

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. October 1860.

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Metals and Mining in Derbyshire.

We have to report the existence of a general dullness as regards the iron trade, with one exception - the railway department. The advices from America are favourable, and, indeed, the continental demand generally is reported as exceedingly limited. For pig-iron Derbyshire make there is a good demand, and the rates are well maintained, but there is much dissatisfaction prevalent at the system of underselling which now exists, and continues during every period of depression. Four persons were killed on Saturday week at a pit at Newbold, by the breaking of a chain, and at the inquest one of the jurymen remarked that the Government Inspector ought to have ordered different tackle to be used. The Inspector (Mr. Hedley) said he had had a conversation with the late manager, Mr. Norman, about it, and he replied to the Inspector - "We have worked this tackle for 16 years and not had an accident". If he had ordered the removal of the tackle, and an accident had afterwards occurred, the blame would have been laid on the Inspector. He always found it a delicate matter to interfere with machinery. When the system of inspection should have been extended to ironstone mines, much good will arise by the prevention of accidents. Two furnaces have been built at Denby, and the blast-engine is in course of erection, and in the course of 3 or 4 months the furnaces will be got in blast. This company has about 20,000 tons of stone in stock, of excellent quality, ready to start with. Indeed, this valley is exceedingly rich in ironstone, and the quality is superior to many districts in Derbyshire. The Oakerthorpe Company are extending their operations in both coal and ironstone, and they are preparing to erect another furnace. There is no factor of importance to notice as regards the lead mines of Derbyshire. The continuance of wet weather has had a prejudicial effect on the working of the mines, many of which have been inundated with water, and the men have, in many cases, been unable to work.

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Bolsover.

The numerous announcements that have appeared of late in the various local papers respecting the formation of a line of railway from Mansfield to Eckington, have induced several influential individuals to contemplate commencing a colliery and ironstone works in the immediate neighbourhood of Bolsover. Coal is very abundant, and may be got by an enterprising company at very little cost. It is hoped that a line of rails will ere long be formed, which will have the desired effect of benefiting the community at large.

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Fatal Accident.

An accident of a frightful nature occurred at New Whittington, at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, occasioning the death of a young man named Charles Vickers. The deceased was partner in an ironstone pit belonging to the Dunston and Barlow Company, who was preparing to ascend the shaft by means of a balance weight in the descending corve, the horse at the time being unattached to the gin. He had requested a youth at the top, a lad about ten or twelve years of age, to put a sufficient quantity of ironstone in the corve for the purpose, who having propped the gin, placed a far greater quantity than necessary, the consequences was, that on the prop being knocked away, the poor fellow was drawn up in a frightfully accelerated speed, until striking the pulley at the top with his head, he was knocked out of the corve and precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of about 45 yards. Death was instantaneous. No blame can be attached to anyone but the unfortunate deceased himself, who was quite aware of the quantities of ironstone contained in the corve: it was evidently a want of judgement on his part. An inquest was held on Tuesday, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". The deceased was only 25 years of age, and bore an excellent character for piety, and was exemplary in his endeavours to benefit his fellow men. His death is universally regretted.

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The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

The new French tariff, regulating the duties on British manufactured iron imported into France, has been received by the trade with some favour, though not much is expected to result from it at present. The trade is in a very languid condition. There is a paucity of orders in the hands of manufacturers, and there are numerous complaints with regard to the non-maintenance of the rates for the current quarter. The manufacturing trades, generally, are dull; the employment is much sought after. The steel trade, at Sheffield, is very inactive; and in many departments of it there are complaints of the want of orders.

The coal trade is in a very healthy condition, and the demand is increasing daily. There is no strike prevailing now for any moment in these counties; and as the demand continues brisk, there is no doubt but that a good winter trade will be transacted. The Great Northern Railway Company have given to Mr. Plimsoll, the coal agent of London, every facility which they could towards enabling him to communicate with the very numerous customers who did business with the company in coals. A large number of women have been employed as clerks; and we understand it is in contemplation to give them a trip to the coalfields of Yorkshire, to show them the process of mining.

