

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 2nd. November 1861.

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Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Wednesday last, the 31st. of October, an adjourned inquest was held at the George and Dragon Inn, Heath, on the body of John Brailsford, of Heath, banksman at a colliery, aged 51 years. The facts will be gathered from the following evidence: - John Coup, of Heath Colliery, engine tender: I was on the pit top on Saturday morning, the 26th. of October, at half past nine o'clock. I saw deceased about 10 feet from the pit top. I turned my head and didn't see him any more. He was pushing an empty train direct to pit. I heard him cry out "Oh, Lord". I think I saw his feet as they went down. He was a banksman at the pit top. He had to unload the coal out of the trains as they were coming to the top, and put the empty trains again on the chair to go down. The chair was down at the time of the accident. Deceased had been above ten years there. A month ago deceased pushed a train down the pit, but did not fall himself; he was rather close sighted. James Booker, of Heath, collier: I was close to the pit bottom at the time of the accident. I saw the hanger-on, cage was at the bottom. The shaft is about 60 yards deep. I heard something fall; I was frightened, and went and fetched my light and returned to the bottom. Deceased was lying there dead. His head was badly hurt, and left arm and right leg were broken. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Mining in this District.

The trade of the district continues to be in an improving position, and a degree of confidence seems to be imparted to business transactions, and were it not for the apprehended stagnation in the cotton trade, we should have a brisk trade to report throughout the winter. The export trade in the north is improving, and returns for the past month are £10,000 in excess of those of the corresponding month of last year. The inquiry for railway iron is increasing, and we have a large demand for the Continent, especially for Spain, in which country some extensive contracts for railways are being carried out. The steel trade is more active, but no orders have been received from the States during the week, except for implements of war. The pig iron trade is improving, and a better rate has been obtained for the best brands. The coal trade on the whole is tolerably good. In some of the works the men are not making full time, and this is owing to the large accumulation of stock at the pit banks, and from other causes, arising more from an accidental state of things, than from any depression in trade. The Midland Railway Company intend to apply to Parliament during the next session for a Bill to enable them to make a direct railway from Chesterfield to Sheffield. Public bodies in the latter town appear to be in favour of the scheme, which will open out a large mineral field to the enterprise of the capitalist, which has hitherto been comparatively closed for the want of railway transit. The Erewash Valley Extension line which passes through an extensive coalfield, will be open in a short time for traffic.

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No Headline.

Joseph Fryer and James Fletcher, two colliers, were charged with absenting themselves from the employment of the proprietors of the Lings Colliery, North Wingfield, without leave. Dismissed on promising to go back to work and paying the costs.

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Licensing a Gunpowder Magazine.

Mr. Tyas, solicitor, of Barnsley, applied for a license for permission to establish a gunpowder magazine as Ashgate, in the parish of Brampton, on behalf of Messrs. Shortridge and Wright, gunpowder manufacturers, of Worsboro' Dale, near Barnsley. Mr. Tyas said, that by an Act of Parliament passed during the last session, the jurisdiction of the magistrates had been transferred from the Quarter Sessions to the Petty Sessions. There was no opposition, and the magistrates granted the license.

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Tagg v. Barrow.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, a miner, to recover the sum of £9-13-6d., from the defendant, Richard Barrow, Esq., of Staveley. Mr. Cutts supported the claim, and Mr. Busby appeared for the defendant. It appeared that in May last Tagg undertook certain work, in a pit situated at Spital, near the cemetery, to contract price. He engaged other men to help him. Some of the working machinery was out of repair, and he, with other men, were ordered by Mr. Turton, the overseer of the pit, to clean the work and put it right. There was a "jumble" of figures, which his Honour said much confounded him, and it appeared the men had sent Mr. Earl to value the work, and Mr. Turton refused him permission to go down the pit in the absence of Mr. Seymour, the manager. Mr. Seymour had made promises to the men to meet them at the pit and go through the work with them, but he had never done so. Had Mr. Earl applied to him he should have been glad to accompany him down the pit. It would be useless to ?????? space in giving the evidence in detail, but it possesses little interest to the public. After a number of witnesses had been examined his Honour summed up the case at great length, and suggested that some more easy method should be adopted of letting the men know the state of the pit when they come into work. One side was ignorant and the other intelligent, and the latter did not exercise their intelligence in a proper manner. A number of figures were told to the men, which they were liable to forget, and consequently when a separation took place the present disputes were nearly sure to arise. If the figures were given to the men in writing they would have a chance of producing them, and if they tally with the book kept by the master, of course, it would speak for itself, and if they came into court and said they had lost the paper, of course certain inference could be drawn. After other remarks he gave judgement of £3-4-3d. and costs. £1-15-0d. had been paid into court.

