface, and can only be detected by an experienced eye; it appears that, previous to the strike, the miners were receiving 1-6d. per ton for great coal, riddled; and 10d. per ton for slack, 20 hundredweights to the ton; but the masters want to increase the ton to 28 hundredweight, and take all the draughts of the machine (less than half a hundredweight) or which the boxes, containing the coal as it comes from the mine, are weighted, which would make the ton 30 hundredweights, or a ton and a half, and give the following prices: - 1-10d. per ton (of 30 hundredweight) for great coal, picked by the hand, and 1-0d. per ton for slack, which would be 1-2d. and two-thirds of a pence per ton for great coal, and 8d. per ton for slack, computed at the rate of 20 hundredweights to the ton. Now, in order to compare one scale of price. with the other, so as to see the full extent of the reduction, we must consider the relative quantities of great coal and slack which would be produced under each system. In the former case, then, by the use of the riddles, there would be three tons of the great coal for one ton of slack, which, at 1-6d. and 10d. per ton respectively, would give an average of 1-4d. per ton; but in the latter case, by not riddling the coal, but picking it with the hand only, and sending all the remainder as slack; there would be a ton of the latter for every ton of great coal; which, at 1-3d. and 8d. per ton respectively, would give an average of 11½d. per ton only - a reduction of more than 28 percent, or about 5-7½d. in the pound; so that the workman who earns 20-0d. per week at the former prices, would at the reduced rate earn but 14-4½.; a point of starvation to which, it is to be hoped, the wages of coalminers will never be reduced during the present nor any other generation. And why the Ballarat coalmasters should have made such an unreasonable offer to their men is beyond my comprehension to tell, especially as the prices they are giving are considerably less than those given in any of the surrounding collieries; but I am disposed to think that they have been misled in the matter by some ignorant and unprincipled agent. However that may be, if the men are willing to resume

their work at the original scale of prices, I would counsel the masters to close with them at once, for they will never be replaced at such miserably low prices. They ought also to pay the men for their loss of time.

I would now call the attention of the public generally to another system of hardship to which coalminers, more than any other class of men, are subjected. I allude to the frequent commitments to prison of coal miners for neglecting their work, as it is generally termed, or leaving their employer without giving him such notice of their intention so to do, as they may have agreed to do. I do not wish to encourage them either to neglect their work or leave a place of work without giving reasonable notice, having myself often suffered great inconvenience and loss by men and boys treating me in that manner; but as a master will often dismiss a man at a moment's notice for little or no offense, and as the magistrates almost always lean to the strongest side, and send the "weakest to the wall", I wish to make known to coalminers generally that the law provides a remedy for one part of the hardship.

Some years ago an Act of Parliament was passed - the title of which I have forgot - one clause of which enacted as follows: - "The weight called avoirdupois shall consist of 16 drachms to the ounce; a pound to consist of 16 such ounces; the stone of 14 such pounds; a hundredweight of eight such stones, and ton of 20 such hundredweights; - and all contracts and agreements entered into after the passing of this Act, for any other denomination of weights than these, shall be null and void".

Thus it appears that to commit a coalminer, or any other person, to prison for not fulfilling his contract or agreement, when he is getting - that is, supplying - more than twenty hundredweights of coal, or anything else, to the ton, is illegal. But perhaps nor one working man in fifty thousand knows anything of such an Act of Parliament. However, after the publication of this letter, I do not think any more coalminers will be imprisoned - if working under such a system as almost all of them do - for breach of contract, or, in other words, leaving without notice. The part of the hardship to which I will call attention, is the power that a magistrate has to imprison a person for neglect of work, leaving without notice, etc., when the said person is working by the piece; but has no power to recover the man's wages when his work is done, should his master refuse to pay him.

I have no doubt the magistrates act according to law in such a proceedings, but I never heard tell of one expressing his sorrow at being obliged to carry out such an unjust law.

I remain, Sir, Your Obedient Servant
A Coalminer

Chesterfield, 10th. May, 1860.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Inquests before Mr. Busby, Coroner.

On the 5th inst., at Dronfield, on the body of William Etches, aged 49, machine grinder. Deceased was grinding at a stone driven by steam power on the 20th. ult., when the stone broke whilst revolving, and a piece struck him on the forehead, from the effects of which he died on the 3rd. of May. Verdict accordingly. On the 7th. instant, at Whittington, on view of the body of John Hayes, aged 13, a pony driver in a coalpit at West Staveley Colliery, who was accidentally suffocated and killed by firedamp on the 4th. instant. Verdict: "Accidental Death".

