

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Britannia Colliery, Dronfield.

The workmen belonging to the firm of Messrs. Johnson, Lucas, and Company, of Dronfield, kept holiday on Thursday week to celebrate the auspicious event of the marriage of their employer, Mrs. Johnson, with Mr. Thomas Gamble, of the firm of Messrs. Moss and Gamble Brothers, of Sheffield. A flag was hoisted at each of the collieries early in the morning, indicative of the occasion. The men and boys met on the cricket ground at 10 o'clock, and all joined in the game. The contest excited much fun, from the inexperience and awkwardness of some of the competitors. With bat in hand, they looked more as if they were going to strike their picks into the black rock than give their brethren a chase after the ball; there were, nevertheless, several good batters on both sides. The party dined at the White Swan Inn, where knives and forks were handled with more skill and with a great deal more execution than the bat and ball had been. After dinner the health of Mr. and Mrs. Gamble, the bride and bridegroom, was proposed and the company lustily responded. The healths of Mr. Thomas Johnson, one of Mr. Johnson's trustees, and Mr. J. Fothergill, the managing trustees of the collieries, etc., were also drunk, and heartily responded to. Great praise was due to Mr. and Mrs. Wildgoose for the manner in which they had catered for the comfort of the party.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Mining and Metals in this District.

The continuance of an easy money market, and the certain prospect of a bountiful harvest, have created a more hopeful feeling in commercial circles as to the future prospect of trade generally, and the iron trade in particular. The unfortunate pit at Clay Cross, which was recently the scene of so fearful an inundation, has been put to work again, and a good supply of coals is being raised from it. The subscription in aid of the widows and orphans is progressing satisfactorily, though no personal canvas has yet been made. This says much in favour of the universal esteem in which the Clay Cross Company are held, and of the general sympathy which is manifested in favour of the widows and children. It is confidently anticipated that between £2000 and £3000 will be raised by voluntary efforts alone.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Accident.

A fatal accident occurred last week to Thomas Hamilton, a carter in the employ of Messrs. Hewitt, Bunting, and Company, of the Walton Works, near Chesterfield. He had gone in the company of another man to Calver, for lime, and had been left in charge of both conveyances, the other man having to make a call. It is believed that he was getting off the cart shaft, where he had been riding, when some part of his dress caught the cart or wheel. The latter passed over his head and body longitudinally, and so injured him that he expired in ten minutes after the accident. He has left a widow, whose previous husband was killed in the Crimean War.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

Eckington.

On Wednesday an inquest was held at Eckington, on the body of James Newton, a collier, 33 years of age, who died from the burns received from an explosion of gas in the Blackshale Pit, Renishaw, belonging to Messrs. Appleby, of the 16th. of August last. Mr. Hedley, the government inspector, was present; and it appeared from the evidence that there had been an accumulation of explosive gas between the separation doors, and that on the man Newton passing that point with a naked candle it took fire. No gas had ever been seen in that part of the mine previously, and its presence could not be satisfactorily accounted for. The jury then returned a verdict of "Accidental Death". Mr. Hedley remarked that the working of the mine would not be safe without an airshaft.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 4 Col. 2.

Shocking Colliery Accident - One Man Killed and Three Injured.

On Wednesday morning, an accident, attended with fatal results, took place at the Gidlow and Swinley Colliery, the property of John Cross, Esq. Shortly before six o'clock the workmen employed in the pit began to descend the shaft, and all reached the bottom safely until the last lot commenced the journey. When the cage in which they were had got within a dozen yards of the bottom, both ascending and descending ropes gave a sudden jerk; by this the ascending cage was thrown violently against the wood covering of the stage, and the descending cage, in which were the men, was precipitated to the bottom. Some time elapsed before the winding apparatus could be made right, but when the shaft was descended it was found that of the seven men, one had been killed, three had sustained serious injuries, and three were severely shaken. The name of the dead man is George Taylor. He was 22 years of age. The cause of the accident remained a perfect mystery, as the engine is said to have worked all right till the sudden jump took place, and, with the exception of one third of the covering being torn away, there is nothing wrong with the cage. It is supposed that Taylor was killed when the jerk took place, by his head coming violently in contact with the spring of the cage.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. September 1861.

Page 4 Col. 3.

Mr. Hedley's Inspection Report.

