

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Hasland Lane Colliery.

The Company wish to inform their customers and the people of Chesterfield they have decided on the following reduced scale of prices: -

Great Coals, at the pit, for cash	5-0d.;	delivered - 6-3d.
Great Coals, at the pit, on ledger account		5-10d; delivered - 7-1d.
Cobbles, at the pit, for cash	4-7d.;	delivered - 5-10d.
Cobbles, at the pit, on account	5-0d.;	delivered - 6-3d.
Rough Slack, at the pit, for cash	3-0d.;	delivered - 4-3d.
Rough Slack, at the pit, on account	3-4d.;	delivered - 4-7d.
Engine Slack, at the pit	2-0d.	

Orders will be received by Mr. M. Langton, Holywell Street; also by Mr. Simon Molloy (Clerk of the works), who is appointed by the Company to receive all monies for them.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 4.

Refusing to Obey Orders.

Thomas Varley, James Gallimore, and John Harvey, of Hasland, were each charged with having, on the 12th. of April, refused to drive a pony. All pleaded Guilty(?), Varley on the grounds that he was unable to do so in consequence of his having a bad back, and two others because of others having previously done the work having had more money. The complaint on being sworn, deposed that he gave the three defendants a certain rate of wages per week, and to do any kind of work they were set to. Varley was a loader, at 3-9d.; and the two others were drivers, at 2-9d. per day. The underviewer was next examined, and he said that he first requested Varley to drive the pony, but he refused to do so, assigning no reason. He then in turn requested the other two to do the work, and they each refused to do so, asserting by way of excuse, that others had had more money for that kind of work. Upon their refusing the work, he found them nothing more to do, and they went home for the day, returning to work on the following day. He then asked a boy about sixteen years of age to do the work, he went and did it. Mr. Maynard said the excuses all were very bad, and after other evidence had been adduced to the effect that this job was of the easiest description in the pit, he convicted them in the penalty of one days wages, and costs 12-6d. each, or fourteen days imprisonment.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

Wages.

William Gee summoned George Charlesworth for 8-0d., which he alleged was due to him for work done, at 3-8d. per day, in a pit at Brampton Back Lane. Case was proved, and the amount was ordered to be paid, with costs, 13-10d.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

Wages.

William Revill was summoned by William Gee, of Staveley, for 15-4d. Defendant, a contractor, said that he was not liable, as he had nothing to do with turning men away and setting them on. Adjourned to that day fortnight for the production of evidence.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

Philip Gray was charged by Francis Rockcliffe Pierce, of the Whittington Colliery, with stealing, in the Parish of Whittington, on the 1st. inst., one pound of candles, of the value of 8d., the property of the said Francis Rockcliffe Pierce. Remanded till this (Saturday).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. May 1861.

Page 4 Col. 3.

The Coal and Iron Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. - Apr. 24.

The general tendency of the iron trade is, on the whole, more favourable in many respects than it has been for several weeks past. The position of political affairs is more pacific, and the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, after suffering from the effects of strikes for several weeks, have now settled down again. The enquiry for iron for home consumption is on the increase, there is a greater disposition to purchase evinced by the merchants for speculation. The latest advices from America are more hopeful, and the impracticability of the Morrill Tariff Bill is being made more manifest daily. The coal trade is not so active as was anticipated, but its position generally is satisfactory, and will no doubt improve, as the strike in the Lancashire district has happily terminated. The Yorkshire coalmasters are very sanguine in getting Parliamentary powers to enable them to construct the new intended mineral railway. It would give a great impetus to the export trade in coal to the Continent. The great difficulty experienced with regard to the mineral traffic, both in the Yorkshire as well as in the Derbyshire district, is the great want of mineral waggons for the transit of the materials, so rapid has been the increase in traffic that the companies have found it impossible to keep pace with the augmented requirements of the trade. We have no material alteration to notice in the lead mining operations of the Peak of Derbyshire. The present dry season is very favourable for work, and the miners are taking due advantage of it. The new branch railway from Rowsley to Buxton, to connect the line of communication between London and Manchester, is making rapid progress, and the Midland Company being anxious to open the line for traffic without the least delay. The importance of this railway to all engaged in mining cannot be overestimated, and we hear of several large works about to be commenced in close proximity to the line, so that in a short time the mineral riches of the Peak will have the means of exit to the market in the Kingdom. The local share markets have been very flat during the week, and there has been little business done, owing to the general depression in trade. The Sheffield trades are suffering severely, and a greater period of dullness and inactivity was never known in the hardware and cutlery trades. The iron and steel manufacturers are enjoying an active business at the present time, for the fact that they have in hand large Government contracts which will require some time to execute, besides an improved Continental demand. The machinists of Lancashire generally, and also in Leeds are exceedingly busy, and in many cases the men are employed until late hours daily to keep pace with the largeness of the orders on hand, which are chiefly for shipment.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 11th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