The ceremony of turning the first sod at the Stockport and Woodley Railway was performed on Saturday last, in Crookley Wood, near the residence of Mr. J. Marshall. The line will cost about £60,000 - two miles and three-quarters long. It will be a year and a half before it is completed.

There is much progress making in the Peak of Derbyshire in lead mining, and two new mines are to be commenced new week in the neighbourhood of Buxton. The Eyam Mine is improving, and the shares look healthier in the market. Snitterton Mine continues to be worked under the company which had purchased it, and are working under limited liability, but the mine has not yielded anything at present worth particular notice. Some private mines now being worked at Matlock are paying well. The mine known as the Robin Hood is literally doing nothing. This mine was purchased during the late mania for mining, and it is managed by a "board of directors", which includes in its list a superintendent of police, a doctor, and a regular medley of professors. It is these small ventures which have failed which have done so much to deter others from investing in mines. The Shining Rock and Haslam Pipe Company is now dissolved, the plant and everything available having been sold, for the price of an old song. The North Derbyshire Company are getting ready for additional pumps, with a view of relieving the water at the bottom of the shaft. The mine continues to receive the confidence of the directors, who are sanguine that it will prove a good property. The expenses are very heavy, but if there was only a moderate yield of ore it would soon reduce them. The Peak United is yielding well, and there is some good ground ready for mining. The New Midland Company, at Ashover, are sinking a new shaft, but it will be some time before it is down to the vein, and it is very probable that additional capital will be required.

The Mill Dam Company have cut into some good ground in the bottom level, but latterly the heavy rains have drowned the men out. The present engine has proved of too limited capacity to pump all the water during the wet season; indeed, it is questionable if a much larger one would have accomplished that object, but as there is a "swallow" in the mine, the water soon

disappears. We have nothing new to notice regarding Mill Town Mine. There is sufficient ore being raised to pay the expenses and leave a small margin for profit. The mining share market has been exceedingly flat during the week, with little, if anything, doing. Eyam and Mill Dam alone are much enquired after.

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Metals and Mining in this District.

From the tone of the quarterly meetings of the iron trade held at Wolverhampton on Wednesday, it would appear evident there is no disposition among the members of the trade to alter the rates for the present quarter. The coal trade is very brisk, and the orders are on the increase. The Eyam Mining Company had a sale of ore, about 50 tons, on Monday last. The works are looking well, and the shareholders very sanguine that they will have a good mine again. The new lift of pumps has cleared the shaft of water, and the company are now in a position to proceed with the sinking; the strata, however, are so hard that few men will take the contract. The last two contractors have abandoned it on the terms it was let to them, and a meeting is appointed for next Monday, to re-let the same to other parties. The sinking operations at the New Midland are going on satisfactory, and, as far as appearances would indicate, the directors have much confidence in the work. The other mines are not doing anything worth notice, and the share market is very dull.

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Advert - Manor House Colliery, Brampton.

E. Taylor begs to inform the public that he is now supplying good house coal on the following terms; -

Coal,	Cash Price	5-5d.
	Credit	5-10d. per ton.
Slack,	Cash Price	2-6d.
	Credit	2-9d. per ton.

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Advert - Coal Miners Wanted.

Several good workmen (if steady and industrious) may find constant employment, on liberal terms, at Loundsley Green Colliery, near Chesterfield.

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Fatal Accident.

An accident occurred on Wednesday, the 17th. instant, to Thomas Martin, who was at work at the bottom of the Hungerhill Pit at the inclined plane, and not using caution in applying the break, was against the edge of the butt when one of the waggons ran against him which crushed him. The unfortunate man was immediately conveyed to the Chesterfield Hospital and Dispensary, but expired on Sunday last. An inquest was held at the Hospital on Monday. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Greenhill-Lane.