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Page 3 Col. 4.

Wages without Stoppages Movement.

Last week a meeting was held at the Nag's Head, Staveley, to hear an address from Mr. J. Wood, secretary to the "National Labour Alliance for the Payment of Wages without Stoppages", on the stoppages question. The lecturer proceeded to enrol members at once in the National Labour Alliance. Eight members were enroled, and lodge formed in connection with mass union, and, after arrangements for another meeting, the business closed about six o'clock in the evening.

On Tuesday evening last, a meeting took place at the house of Mr. Platt, Grass Moor, North Wingfield, to hear an address from Mr. Joshua Wood, secretary of the National Labour Alliance. A goodly number of miners were present. Mr. Ezekial Clark, of Grass Moor took the chair, and after a few observations on the mission of the lecturer, introduced him to the meeting.

The lecturer opened his address by stating that he represented the National Labour Alliance, and that the objects, aims, and intentions of the Alliance were to secure the payment of wages without stoppages. He stated that the robberies practised on Labour had increased to an alarming extent in various parts of the country. The pleas, pretexts, and excuses were numerous, and would require much time to detail them. He would enumerate some of the principal ones: they consisted of 1st., frame rents and charges amongst the framework knitters; and 2nd., false weighing, hutching, or hanging, amongst the miners. a speaker here read some particulars of the delegate reports, showing the hutching or robbery of coals practised in some of the collieries in Yorkshire. He next proceeded to describe, Thirdly, the club dodge, or collecting money from the colliers without returning any balance sheets. This system was carried on in many collieries. He (Mr. Wood) was informed that Mr. B**** received one shilling a month from 3,000 hands, which would give an income of £1,800 per annum, without balance sheets. Supposing only £400 to be spent on accidents and other charges, it would be £1,400 left in Mr. B****'s exchequer; add to this the income from fines and hanging of tubs, and false weights, and the amount would swell out to a large and princely income. We ask - Why is there no account rendered to the miners of these club funds? Mr. Wood then proceeded to describe the false weighings practised in different collieries, averaging 4-6d. per man every fortnight. Extend this to 3,000 or 4,000 miners, and it becomes one huge annual swindle. The lecturer then exhorted all present to join the mass union, and moved and carried five resolutions without any opposition.

A lodge was formed and members enroled, and after Mr. Clark had addressed the meeting on Union and its advantages, the meeting separated.

From a Correspondent.

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Leaving Work.

Henry Thompson of Grassmoor, collier, was charged by William Robinson, of the same place, collier, with leaving work at Grassmoor on the 8th. instant. Pleaded Guilty. Ordered to return to his work, and costs (10-6d.) to be deducted from wages.

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No Headline.

A pitman belonging to Cowpen, has been sentenced to a week's imprisonment by a Northumberland magistrate for having lighted his pipe while at work in the pit, thereby jeopardising his life and that of his fellow workmen.

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Saturday 19th. May 1860.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - The Ballarat Colliery Strike.

Fellow Miners!

An ingenuous attempt has been made to deceive you, and lead you from your homes to a pit where your oppressed fellow working men are standing out to gain their just rights, by the circulation of an advertisement for men to work at a pit called Ballarat, of New Whittington, offering from 5-0d. to 6-0d. per day of 8 hours work. In order to guard you against the low trickery of men who will resort to not only trickery, but falsehood, we think it only just to ourselves and you to inform you that on Monday morning last, we, the men now out, went to the managers of the same pit, and offered to work at the lowest sums offered in the advertisements, viz., 5-0d per day for 8 hours work, knowing it would be a rise of from 5-0d. to 6-0d. in the pound on the terms they offered.

But what think you was the answer received from our Christian masters - "That it was not their intention to give any such prices, but that they should stand to their one final offer as long as the moon should exist". We think this is rather a bold assertion for a preacher of the gospel of Christ to make, and that we may justly say, Icabod, Icabod, or, O, tempore! O mores!!

Now, fellow miners, we trust you see the intention is to deceive and oppress us, and reduce us to starvation's point, and any who know anything about the poor unfortunate miner, know also that their wear and tear of clothing, and other matters in connection with this dangerous and laborious employment is much greater than many other trades, and that he may at any moment be so mutilated that he may have to lie on a sick bed for many weeks, with little to subsist on, and that doled out with a niggardly hand, though it is his own hard earned money.