Shocking Colliery Accident.

Two Men Killed.

On Sunday morning last, a very appalling accident occurred at the West Staveley Colliery, which resulted in the death of two men. On Saturday morning the men commenced changing the ropes, pulleys, etc., and had completed the same except in the flange at one end of the drum, which rendered that side unsafe for anyone to ascend the shaft. Orders had been previously given that the men should use that side where the safety cage applied, but before the drum could be completed, the ventilator (David Band), and Key, the horsekeeper, were on Sunday morning ascending the shaft on the wrong side, when, about 20 yards from the top, the rope "copied", and traversed from off the drum, the check causing it to break. They were instantly killed by the fall. Band leaves a wife and four children, and Key a wife and two children. The men (who were greatly respected) were interred on Wednesday last, where a large number followed including masters and workmen. On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Wellington Hotel, Staveley, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, J. Hedley, Esq., government inspector, being present, when, from the evidence adduced a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. We understand the West Staveley Company has purchased of Mr. Calow the patent right to his invention of safety cages, to apply it on the other side also, which is now being carried into effect.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 11th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 6.

No Headline

Joseph Ball was charged by George Wilson, of the Hasland Colliery, with stealing an axe belonging to the Hasland Colliery Company on the 7th. inst. Remanded till Petty Sessions this day (Saturday).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Fatal Coalpit Accident at Staveley.

On Tuesday, the 14th. inst., an adjourned inquest was held at the Miners' Arms Inn, Staveley, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, on the body of Benjamin Hunt, of Staveley, coalminer, aged 50 years. On the 10th. inst, the deceased and man named Matthew Potts, were repairing a heading in the New Hollingwood Pit, Staveley, the property of Richard Barrow, Esq., when a large stone fell from the roof of the gateway onto the deceased, and bruised and crushed his head, shoulders, and breast, so severely that he died immediately afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

Metals and Mining in this District.

The Mill Dam Company of late have no been able to obtain a sufficient number of men to work the mine, owing to its being suspended for a time, and the men having been dispersed to other parts of the county for work. A great number of men are now employed on the new railway: they have now nearly got the full complement of men at work, which will enable them to push forward all the works. The South Vein east is very rich, and producing a large quantity of ore. North Vein, going west is also very good, and there is every prospect of the mine yielding large quantities of ore this summer, if the season should hold out dry and favourable for mining. At the North Derbyshire mine sinking operations have so far progressed that they have bottomed the old men's workings, and although the vein in the shaft is evidently twitched, yet it promises well, and the shareholders would do well to consider carefully before they sell their shares at the present low prices. A few weeks will reveal with more certainty what the preliminary results are which are likely to be obtained; all we know is, that there is a great hunt for shares, and if present appearances offer any criteria for future results, the shareholders are justified in waiting a little longer. The Portaway Company, an infantile project as compared with the North Derbyshire, is making vigorous progress, comparatively speaking. The directors are anxious to get to the level, and from present indications it would appear that they cannot be long before they cut a vein. Although the improved aspect of the lead mining district of Derbyshire is producing a highly speculative spirit, and, as we have previously intimated, if the great and principle works of the county can be made to produce a balance on the right side of the ledger, there will be no lack of spirit, money, or enterprise to develop the mineral riches of the Peak.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

Breach of Colliery Rules.

