

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

No Headline.

A man named John Smailes was killed at the Newbold Ironworks on Thursday last and an inquest was opened yesterday (Friday), but up to the time of our going to press we had not received a report. It will appear in our next.

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Page 2 Col. 6.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The present severe weather has had a visible effect upon the coal trade, which has increased to an extent far beyond the usual demand, much greater than has been the case for several years past. The severe frosts have completely stagnated the trade by rivers and canals, and immense cargoes have been unable to be moved. The weather has had a bad effect upon machinery, which in great numbers of instances has been broken to an extent that it could not be moved without great breakage. There is the same amount of "Christmassing" among the miners of North Derbyshire, as is the case with the other departments of the mineral trade, and but little work has been done during the present week. North Derbyshire is still standing, and great difficulty is experienced in obtaining the calls, owing to the position of the Company's affairs and the low price of the shares, which have lessened in value considerably of late. The Peak United is improving, but not to any great extent. The ore got covers the expense of working the mine, and this leaves a small surplus for profit. There has been nothing doing at the Ashover or Matlock mines during the week to render comment necessary. An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Robin Hood Mining Company is to be held at Matlock on Monday to confirm a previous resolution to wind up the affairs of the company voluntarily, and to pass such other resolutions as may be deemed necessary.

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A Serious Accident Prevented.

A large amount of property was saved by the adoption of safety cage and detaching hook, at the West Staveley Colliery, on Friday morning, the 28th. ult., while engaged to drawing coals in a shaft with two ropes. The crank of the engine broke, this occurring at the time the descending cage was about 15 yards from the bottom of the shaft, consequently the velocity it had acquired, together with the weight of the rope, etc., caused the ascending cage (which was loaded) rapidly to approach the pulley. The detaching hook, however, disconnected, and the cage, with its load, became instantly fixed to the slides, where it remained for three days whilst the engine was being repaired, when the hook was again put into operation without requiring any repairs. This is the second accident this invention has prevented during the period of one month. The owners of the West Staveley Colliery feel a duty devolving upon themselves to Mr. J.S. Calow, of Staveley (who is the inventor and patentee), to hereby testify to the simplicity, safety, and efficiency of his invention, he (Mr. Calow) having overcome the objections to safety cages, viz., superfluous action causing wear and tear, and the great liability to get out of order thereby, as the invention works only when required.

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Stealing Brass.

Henry Parkes, aged 34, engine-driver, pleaded guilty to stealing, on the 24th. of October, at Staveley, one brass tap, one brass centre, and one brass nut, the property of R. Barrow, Esq.

Sentenced to 2 months hard labour.

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No Headline.

Samuel Richard Rowe, late secretary of the Birmingham Coal and Coke Company, is in custody on a charge of embezzling the monies of his employers to the extent of about £1,100. Prisoner was apprehended in Belfast, whither he had absconded.

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Frightful Colliery Accident at Manston, near Leeds.

Major Ward, of Manston, the eminent colliery proprietor, has been for some time past engaged in sinking a shaft on Brown Moor, near Whitkirk, Leeds, with the object of reaching the Beeston bed of coal, which lies at a depth of 200 yards from the surface. At the Bye-Pit which is already sunk 120 yards, and which goes by the name of the "New Odd", the sinkers have been very much inconvenienced by the stream of water which flows into the shaft, and renders the use of extensive pumping engines necessary. On Tuesday morning, Robert Taylor, William Ambler, and the overman, Thomas Greenhow, were on the cradle or half-moon of the bye-pit, on their way to their work at the bottom. The engine had only given a half stroke, when the crank broke, and the three men were precipitated to the bottom of the pit. The brake was on, but it is supposed it would not bite, owing to the slipperiness of the machinery, caused by the frosty weather. as soon as possible after the accident, "crabs" were got into requisition; and Greenhow - who was alive, and had sustained himself in the water, which was five yards in depth, by the aid of a piece of wood - was brought to the surface. He was in a very exhausted condition, but will be fully recovered - he sustained no severe bruises - in the course of a day or two. About an hour after the accident took place, the bodies of Taylor and Ambler were also brought to "bank"; and, as they were not disfigured by their fearful fall, it is thought that they must have been suffocated in the water.

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Page 4 Col. 2.