Now we leave our cause to the calm consideration of yourselves, and the generous public, knowing that truth and justice must ultimately triumph over falsehood and tyranny.

Your Oppressed, Fellow Miners.

Committee Rooms, Miner's Arms, New Whittington, May the 17th.

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Saturday 19th. May 1860.

Page 2 Col. 4-5.

Leader - Strikes.

It is with deep regret we perceive that there are several strikes in adjacent collieries. The grievances in one case, on both sides, have been laid before our readers by correspondence. We shall, therefore, enter into no details here, our object, in thus mentioning the matter, merely being to urge upon both masters and men the desirability of a speedy settlement. We object to strikes altogether; but acknowledge that working men have a perfect right to sell their labour, and refuse to dispose of it at a price which they consider under its real value. Nevertheless, from the experience we have had of "turn-outs" in general, we are inclined to advise the men to give way a little rather than strike. When they have a grievance of a reduction in wages we would suggest to them that it would, in all cases, be best to accept the reduction for the time being, under a protest, and endeavour to settle the difference amicably before having recourse to a strike. Whilst the men are "out" we all know that they are the greatest sufferers, their wives and children being the victims of the dispute. Poverty and starvation soon begin to look into the poor man's windows when the head of the house is out of work: therefore it behoves the husband to be careful how he denies himself his weeks wages to settle a dispute with his master. In fact all parties concerned are sufferers. The master is injured in pocket and in mind, and as he is generally the strongest he ought not, indifferently, to create differences between himself and his men which may lead to a stoppage of work. Our advice on both sides is moderation. As the strongest the masters should not consider it undignified to descend from their height and seriously consider the demands of the men; whilst the latter should not be backward in endeavouring, in every way, to make terms with their employers. In a pecuniary sense both are equal. The money of the capitalist is no use without the labour of the toiler -

"The richest crown of pearls in a most nation,
Hang from labour's reeking brow".

But the labour of the working man would avail him little unless it is fairly paid for. An honest price for his labour, we are sure, is all the working man requires, and he has certainly a right to have a voice in the fixing the ??????? of his wages. In strikes there generally faults on both sides, and men and masters should treat the affair purely in a commercial light, not importing into the dispute any rancorous feelings of revenge and malice. Supporting the weakest against the strongest one might launch into a furious onslaught in favour of the men; but knowing as we do that they are not blameless (we speak generally) it would ill become us to preach of moderation and act contrarily. We would, therefore, acting the part of the peacemaker urge upon the masters to do their best to bring about a settlement of the trade disputes which are now agitating our mining community. To the men we say "Be not lead away by the dictation of others. It is good for you to be united; but still loose not your individuality - be ruled by the honest dictates of your own consciences and the judgements of your own intellects".

To both masters and men the following advice of the great FULLER is exceedingly apropos: - "If you art a master, be sometimes blind; If a servant, sometimes deaf".

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Mass Movement for the Payment of Wages without Stoppages.

A public meeting was held at Sutton-in-Ashfield, on Monday evening, at half past five o'clock, on Wages without Stoppages. Mr. Joshua Wood, secretary to the General National Labour Alliance, addressed the meeting for one hour and a half, and pointed out the evils of stoppages on wages, frame rents and charges, and other shameful charges made upon labour. He urged the operatives present to join the Alliance and support the Movement. The lecturer read copious details from documents in his possession showing the enormities of the robberies practised on labour; and at the close of his address he moved the following proposition, viz.: That the framework knitters and operatives of Sutton-in-Ashfield resolve to form a mass union lodge, in connection with the movement. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a seconder to this resolution; but at last an individual came forward and seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and this some discussion was elicited. Several questions were put as to the disposal of the frames in the possession of the "bag hosiers", which were satisfactorily replied to and the meeting signified their satisfaction by a show of hands. Mr. Wood then retired to the committee room in Union Street, and the meeting separated about half past seven o'clock.

A Meeting at New Tupton, near Clay Cross.