On Thursday week Mr. Busby, coroner, held an inquest at Mr. John Briddon's, The Red Lion Inn, on the body of Paul Saunders, collier, who was killed in a pit belonging to P.H. Morewood, Esq., called the New Foundation, on the Tuesday previous. A young man of the name of Kerry said that he and deceased were engaged getting coals, when they were startled by a rumbling noise, the unfortunate man watched Kerry place his pick under a piece of coal to dislodge it, when the roof under which he was seated gave way and fell upon Saunders. As soon as he could be released he was conveyed home, where he was attended by Mr. Siddall, surgeon, Alfreton, but he expired about ten minutes after his arrival. It was proved that the roof was properly propped. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". The deceased has left a wife and one child.

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Metals and Mining in this District.

The position of the iron trade this week is somewhat more active, though the makers of inferior brands complain of a want of orders, and of a system which now prevails to a large extent of underselling in order to force sales. The stocks in the hands of merchants are but small, and the slightest impetus, from whatever cause, would soon produce an effect which would be speedily felt throughout the trade. The coal trade is making rapid improvement, the increase being for the London and southern markets. In Derbyshire the utmost activity prevails in the coal trade. At Staveley, Clay Cross, and several of the collieries in the southern part of the county, where contracts exist for the supply of a large gasworks, much business is being done in order to meet contracts. The present wet weather is exercising a very prejudicial effect upon the lead mines of Derbyshire, especially at those works where the machinery for pumping is not adequate to the influx of water. With regard to those mines which are worked without the aid of steam-power, operations have been at a stand. In our last we inadvertently stated that the Eyam Mining Company had erected a new lift of pumps. We ought to have said the North Derbyshire Company, whose mine at Calver Sough we were referring to. Our attention has been called to this error by Mr. Fordham, the treasurer of the Company. The new line of railway through the Peak of Derbyshire, which will be of great value to all engaged in mining on account of its affording an exit for the mineral and cheap transit for coal, is progressing well, and the contractors are pushing on the works with much vigour. The line will pass through Wye and Ashford Dales, Pigtor Bank, and Chee Tor, where there will be a tunnel of 368 yards, thence through Millers Dale, where it will run over a viaduct of 4 arches of 30 foot span and 73 feet high, and thence through 2 tunnels, one of 407 and the other of 452 yards, thence over a viaduct at Monsal Dale of a hundred yards, with arches 60 feet high and 50 feet span; thence through a tunnel of 537 yards at Edge Stone Heads. From this point it will pass Thornbridge Row, Dale House, Bakewell, Haddon, and Park Side Wood to the junction of the Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock at Rowsley. The mining share market this week has been very dull, and but little business has been done; indeed, there is not anything worth a quotation.

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Shocking Colliery Accident.

Loss of Three Lives.

On Tuesday morning an accident occurred at the Bear Moor Colliery, the property of the New British Iron Company, near Dudley, which resulted in the deaths of three men, named respectively Cheeners, Davis, and Siviter. It appears that, according to the usual custom, they had retired to a place where the coal was all worked out for the purpose of eating their breakfast. They had scarcely seated themselves when an immense mass of rubbish, computed at no less than 100 tons, fell from the roof upon them. Close by the place where they were seated, but separated from them by a thin partition of coal, ran one of the main roads from the bottom of the pit to the workings. A lad, driving a horse, had just reached the point at the moment the rubbish fell, but though the horse was completely buried, he escaped with only a few bruises. This is accounted for by the fact that the falling mass, having forced the wooden uprights which support the sides of the road from their position, threw their tops against the opposite wall, thus leaving an open space below. In this open space the lad was enclosed for about an hour, when he was extricated, and so little injured that he was able to walk home. It was at first reported that seven or eight men were buried. The intelligence spread rapidly, and in a few minutes a crowd of people were collected at the mouth of the pit, all exhibiting the greatest anxiety lest any of their own friends should be found amongst the dead. The rubbish was cleared away as speedily as possible, but although the greatest exertions were used, it was half past eleven o'clock at night before the last body was brought to the surface. It would appear, from the most careful enquiries, that no blame could be attached to anyone.