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Fatal Colliery Accident.

About seven o'clock on Saturday morning, a fatal accident occurred at Mr. W. Day's New Pit, Old Mill, Barnsley. John Yates, collier, had gone to work at the usual time, and had not been more than an hour in his place when he was buried by a fall of soft coal and rubbish from the roof. On being taken up he was found to be quite dead, the weight of falling stuff having broken his neck. The deceased, who was 47 years of age, leaves a widow.

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The Mine in France.

The telegraphic despatch from Nimes, dated Friday morning, states that the three miners last rescued from the Lalle coalmine are in a fair way of recovering. They suffered dreadfully while in the pit, and, to appease their hunger, gnawed their shoes and worsted belts. One of them who attempted to get out fell into a hole, and narrowly escaped drowning. After taking off his clothes his companions covered him with coal, to protect him from the cold, and in that condition he was found. They also tried to get out, but found themselves too weak to walk. Meanwhile another fall of earth separated them from their companions. It was this last fall which caused three hours additional labour. Twenty bodies have since been got out. The whole number of men who had descended into the pit on the day of the disaster was 140. Of these 30, it has been ascertained, came up again before the accident occurred. Five have got out alive and 22 dead. There consequently still remain 83 below.

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Advert - Geology, Mineralogy, Metallurgy.

Beautiful elementary collections of minerals, which are very fit for Christmas presents, and will greatly facilitate the study of these interesting branches of science, as indispensable for amateurs as public and private schools, can be had at 10-0d., £1, £2, £3, and £5 each.

All the collections contain specimens of gems, and are classified into fine wood boxes, provided with numbers and names of the ranks of the great divisions to which they belong.

Orders will be securely packed and sent, carriage free, to all parts of the United Kingdom, on receipt of a remittance or the respective amount by Post Office Order, addressed to Mr. F. Bensch, Mineralogist, Conductor of Mines, 23 Ordnance Row, Portsea, Hants.

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Another Accident at the Chert Quarry.

A person working in the above quarry, named Sheppard, was very badly crushed by the fall of a quantity of stone, on Friday last. He was conveyed home, being badly wounded on the head and face, and bruised about the body. He lingers yet in a precarious state.

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Opening of a New Colliery.

On Thursday last, R.C. Clarke, Esq., of Noblethorpe, proprietor of the famed Old Silkstone Collieries, performed the ceremony of taking up the first sod of a new pit, to be called the New Sovereign. On Saturday Mr. Thorpe gave all his workmen a treat, and the success to the new undertaking was enthusiastically drunk.

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Codnor Park.

Another remarkable and beautiful specimen of wrought iron has just been produced by the Butterley Company, at their Iron Case Works(?), near Alfreton, consisting of bar-iron, 11 inches wide, rolled in grooved bars. These bars were required in various lengths up to 47 feet long. These they resolved to roll in one length, in which they have succeeded in the most satisfactory manner; and one 57 feet has been produced, 11 inches wide by five-eighths of an inch thick. The bars are rolled off without the process of re-heating.

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Rawmarsh.

An accident of a serious, and it is feared fatal character, happened on Saturday, at Earl FitzWilliam's colliery, to a man named Drury, who, at the time of the accident, was engaged alone about a truck or waggon, loaded with coal, in the carpenter's yard. In pushing away the bar to remove the waggon, he fell down in front, when the wheel passed over his leg, crushing it so seriously that amputation will be necessary. The poor fellow, for some time, has been in an ill state of health. He was at once removed, without delay, to the Sheffield Infirmary.

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Inquest.