The Northern Coal Trade.

From a report read at a general meeting of the northern coal-trade, it appears that the trade has during the past year recovered from its depression, and that the returns are in every way more satisfactory. The average price of the best house coals in the London market since the last meeting have 19-9d., and of seconds, 17-9d. per ton - the average freight being 6-10d. The beneficial result of this favourable movement has been shown in various ways profitable to the coalowners. With respect to the export trade, the accounts were not so satisfactory as was expected; but the preference for Tyne and Wear coals is evidenced by the fact that one half of the total export went from that district. Adverting to the once formidable railway competition, the report congratulated the trade upon the recent decisions declaring the practise of buying the coals they carried, pursued by certain railways, is illegal and cannot be continued. It then refers to the Admiralty experiments upon the comparative economic values of Hartley and Welsh steam coals, and expresses belief that a strong representation of all the facts to the Admiralty would result in a large consumption of northern coal in the Royal Navy. The report notices the Mines Inspection Bill, and directs attention to the clauses which affect the education of colliery boys, and provides for the payment of wages to each person employed, or his authorised representative, at an office apart from the public house. The financial report shows a balance due to the Treasurer of £70. The excess of expenditure over income is accounted for by the onerous calls made on the funds during the year. It will be remembered that the trade subscribed to the Burradon Fund in the munificent sum of £1,000, £300 of which has been drawn by the Burradon Relief Committee. To provide for the expenditure of next year, estimated at £2,100, the report recommends the imposition of rates amounting to one eighth of a penny per ton on household collieries, and one sixteenth of a penny upon the gas and manufacturing collieries. As, however, the principle portion of the expenses arising out of the subscription to the Burradon Fund, the committee propose a levy of one sixteenth of a penny per ton upon the collieries comprising the Steam Collieries Association. Both reports have been adopted.

Newcastle Chronicle.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 4 Col. 3.

No Headline.

The Hetton Coal Company have just done a most munificent act. They have undertaken to provide for the families of those who were left destitute by the late explosion in one of their collieries. Mr. N. Wood, one of the partners of the Company, said it was at first the intention of the proprietors to subscribe £1,000 to a fund for the relief of the afflicted; but the owners of the colliery subsequently determined to extend their munificence by providing for the widows and children, the former for life or until remarriage, the latter till they were able to provide for themselves.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Fatal Mine Accident.

An inquest was held by Mr. Busby, at the Peacock Inn, Cutthorpe, on Friday, the 4th. inst., on the body of John Smales, when the following evidence was adduced: - James Howe, of Newbold, engine-tenter, deposed: I am engine-tenter at the Abbey Dale Ironstone Mines, at Newbold, belonging to Samuel Beale, and others. There are eight different ironstone pits, all worked by the same engine. The nearest pit is about 110 yards from the engine house. The furthest is 200 and odd. Three pits are north east of the engine; three lie east, and two south east. They vary in depth from 34 to 60 yards. There is one drum, with eight different sizes regulating the ropes for each pit. In usual working we draw up and down the eight pits at the same time, that is up four pits and down four pits. We have no printed rules. There is no means of signalling from or to the bottom of any of the pits. If there is an accident, a little lad who hangs on shouts up the shaft to the banksman, who is either there or emptying his corves. There are three bells, one at each for the three pits in different directions. If there is a bell at the banksman's pit, who hears of the accident, he rings it; if not, he shouts to the banksman as whose pit the bell is, and the latter rings it. When they ring, if the engine is going on, I stop it. If they ring when the engine is stopping, I wait for them to bring me word of what to do. In our regular work we go on without signalling. I can see two pits from the engine house, and the banksman "stands at ease" as a signal for me to go on either in raising or lowering. Some of the pits are old coal shafts, but I don't know which. I have known the pits two years and five months. On Thursday, the 3rd. instant, I was in the engine house. Six of the eight pits were working; two were stopped. Smales had been working at one of the pits south-east of the engine house, next but one to the engine house; and about 160 or 170 yards off. He had come to the drums by the engine house to grease the ropes of the eight pits; that is, the parts of the ropes that lap on the drum. He was on a ladder raised against the prop which supports the drum. About two minutes before the accident I saw him standing on the brick pillar that the drum rests on; he was greasing one of the lower ropes. I spoke to him. The engine was moving at the time. I had gone out for a minute or two to speak to deceased. I returned to the engine house; the engine was still moving. I stopped the engine when I returned, and afterwards drew twice up and down the pits. When I drew up the second time I heard deceased's voice crying out. The tubs were then by the indicator in the middle of the shaft. I stopped my engine directly. I went to the drums to look for deceased. I saw deceased between the engine house wall and the drum, all torn to pieces. I thought that the ladder on which he had been standing must have slipped. He had been setting one foot on the ladder and the other foot on a plank of wood. The piece of wood broke on which his left foot had been resting; and the up going rope, which that piece of wood was carrying, caught deceased and took the leg round the drum, and when he was getting round I must have heard his voice. It is a perpendicular drum. He had not been carried round a quarter of the drum; the rope held him and wedged him into a very narrow space between the engine house wall and the drum. His leg was between the rope and drum, and his body wedged into the narrow space. His head was crushed to a mummy and the lower part of his body torn all to pieces. He was quite dead. The piece of wood he was resting on was not put up nor calculated for that manner. He was not on it when I spoke to him, and I don't know that he intended to do so. Charles Hall, Newbold, overlooker of Newbold Mines, said: The pits where the accident occurred are called the Abbey Dale Mines, in Newbold Township. They are ironstone mines, the coal has been got: It lay 11 yards below the ironstone, 5 of the 8 shafts are old coal shafts. There are no Rules established under the recent Act, there has never been any printed Rules. William Needham, Cutthorpe, coal and ironstone miner, said: I saw deceased three minutes