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the club room at the Britannia Inn, at eight o'clock, to hear an address from Mr. Joshua Wood, the secretary of the National Labour Alliance for the Payment of Wages without Stoppages. Considering the short notice given a goodly number were present; the Ling's Row secretary aided the proceedings. Mr. Wood opened the meeting by reading over the statistics on what he called the false weighings and robberies practised at a colliery in Yorkshire, showing the deficit to amount to 4-6d. per head, each man every fourteen days; he, (the speaker) considered this to be a vast swindle on the earnings of labour. Mr. Wood then proceeded to read over Mr. Binn's colliery letter of a working man, published in the Ilkeston Pioneer, for May the 10th. The details of the letter were answered and replied to publicly, he, Mr. Wood, called upon Mr. Binns to publish a balance sheet of the Club Funds from the commencement; the lecturer asked if anyone present had ever seen such a document, and the reply was, No, by all present. No balance sheets had ever been seen by them. He expected the meeting to be united and to stick to each other without giving any ear to the statements made by colliers of Mr. Binns and Company. He then explained the principles of the National Labour Alliance, and moved and carried the resolutions, organising a new lodge at New Tupton, after which members were enrolled, and the meeting separated about ten o'clock.

Correspondent.

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Saturday 19th. May 1860.

Page 4 Col. 2.

Letter - West Staveley Colliery, near Chesterfield.

To the Editor of the Derbyshire Times.

Sir,

In your last weeks paper a letter appears signed by "A Miner", who launches out against the owners of this colliery in no measured terms. I am not aware that anyone has a right to interfere in the private affairs of this or any other colliery, but as it has been done, and the public may be misled as to the state of things here, I beg that you will allow space for this in your next issue.

A change in the mode of getting the coal was considered desirable, and proper notice to that effect given. Mr. Baindridge (Bainbridge ?) came over and stated to a deputation of the men the prices he intended to give, and at the same time gave them to understand that he did not want them to work for him at a less rate than they could get elsewhere, and that if they could do better they were at liberty to do so. The reply was that nothing could be more fair and reasonable. No sooner, however, was the change carried into effect and bills were circulated, and a "patriot" engaged against those who were investing their capital in the colliery, and actually presumed to think they were right to fix the terms on which it is to be worked.

Now, what is the change? It is as "A Miner" states - best coal from 1-6d for 20 cwts. to 1-10d. for 28 cwts.; slack from 10d. for 20 cwts. to 1-0d. for 28 cwts.; - but there are a few other items he has "unintentionally" omitted: -

First omission: The hard coal, one fifth of the seam, changed from 10d. for 20 cwts. to 1-10d. for 28 cwts.

Second omission: The dead slack which went through the riddles and was left in the pit is now filled with the rest, and paid for at 1-0d. for 28 cwts.

Third omission: Labour in freeing the coal is reduced by one half, owing to the riddles being laid aside.

Fourth omission: The prices for cutting in fast end stalls was 1-0d. per yard - it is now 2-0d. per yard. In loose end stalls, where nothing was paid, 1-0d. per yard is now paid.

I am not prepared to say whether the wages paid here are less than that other collieries, but after going into the earnings of the men very carefully, the result arrived is that the average per man per day for the last pay was within a fraction of 5-6d.

But as to the reduction, men well qualified to form an opinion do not hesitate to affirm that the change will not affect the earnings at all, or if there be any change it will be in favour of the men. I say there are men, who think and act for themselves, now working in the pit who are proof that they can do as well now as before the change.

The drafts remain as before, and I can testify that they do not cover the loss in weight arising from dirt sent up the pit.

Of course the charitable public are free to bestow their bounty on those objects commending themselves very strongly to their sympathies, and if the lamentable case of the poor slaves "who are suffering the torture of the oppressors rod" this colliery is one, by all means let them support them, (and through them the beer-house), under their afflictions.

"A Miners" advice is no doubt very valuable, but not having been asked, it is not as appreciated as it deserves to be.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant,
Thomas E. Fenwick.

May 16th., 1860.

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Saturday 26th. May 1860.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Mining in Derbyshire.

We have nothing further to report on what we stated last week with regard to the position and prospects of the Derbyshire lead mines. The North Derbyshire property is very low in the market, and we hear it is owing to several timid shareholders forcing their shares on the market. The Mill Dam Company are doing tolerably well, and the prospects of the Brightside Mine are improving. The directors of the New Midland are pushing forward the operations necessary for the sinking of the new shaft, and we shall soon hear if the mine ????? ??????. The Eyam Mine is improving, but the heavy rains of the present week have had a prejudicial effect upon all the mines in the Peak of Derbyshire, by greatly increasing the quantity of water in the same

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South Wingfield.