On Friday, the 1st. inst., an inquest was held at the Bugle Horn Inn, Wingerworth, before Mr. Busby, on the body of Herbert Price, of Boythorpe, coalminer, aged 26 years. On Wednesday, the 30th. of October, deceased was drawing timber at the Hunger Hill coalpit belonging to the Wingerworth Company, when a quantity of bind fell from the roof onto the head and neck of the deceased, and injured him so severely that he died the same day. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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The Mining and Metal Market in this District.

(From the Mining Journal).

The Coal Trade is not so active as usual at the present season, principally on account of the depression in the cotton and woollen manufactures, and also on account of the open weather. Last week a very dastardly trick was enacted in one of the pits, the New Hollingwood, at Staveley. A quantity of gunpowder was improperly placed in one of the stalls, where some men were working, which was exploded, though no person was seriously injured, several had a narrow chance of escape. A reward of £7 was offered by Mr. Barrow for the conviction of the offenders, but without effect. The necessary preliminary steps for the making of a direct railway between Chesterfield and Sheffield are being proceeded with, and a very influential meeting has been held in the latter town for the purpose of giving public aid to the scheme. The surveys and estimates have been completed, and though some of the gradients will be very sharp, as much as 1 in 100, we believe the estimated cost is under £30,000 per mile. From all appearances it would seem pretty certain that the line will be made. If it should, it will be the most important step that has yet been taken to develop one of the most extensive coalfields in the kingdom. Strange to say, some years ago, when the Midland was projected, this route was proposed and objected to, the parties offering their opposition on the ground that the town of Sheffield would be inundated with coal! The progress of events has taught those who originally opposed the scheme now to become its greatest supporters. On Saturday last a mineral train of 40 waggons was run along the new extension of the Erewash Valley Railway for the purpose of testing the line. It was proved to be highly satisfactory. This line will now become an important one for mineral traffic. It will shorten the distance to the Erewash Valley coalfields about 20 miles, besides affording an exit for a large field of minerals. A great dullness pervades the lead mining districts of Derbyshire. North Derbyshire is almost at a standstill, and the shareholders are wearied of living on the faith of better times. Mill Dam Mine is getting a tolerably good quantity of ore, but the expenses are so heavy, and the liabilities have been so great, that up to the present nothing has been available for a dividend. We hope to hear of one being declared before long. The shareholders of the Mill Town Mine have been called together by Mr. Binns, for the purpose of subscribing the additional capital necessary to finish the sinking operations through the toadstone. Before the meeting few new shares were taken up, but the prospects of the mine appeared so good that nearly the whole of the capital was subscribed by the present shareholders. The Eyam Mine is looking better, and the prospects of this fortunate company are still favourable. Besides having a surplus of £2,000 in the bank, they are paying a dividend of 11-0d. per share quarterly. The depression in trade has almost stopped speculation in Derbyshire mining shares.

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Another Colliery Accident at Wigan.

The neighbourhood of Wigan has lately been comparatively free from serious colliery accidents, but within the last few days they have followed each other with startling rapidity. In four days there have been three accidents, which, it is feared, will result in the death of no less than 16 persons. The last of this series took place on Saturday afternoon, at the Springs Branch Pit, recently sunk by the Ince Hall Coal and Cannel Company. On the day named 6 men were engaged in bricking the sides of the pit, and to perform this they were standing on a scaffold fixed at a distance of 9 yards from the foot of the shaft. About 4 o'clock, a cage containing a large quantity of bricks was lowered, and allowed to rest on the scaffold, when a beam giving way, the men were precipitated, with the woodwork and the bricks, to the bottom. All the six received injuries more or less severe - one, Wright Southren, of Ince, was so much hurt about the head that his death was hourly expected on Wednesday afternoon; and another, Patrick Tinsley, who had his foot nearly cut off, was considered to be in so dangerous a condition that it was impossible for him to recover. One man had his thigh broken, but with the exception of the two just named all are progressing favourably.

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Dreadful Colliery Explosion.