before the accident, he was standing on a ladder besides the drum; I was 150 yards off and couldn't see whether he had both feet on the ladder. I thought I saw his legs going round the drum. The engine stopped the moment deceased cried out. I ran to deceased, deceased had been caught by his left leg; the ropes were round his neck, and his body was crushed between the drum and wall. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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No Headline.

Official returns inform us that there are 151 collieries in Derbyshire.

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Page 2 Col. 5-6.

Metals and Mining in the District.

The New Year has opened more auspiciously with regard to the iron and coal trades, and the prospects of improvement are more hopeful than they have been for some time past. The coal trade is exciting considerable attention, owing to the great scarcity of the material, and the impossibility of obtaining a sufficient supply to meet the demand. The present excessive storm and frost have given such an impetus to the demand in these counties, that for household purposes alone there is great difficulty in meeting with a sufficient supply of the material. The lead mining interests in Derbyshire is making but slow progress, owing to the critical position of the weather. There is little doing in any of the mines, with but few exceptions. The Mill Dam Mine has just been put into a more hopeful state than has been the case for some time past. The long and expensive lawsuit in Chancery is anticipated to end in favour of the Company, the arbiter having been over the property within the past week. The Company have also cut into the Sun Vein, and have come upon a rich vein of ore, which has given a fresh impulse to mining in that locality. The money market is excessively dull, and the only transactions quoted are North Derbyshire Mining shares, which have been sold at 10-0d. each.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. January 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Two Collieries on Fire.

On Monday, about 7 o'clock in the morning, the colliery of Messrs. Knowles and Company, known by the name of Cockey Moor Pit, was discovered to be on fire. Mark Todd, the manager, immediately exerted himself to save the lives of the work people. It was supposed that there were about 60 in the pit, and they all succeeded in making their escape, some of them with great difficulty. The manager dragged one person to the eye of the pit when he was in a very exhausted condition. It was ascertained that all the work people were safe, but the manager contrary to the wishes of the rest, was determined to save the life of a pony. In making the attempt, he was suffocated, and on Tuesday evening the body had not been recovered. The coal at the bottom of the pit was still on fire. The unfortunate man has been seen several times, but it is not considered possible to reach him with safety. He was lying on his back, and appeared to be much disfigured. He was 36 years of age, and has left a widow and one child.

Early on Tuesday morning it was discovered that one of Earl FitzWilliam's collieries at Rawmarsh, near Sheffield, was on fire. The information of the catastrophe was at once forwarded to Rotherham, from whence aid was immediately dispatched. The air-shafts were stopped, and engines poured large quantities of water into the pit, in order to check the progress of the destructive element, but, up till Tuesday night, without material success. Every means that could be devised for the extinction of the flames were resorted to, and the greatest praise is due for the strenuous efforts made to save the colliery. The origin of the fire is not known. The pit was apparently safe on Monday night, and some persons ascribed the fire to an incendiary, and others to accidental causes.