Ralph Jackson, of Staveley, furnaceman, was charged by Martyn Seymour, manager of the Staveley Collieries, for breaking the 34th. Special Rule established at the Speedwell Colliery, by allowing the fire to go out in the ventilating furnace on the 5th. inst. Mr. Busby appeared for the prosecution. Thomas Young, sworn: I am ventilator at Speedwell Pit. Defendant is furnaceman, and was so on the night of the 5th. instant. It was his duty to attend to the fire. I sent him to sign the Rules, and he came back and said he had signed them. The Special Rules are hung up at the mine and in the office. Henry Martin, sworn: I am foreman of the ventilating furnace. I went into the pit at 3 o'clock in the morning on the 5th. instant. I should have left at half past six in the afternoon. There are three firemen at work. We work in shifts of eight hours. On Sundays one has to work sixteen hours. I succeeded George Scott and stopped until a quarter past seven. The prisoner, Jackson, did not come to relieve me till then, which was three quarters of an hour after time. There were ashes between the furnace and the coal place. Before I left we shifted four or five waggons, I left a clear road to get the coal. There was coal enough for his shift, and another or two after. The fire was alright when I left. He brought with him something to eat and something to drink. The ventilation at Seymour Pit is connected with the Speedwell Pit. The fire was left as usual. Robert Young, sworn: I am night overman at Speedwell Pit. It was my duty to attend to the pit at twelve o'clock on Sunday night. I was called up at a quarter to twelve, and got to the furnace at five minutes to twelve. There was no more than a shovel full of fire. There should have been sixty square feet of fire. That amount of fire is necessary to keep up the ventilation of the mine. Defendant was standing by the fire. I asked him why the fire was so low and the shaft so wet. He said he couldn't tell the reason. He had had a good fire all night. The ventilation of the shaft was imperfect. The absence of the fire would cause a contraction of the tubing and occasion water to come in. I think there was danger. There should have been men in the Seymour Pit at the time. There would not be more than one foot of fire. The fire is easily kept up to sixty feet. There was plenty of coal close by. Thomas Young, recalled: I was called up on Sunday night, and got to the pit at a quarter to one. The fire was very slack. There was plenty of coal. There is no difficulty in keeping up the fire. There was a good deal of water coming down the shaft. The ventilation was so affected as to occasion danger. There were men at work in the Seymour Pit. If the fire be kept up properly the tubing will be dry. Martyn Seymour, sworn: I am viewer at Speedwell Colliery. At three o'clock on Monday morning, having received a communication, I went to the Seymour Pit. In a portion of the pit the gas had fouled back 150 yards from the face. If the ventilation had not gone there that morning, and done something, there would have been an explosion. Ventilation had ceased by reason of the absence of the fire. I produce a copy of the Special Rules certified by the inspector. The Rules are hung at the pit, and the men will see them. Committed for six weeks hard labour.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

Samuel Stoppard, jun., and John Butterfield, both of Clay Cross, colliers, were charged by James Allen, of the same place and occupation, with assaulting him in one of the Clay Cross Company's pits, on the 24th. ult. Defendants denied the charge. Mr. Flewker appeared in support of the information, and called a youth named Forester, who gave his evidence with much reluctance and an apparent leaning to the defendants. The Bench ordered Butterfield to pay the costs, 15-4d. The case against Stoppard not being sufficiently clear was dismissed.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

George Blyth, of Leabrooks, collier, was summoned by Edward Dawes, of Greenhill Lane, collier, for non-payment of 9-4d. wages due to him. Ordered to pay wages and costs, £1-3-10½d. The same person was then summoned by Thomas Haywood, of Greenhill Lane, collier, for non-payment of 9-6d. wages. Ordered to pay wages and costs, £1-1-0d. The claim in both cases was admitted by the defendant.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 3 Col. 6.