A fearful colliery explosion, causing the death of 10 persons, and serious and probable fatal injury to 5 others, took place on Friday morning, at the Prince Albert Pit, Shevington, near Wigan, belonging to Messrs. J. Tayleure and Company. The pit is about 250 yards deep, and on the south side of the working twenty men were employed. At half past nine the poor fellows were startled by a loud explosion of firedamp, which seemed to take place nearer the shaft than where most of them were working. Many were severely scorched, but a large number succeeded in escaping the fire, and pushed on fast to the pit eye. In this effort many were successful; but 10 others, some without any external injury, and others with faces scorched beyond recognition, were met by the dreadful afterdamp, which struck them down one by one. A party entered the pit as soon as possible. About one half of the men were met as the party proceeded, some few unscathed, but others frightfully disfigured. Soon the bodies of four were discovered, but the chokedamp prevented the remainder from being reached till half past three in the afternoon. Not one of the dead men was found in his working place; all had been making their way out when struck down, and two, a father and his son, had evidently mistaken their road. There were two ponies in the pit, one of which was killed. The gas is said to have ignited from contact with an open lamp.

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Strike of 246 Pitmen, near Durham.

Last week, the coal hewers at Cassop Colliery, near Durham, amounting to 246, struck for an advance of wages, in consequence of the hardness of the coal they had to work, and the great quantity of water in some of the workings. 8 men were convicted on Wednesday for a breach of their agreement, and they were each sentenced to two month's imprisonment in the House of Correction. The decision of the magistrates was productive of the greatest excitement amongst the rest of the men, who stated their determination not to resume work until their comrades were released from prison. On Thursday, the day after the magisterial investigation, the men still stood out, and the masters applied for and obtained 22 more warrants. The warrants were placed in the hands of the police, with instructions not to execute them until after the men had had an opportunity of going to work on Friday morning. The intimation, however, was given that warrants had been obtained against a certain number of men. On Thursday evening, a general meeting of the workmen was held to discuss the position of affairs, and decide upon the course to be pursued, and it was ultimately agreed that a deputation should wait upon Captain Phillipson, one of the owners, and make an offer to resume work at the old price of 8-6d. per score of 21 tubs, providing the eight men who had been convicted were released from custody. Captain Phillipson stated that this was a matter quite beyond his power to accomplish, but he consented, if the men would return to their work, to exert his influence to obtain a remission or some mitigation of their punishments. The deputation reported to the rest of the workmen the result of the interview, and after considerable discussion it was resolved to resume work at the old prices. Accordingly, on Friday morning, the fore-shift men went to work, in consequence of the warrants not being executed. The operation of the colliery has since been fully resumed.

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The Midland Iron Company.

The meeting of the creditors of the Midland Iron Company, Masbro', was held yesterday at the Scarborough Hotel, Leeds. There was a numerous and influential attendance. James Morrison, Esq., of Newcastle, was called to the chair. A balance sheet, prepared by Mr. Allott, of Sheffield, accountant, was presented, upon which a composition of 7-6d. in the pound was proposed. After much discussion, arising chiefly out of the uncertainty of the operations of the new Bankruptcy Law, as affecting Deeds of Arrangements, a committee of creditors was appointed for further investigation, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held on the 22nd. inst., consisting of the chairman; William Fowler, Esq., of Sheepbridge; Henry Rangeley, Esq., Unstone; Charles Binns, Esq., Clay Cross; and George Rhodes, Esq., of Barnsley.

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Fatal Pit Accident.

An inquest was held before Mr. Busby, at the Royal Tiger Inn, Somercotes, on Saturday last, on the body of David Godfrey, a miner, who was employed at the colliery of Messrs. Seeley, of Birchwood. Deceased and a man named Simmons were engaged in deepening an old shaft, which was from 90 to 100 yards deep. They had bricked it, and had sunk a few yards. On Friday, deceased and Simmons were being drawn up the shaft in a skip, which swayed to and fro as it was drawn up, and caught a stay in the shaft which supported some air pipes. The jerk threw deceased out, and he fell to the bottom of the shaft, and was killed instantaneously. The stay also caught Simmons' arm, but he maintained his hold, and was landed in safety. There were no guiders in the shaft. Simmons was of the opinion that the death of deceased was purely accidental. The jury returned a verdict to that effect..

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The Iron and Coal Trades.