Preparations on an extensive scale were made to celebrate the amalgamation of the Oakerthorpe Iron and Coal Company. The fete came off on Friday. One bullock was spitted on Wednesday night, several sheep were roasted, and there was a plentiful supply of plum pudding and ale. Several bands were engaged, the South Wingfield Brass Band, a juvenile drum and fife band, and also the Offerton Band. The day was fine and Friday was a gay day in Oakerthorpe.

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Page 2 Col. 5.

Serious Colliery Accident at Clay Cross.

An accident of a serious nature occurred in a pit called Number 2 Black Shale, Tupton, near Clay Cross, the property of the Clay Cross Company, by which a collier, named Richard Carr, lost his life, and a person named James Hibbs was seriously injured. It appears that the deceased and Hibbs were employed in a stone drift in the above pit on the 17th inst., and were engaged at the time of the accident in ramming a charge of powder in a hole which they had previously drilled, when the powder by some means ignited and exploded the charge, which drove the iron rammer and needle with great force against Carr, and broke his arm and mutilated his face in a most shocking manner. Mr. Turner, Junior, the superintendent of the Clay Cross Works, on hearing of the accident, was promptly in attendance, and had the poor fellows removed to the colliery hospital, Clay Cross, where they were attended by Messrs. Wilson and Yates, the Company's surgeons. Carr died about nine o'clock a.m., two hours after the accident occurred. Hibbs was so far recovered that he was removed to his home during the day. Mr. Busby, coroner, opened an inquest on the 18th., at the New Inn, Clay Cross, on the view of the body of the deceased. The proceedings were only of a formal nature, so as to allow of a certificate of burial being given. The only evidence taken was that of deceased's wife. The inquest was then adjourned until the 23rd. instant. The deceased was 55 years of age, and leaves a wife and seven children. The inquest was again resumed on the 23rd. instant, when the following evidence was given: - James Randal, alias Hibbs, the person who was hurt with Carr, was so far recovered as to be able to attend. He deposed that himself and deceased were butties, and were employed about seven o'clock a.m., on the 17th. inst., in a stone drift, in No. 2 Pit, Black Shale, belonging to the Clay Cross Company. They were engaged in ramming home a charge of powder for the purpose of blasting some rock, they had put in the last piece of dirt, which was the fourth, when it exploded. I do not know what ignited the powder, but I suppose it was the friction of the iron bar and the needle. There was a groove in the bar to fit the needle. When it exploded I could see no more. Joseph Bramley, miner, said: I was in another stone drift at the time I heard the shot, and I also heard Hibbs call out. I went to him, and he told me of the accident; he said, "I believe Carr is killed". I left Hibbs in charge of a boy and went to Carr, who I found lying with his arm under him; he could not speak. I then went to the pit mouth for help, and I met Mr. Parker. We got him on a skip and brought him out; his face was bruised and his arm broken. He tried to speak, but could not. I went with him to the hospital where he died about nine o'clock a.m. Mr. Busby said he received a letter from Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector, saying there was no blame attached to any of the Company's servants. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Accident at Staveley.

As a man named Henry Kirkland was engaged on Monday last in his employment at the Staveley Works, he was unfortunately knocked down by railway waggons, and so severely injured as to be obliged to be carried to the Chesterfield Hospital to received medical attention.

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Page 3 Col. 2.

Deaths.

On Saturday, the 12th. instant, at Wetton, Mr. George Cantrell, in his 80th. year, for many years mineral agent to the late Duke of Devonshire, at Ecton, Staffordshire.

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No Headline.

William Johnson and Edward Lomas, both of Newbold, were charged by John Allen, of Dunston, with misbehaviour as colliers, forcibly taking away two corves from a pit of Mr. Samuel Lancaster's, at Newbold, on the 21st. instant. The complainant said he had a pit under Mr. Lancaster, and they used corves for getting water out. On the day named defendant Johnson came into the pit and said he was come for a corve. He told him he could not spare one - they were all in use, and if one was taken it would throw the men idle. Lomas, who was with Johnson, assisted him. They had nothing to do with his (complainant's) pit. For defence, George Bowler was called, who said he was a banksman at complainant's pit. He was on the bank when defendant came for the corve. He was told he could not have one, but he (defendant) took one. The pit had been at work, and they had sent out coal every day since, though not as much as usual. Dismissed on payment of costs, 17-0d, between them.