No Headline.

William Bacon, jun, of South Normanton, collier, was charged by Mr. John North, colliery agent to Messrs. Coke and Company, coalowners, of Pinxton, with descending one of their pits on a cage in which there were six men and boys, contrary to the rules of the colliery. He was cautioned and ordered to pay expenses, £1.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

No Headline.

Two men went to work on Monday morning in a pit near Wigan, which had not been used for some time. As they did not come up at the proper time, a search was made, and it was found that they had both been suffocated.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 18th. May 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

Movement to Reduce Miners' Wages.

A movement, long deferred, has at length been commenced by the iron and coal masters of South Staffordshire, which contemplates a reduction of the wages of the operative miners and blast furnacemen in the Wolverhampton district. On Wednesday a large number of the employers met at Wolverhampton, and agreed to a resolution which will reduce the wages of the colliers and the stone-getters 3d. a day on the present payment of 2-9d.; a reduction of 10 percent in the wages of the furnacemen. It is proposed to make the movement universal in the Wolverhampton district, all the employers giving a fortnights notice together. The arrangements were fully completed in Birmingham on Thursday. The wages in the South Staffordshire district are said to be from 10 to 20 percent above those paid in other districts which compete with South Staffordshire in the sale of iron and coal, and also pig-iron; and it is expected that, as the masters will act harmoniously, the men, who have not generally full employment, will all submit to the reduction.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 25th. May 1861.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Advert - Coals! Coals!! Coals!!!

Walton Hall Colliery, near Chesterfield.

Best Coal, 5-0d. at the Pit; 6-6d. delivered in Chesterfield.

G. Hewitt, Proprietor.

Agent: Mr. R. Fenton, Albion Hotel, Eyre Street, Chesterfield, where all orders will receive prompt attention.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 25th. May 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Tenant Right.

The plaintiff, George Turner, farmer, of Dronfield, sued Mr. H. Rangeley, ironmaster, Unstone, for £10-17-4d., damage to land taken for the purposes of the defendants colliery. The defendant did not appear, and the plaintiff stated it was the custom to charge double rent for land required by coalmasters for the purposes of a colliery. The defendant had taken 2 acres, 2 roods, and 12 perches, and he had charged at the rate of 53-0d. per acre, which was double the rent he paid for the land. The judge made an order for the payment of the amount claimed.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 25th. May 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Colliers and their Employers.

Two colliers, named Clarke and Limb, sued Messrs. Bainbridge and others, West Staveley Colliery, for 18-1d., on account of work done. Mr. Busby appeared for the defendants. The plaintiffs had contracted with Thomas Redfearn, the underground steward of the West Staveley Colliery, to get coal at 1-4d. per ton, slack, 9d. per ton, cutting at 1-0d. per yard, picking at 1-0d. per yard, and dinting at 1d. per yard per inch deep. The dispute was as to the measurement of the work. The plaintiffs had contended that the work had not been properly measured. Thomas Redfearn and George Wain deposed to the measurements being accurate. The judge held that the plaintiffs would not have left their work if the measurement had been just. He gave judgement for 12-9d., and added that there were more disputes amongst the colliers of Staveley and neighbourhood than all the other collieries between Chesterfield and Nottingham.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 25th. May 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Horse Warranty - Rangeley v. Henson.

The plaintiff is an ironmaster at Unstone, and the defendant a horse dealer at Newark. The plaintiff brought a horse from the defendant last Chesterfield Fair for £20, and the defendant warranted it "Sound in Wind and Limb. Quiet in Harness". On the following morning Mr. Rangeley found the horse to be lame. He asked the defendant to take the horse back again, but he refused, and it was sold for £14 by Mr. Denham. The present action was, therefore, to recover £6, the balance between the price paid for the horse and the amount realised by its sale and the costs. The defendant did not appear, and judgement was given for £6-17-0d. and costs.