The Coal Trade has improved during the week, and prices are much firmer. A short time ago it was agreed to reduce the rates for coal in Derbyshire, this step was actually adopted by some of the coalmasters, but as it was found that others were not acting on the faith of what they agreed to do, there was a general recurrence to the old prices. The trade is now improving, and the demand for the London market can considerably improved. The export of coal to France has increased during the past month, and it is anticipated, by well informed authorities, that there will be a still increasing demand for the French ports. The Derbyshire lead mines are much in the same position as last reported. Great dissatisfaction exists amongst the shareholders of the North Derbyshire Mine and the position of their property, which is now enveloped in a sort of mist.

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Fatal Collision in a Pit.

An inquest was held before Mr. Busby on Saturday, at St. Helens Inn, Stonegravels, on the body of Thomas Welsh, a collier, 33 years of age. The deceased was employed in the New Hollingwood Pit, Staveley, and on the previous Wednesday evening, about half past five o'clock, 10 or 12 men and boys, amongst whom was the deceased, came at a rush to get on the chair at the pit bottom. Six persons is the number allowed by the rules of the colliery, but eight got on the chair. The hanger-on refused to ring them up, and struggled to get two of them off, but did so, when he heard a train of loaded coal waggons coming down the level to the pit bottom. He called out "Mind! the waggons are coming", but the parties took no heed, and deceased got between one of the waggons and the case, and was crushed to death. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Advert - New Brampton Colliery, Loundsley Green, near Chesterfield.

Messrs. Nicholls and Fletcher beg to inform the public that they are now prepared to supply coal and slack at the undermentioned prices, viz.,

Blackshale Coal, dressed and screened,	5-10d. at the pit,
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Slack,	2-11d. at the pit.
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Terms. Cash on Delivery.

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Metals and Mining in this District.

Another remarkable and beautiful specimen of wrought iron has just been produced by the Butterly Company, at their iron case works, near Alfreton, consisting of bar iron 11 inches wide holding groove rolls. These bars were required in various lengths up to 47 feet long. These they resolved to roll in one length, in which they have succeeded in the most satisfactory manner; and one 57 feet long has been produced, 11 inches wide by  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths. in thickness. The bars are rolled off without the process of reheating. The recent change in the weather has given a great impetus to the coal trade and the demand has considerably increased, both for home and foreign consumption. The celebrated main coal of Clay Cross has attained such a decided position in the London market that the supply from the collieries is going to London, and until that market is satisfied no other can be supplied. During the past few years the production of coal at Clay Cross has been increased three-fold, and the production is still increasing. The Mill Dam company had a large measure of ore last Friday, and the mine is doing well. The Mill Town shaft at Ashover is not yet through the toadstone. The shareholders of North Derbyshire are clamouring loudly on the position of this property, and it would be advisable for the directors to call a meeting to explain the position of the company's affairs. The Prince of Wales mine is said to contain gold in the quartz, and that a machine has been brought for crushing and extracting it. We have no faith in Derbyshire gold mines.

Mining Journal.

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Cutts v. Belfit.

The plaintiff, a miner, sought to recover £1-1-6d., for work done. Mr. Waller, in the absence of Mr. Busby, appeared for the defendant. It appeared that some time ago plaintiff undertook to do some work in a pit for defendant, and he was to leave it in as good a state of repair when he left as it was when he began. He gave notice to leave on the 2nd. of September, and that notice would have expired on a Sunday, but plaintiff contended he had done work on Saturday, the 28th. He refused to work on the 30th., and a quantity of stone, etc., had fallen on the roads. Plaintiff refused to remove it and defendant employed Sylvester Coupe, who put the pit in a working condition, for which he charged 17- 6d., and other expenses were incurred which were deducted from plaintiff's contract. His Honour gave judgement for defendant, with costs.

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Improvements in the Safety Lamp.

Messr. Dubrulle, of Lille, has lately invented a piece of mechanism by which the wick was drawn down into the oil and extinguished by the act of opening the lantern. Lamps upon that system were adopted in the mines of Auzin, but it was soon found that after the lamp had been extinguished by opening it the miner could easily light it again with a lucifer match and work with it open. A mechanic of Auzin, Sermusiaux, has, however, now effected an improvement. He closes the lamp by the action of a small pneumatic apparatus, so that it cannot be opened without the use of an air pump, an instrument the workman can scarcely have at his command in the mine. The Courier du Nord states that the new lamp has been submitted to the examination of several competent persons who report in its favour.