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Page 2 Col. 2.

Advert -

To be Sold, shortly, by Public Auction, a Pottery and 36 Cottages, and Building Land, at the Wharf, in the Township of Newbold, Parish of Chesterfield, the whole site whereof contains 24 acres.

Further particulars in a future paper.

By order of the executors of the late Mr. Haslehurst.

John Cutts, Solicitor, Chesterfield.

18th. Jan. 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

No Headline.

Some brass taps and lead piping were stolen from an engine house at Newbold on Sunday morning last.

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Saturday 19th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Accidental Death.

An inquest was held, on the 19th. of January, at Somercotes, on the body of John Pople, collier, aged 23 years. Deceased was a hanger-on in a pit at Somercotes, and whilst engaged at the bottom of the pit, a piece of stone fell on him, causing death. Verdict "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The state of the iron trade continues depressed, and though there is a prospect of a better state of things, we incline to the belief that it will not be felt before the spring. The coal trade is unprecedented brisk, and it is found impossible in many districts to supply the orders which have poured in on all hands. The collieries are all at work, but the present severe frost has greatly interfered with the working of some of the collieries arising from breakages occasioned by the frost. Great efforts are being made in the Erewash Valley to increase the supplies, also facilities have been arranged for an extended traffic on the Midland and Great Northern lines by an increase in the rolling stock. A shocking accident has occurred in the New Castle Coalpit, Whitemoor, near Nottingham. A portion of the roof of the pit having been left unsupported, a mass, many tons weight, fell in, and two of the men at work were instantly buried in the debris. They were extricated by their companions as soon as possible, but both of them were dead. The frost is operating prejudicially to the working of the Derbyshire lead mines, very few of them being able to do much work. The Mill Dam mine is now getting up to a position of great success. The sump, hitherto thought to be the sun side of the vein, is producing large quantities of ore; it has widened to six feet on the east side, with as good ground in the bottom. There is also very good ground branching off to the south-west; this is very important, as it will very likely meet with the sun side. The vein discovered last week in the cross-cut is eight fathoms south of the shaft. The bearing part of this cross-cut is some 27 inches wide, and the lead of the best quality. The level east is also producing good ore. A west level is to be commenced directly; the prospects in this direction are also as good as in the vein, which is three feet wide. We have been informed that 120 waggons have been drawn from the sump in one week, producing about 120 tons of ore.

Mining Journal.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

William Brown was charged by Eli Fletcher with absenting himself from work on the 15th. inst. Complainant said he was underground steward for Mr. John Clayton, at the Ingmanwell Colliery, at Tapton. On the 8th. of December last he engaged the prisoner to serve that colliery, and now produced his signature to the rules, under which he admits that he is to give or receive 14 days notice. He served a day or two before signing the rules, and served till last Monday. He never came on the Monday, and threw his "butty" out of work. Ordered to return to work and pay costs, 10-6d.

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No Headline.

Reuben Turton and George Turton, both of Staveley, were charged by Martyn Seymour, agent for Richard Barrow, Esq., of the Staveley Collieries, for that, on the 11th. inst., at Staveley, they did wilfully violate one of the special rules established at such collieries, by smoking tobacco in a place where safety lamps were ordered to be used. Both pleaded guilty, and were each committed for 14 days hard labour.

John Taylor was charged by P.C. Joseph Bown with stealing, at Staveley, a quantity of oil, of value 1-0d., and a quantity of chain, the property of Richard Barrow, Esq. Remanded till Petty Sessions this day (Saturday).

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Page 4 Col. 2.

Iron Ore in the County of Antrim.

A valuable discovery of iron ore has been made near Ballypallady, on the line of the Belfast and Ballymena Railway, where it attains its summit level, and only about 8 miles from Belfast. Specimens of the deposit are stated to have been forwarded to the other side of the channel, in order to be analyzed and tested; and an experienced English manager is superintending the preliminary mining operations. The locality of the discovery is on the estate of the Marquis of Donegal.

Belfast Newsletter.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. January 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

The Scotch Iron Trade.

The uneasiness prevalent in every branch of commerce, owing to the state of the money market, has exercised a bad effect upon pig-iron. Large sales have been made and since this day week a fall of 1-0d. per ton has taken place. Today's price for warrants is 49-3d. cash. On Tuesday, the quotation was 48-10½d. per ton, which is the lowest price we have touched since the Italian War in 1859, when 47-0d. was accepted. The demand for shipping iron is moderate, at our quotations. The shipments last week were 5,202 tons, against 4,813 tons for the same week of last year.

From the Weekly Report of Messrs. Shaw, Thompson, and Moore, of Glasgow, dated January 11th.

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Page 4 Col. 2.

The South Staffordshire Colliers.

Some of the coalmasters in the Wolverhampton district have given notices to the men in the thin coal collieries to increase their "stents", and to reduce the wages of the men paid by the day. The movement on the part of the masters is, as far as it has gone, tolerably successful. The men who were out gradually returned to work on the new terms. The masters generally are leaving the butties to fight the battle with the men. In some cases notice has been given to the butties who have the charge of stone-pits that they must get their stone at 6d. per ton less than hitherto, without at the same time any notice being given to the butties of coal pits. The butties of stone-pits were compelled to require the men to do an increased quantity of work without an increase of wages; and the colliery butties, availing themselves of the opportunity, require their men to submit to a similar arrangement. The stone-getters have generally acceded to the proposal, but a number of the colliers objected, and, after nearly a fortnights play, have not all returned to the pits.

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Page 2 Col. 6.

Sudden Death.

An inquest was held on the 23rd. of January, before Mr. Busby, coroner, at Clay Cross, on the body of Peter Elliott, coal-miner and farmer, aged 73 years. It appears from the evidence of Mary Elliott, deceased's wife, that deceased left home at eight o'clock in the morning to fetch a load of coal. He was much as usual when he left. His breathing was bad. He was in the habit of fetching coal for himself and a few of the neighbours. He had not worked in the pit for some time. Isaac Lacey, of Clay Cross, banksman, deposed that deceased came to the pit on the 23rd. inst., about nine o'clock with a pony and cart for a load of coal. He stayed between nine and eleven waiting for his turn. He had put one box (3 cwt.) in his cart and was standing behind the cart waiting for another box. A box of cobbles came up. I was emptying them, and whilst so engaged deceased stood behind me. He fell, I and another man lifted deceased up directly, he threw back his head and died directly. Mr. R. Goodall, surgeon, was called and examined, and was of the opinion deceased died from disease of the heart, and that the death could not have been so sudden from any other case. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

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Saturday 26th. January 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

No Headline.

On Friday last, Mr. Bennett held an inquest on the body of a man named John Hayes, of Bakewell, who was employed in a mine, when a piece of timber fell upon him and killed him. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

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Page 2 Col. 6 to Page 3 Col. 1.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The present position of the iron trade is dull and discouraging, though many entertain the belief that in the course of a short time the trade will materially improve. Navigation is completely stopped on all our rivers, and the greatest inconvenience is experienced in many cases in getting the materials to the works. The activity manifested in the coal trade is beyond all precedent. The demands being very considerably augmented by the continuance of the frost, which has frozen up our rivers and put an end to navigation. Numbers of vessels laden with coals have been unable to move during the last three weeks owing to the frost. The limitation on the supply has had the effect of increasing the rates several shillings per ton. On Wednesday a case of considerable importance to colliers was brought before the magistrates at Chesterfield. It was a charge against John Turton and Reuben Turton, with smoking in one of the pits at Staveley, the property of Mr. Richard Barrow. The prisoners pleaded guilty to the charge, and asked to be liberated. Mr. Maynard, one of the magistrates, said that the case was of a very serious character, and one that could not be passed over lightly. They had the power to inflict a fine of £2 and costs, or three months imprisonment. The defendants were sentenced to hard labour at the House of Correction for fourteen days. The magistrates recommended Mr. Barrow to issue hand-bills to the workmen, setting forth the present case as a caution to other colliers employed on these works. The frost has greatly interfered with the working of the ironstone mines. The sinking operations at the Mill Town Mine, Ashover, are being pushed forward, and the men are getting a little ore. When the loadstone (toadstone??) has been cut through some good work is anticipated. We understand the North Derbyshire Mining Company intends to sink a new ??????? ?????? fathoms lower than the present level. The negotiations for compensation from the Peak United Company as still pending. The Eyam Mine is gradually improving. The mining share market has been excessively dull, and no transactions worth quoting.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Distressing Accident at a Lead Mine.

On Monday afternoon, while 3 men were at work at a lead mine, situated at North Cliffe, Calver, near Baslow, they were suddenly placed in a perilous position by a large fall of earth at the mouth of the entrance to the mine. The pit is driven one, and not entered by a shaft. Two of the men are named Buck (father and son); the name of the third man we have not ascertained, but it is feared that his life has been sacrificed, as he was working at part of the pit where the fall took place. The other men were further inwards, and, as it appears, in a situation where air could reach them. About 50 men were speedily at work to remove the fallen earth, in order to reach the sufferers. They persevered vigorously all the evening, under great difficulties, in consequence of the loose nature of the earth they were removing and continuous falls of more, as well as from foul air. Up to Tuesday afternoon the buried men had not been recovered, but during the day they had fired a pistol to show that they were still alive and to encourage their comrades to persevere in their efforts to release them.

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Page 3 Col. 5.

Assault.

James Helsing was charged by Samuel Gill with assaulting him on the 7th. of January. It appeared that both were miners, and resided at North Wingfield. They worked in the same pit, and on the day in question complainant went into the stall where defendant was working in search of a shovel he had lost, and he found it. He had, previously to this, missed the shovel, and found it in the same place - this, naturally enough, seemed to have induced him to pry where he did. When he enquired for the shovel, and without much parleying, defendant struck him several times. Both defendant and James Taylor, (defendant's father-in-law) gave evidence of the abusive and uncouth language made use of by complainant of finding the instrument of toil; also, that it had then been there nearly a fortnight, and had not been placed there by either of them. The Bench fined defendant 2-6d. and costs, or 14 days imprisonment in default. Allowed a fortnight to pay it in.

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Page 3 Col. 6.

Charge of Stealing Chains.

John Taylor, miner, was charged with stealing certain chains and crowbars, the property of R. Barrow, Esq. Mr. Busby appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Cutts for the defendant. Henry Hilton, deputy inspector, deposed that, from information he received, he went, in company with Sergeant Brown, to the stables belonging to the defendant, and there found the chains now produced. He showed them to Mr. Barrow's foreman, and he identified them. He asked defendant how he could account for the chains, to which he replied that he had brought and paid for them. There were also two crowbars, which were identified. On being cross-examined by Mr. Cutts, witness said that he had known defendant 3 or 4 months. He search defendant's stables first. He asked for permission to do so, and there was no obstruction. George Marriott, foreman, deposed to going to prisoner's stables, and there saw the chains, which he identified as Mr. Barrow's. Joseph Wrigglesworth, blacksmith, was examined, and identified the crowbars by the impression of a "B" being on them. The remainder of the evidence went to prove that defendant had been employed by Mr. Barrow, with exceptions, nearly 40 years. It also had a tendency to show that on a person quitting his employment, and not satisfactorily producing all his tools, he might pay for them by way of a counterbalance. The chains are very old ones, and there was no particular mark, except the construction of links, by which to identify them. The impressions on the crowbars were nearly effaced, and appeared to resemble a figure "8". He was then charged with stealing a quantity of oil, the property of R. Barrow, Esq. Mr. Busby appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Cutts for the defendant. Sergeant Brown deposed that, in consequence of information received he repaired to the lamp office of the Speedwell Pit on Monday, the 14th. inst. Defendant came in, delivered his lamp to the lamp keeper, and was about to leave, when the officer stopped him, and he immediately produced a bottle, containing about a pint of oil, from his jacket pocket. The other evidence proved that defendant had procured the oil from the lamp keeper, and repeatedly told him he would bring it back, but had always forgotten to do so until "collared" by the police officer. After a strong defence by Mr. Cutts on the probability of his neglect in not delivering the oil at the same time as his lamp, the latter, he argued, being a mechanical act, the prisoner was discharged in both cases.