Mr. Hedley has favoured us with a copy of his report on the inspection of coal mines in the district of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire for the year ending 31st. December, 1860. In this document Mr. Hedley says: - I regret I have to report a loss of ten lives more during the year 1860 than during the year 1859. The large increase in the production of coal in these counties last year, together with the importation of considerable number of miners unaccustomed to the long-work plan of working the coal, has partly contributed to this result. The production of coal in 1860, 6,215,000 tons, exceeds any former year, being 755,000 tons in excess of 1859, an increase of 14 per cent. The following are the deaths in 1860 with their causes: - Explosions, 3; falls of coal and roof, 21; in shafts, 13; miscellaneous, 13; total, 50. In 1856 the deaths were one for nearly 97,000 tons raised; in 1857, the deaths were one for nearly 86,000 tons raised; in 1858 the deaths were one for nearly 121,000 tons raised; in 1859 the deaths were one for 134,000 tons raised; in 1860 the deaths were one for nearly 124,000 tons raised. The deaths in 1859 in the United Kingdom were one for 80,000 tons raised. The production of coal has increased about 28 per cent since 1856, while the loss of life has only increased about 8 per cent. In other words, taking the quantity of coals raised in the respective years of 1856 and 1860, there is a decrease in the loss of life in 1860 of 13 compared with 18, compared with 1856. The average loss of life for the past five years is one death for 111,520 tons raised. I consider that the operations of the late Inspection Act have been satisfactory in my district during the past five years; the result has been a considerable saving of life, taking into consideration the quantity of coals raised. Many improvements have also been effected in the management of collieries. Much still, however, remains to be done in establishing good discipline at many collieries. The proper administration of the important provisions of the mines new Inspection Act will materially enhance the safety of the mining population. I have pleasure in recording that it is the desire of all parties interested in my district to give effect to the provisions of the Inspection Act, 23 and 24 Vic., cap. 151. More vigilant supervision is also provided for, and I trust that this will materially reduce the number of deaths which annually arise from breaches of discipline. A large number of miners in the midland counties are constantly migrating, which increases the difficulty of enforcing good discipline. I trust that the educational clauses of the mines new Inspection Act will give a stimulus to education amongst the mining population, so that they may be better enabled to comprehend the rules, and will more readily conform to the discipline set forth by them. The lack of good discipline has been prominently and painfully manifested to me during the past year: my list contains the names of many who have sacrificed their lives by very careless and daring acts, and some of them men who held responsible places, and men of experience as well. Men in charge of work, rather than go a few yards out of the way by a safe road to fetch material to secure a dangerous place, have actually exposed themselves to the danger to go a shorter road. Others, after having had sprags sent to prevent the coal from falling during the process of holing or undermining the coal, have actually taken them out for greater convenience, and thus sacrificed safety for convenience. Four lives have been sacrificed by the careless use of gunpowder; an aged and experienced miner left exposed a quantity of powder while preparing to fire a shot; he was drying a damp straw fuse, it took fire, and sparks from it exploded the powder; his own life was sacrificed, and two others who had, contrary to the rules, left their working places to talk to this man. Four lives have been sacrificed in a shaft by one of the sufferers taking, contrary to the rules, a prop down the pit; the prop got jammed between the cage and shaft side, the cage was suddenly arrested, and four of the six in the cage thrown down the shaft. Another exposed himself in the shaft bottom when the loaded cage was

ascending, although there was a good road round the bottom of the shaft not three yards out of the way. These and other indirect acts of insubordination swell the loss of life to 25 in 1860, through violation of the rules by the sufferers. There have been three deaths from an explosion of fire damp, against two deaths in 1859. With great satisfaction I record the escape from a very serious explosion of gas at the Shipley hard coal colliery, by the proper use of safety lamps. In November last a large outburst took place, which for several hours loaded a well-ventilated district of the mine to the explosive point. The workmen observed the Davy lamps full of flame, and the Geordie Stephenson lamps were extinguished. The men quickly retired into the intake air course, but in doing so one man had to pass over the coals which were got down along sixty yards of the face of the work, with his Davy lamp full of flame. The seam is only about three feet thick, and there was great risk in passing over the coals in so limited a space, almost blocked up in places with the coals; had the man been tripped and the lamp jerked with sufficient force to pass the flame through the gauze, a serious explosion (involving the loss of about seventy lives) would have occurred, and another would have been added to the list of unaccountable explosions. A defective lamp, or the exposure of a light, would have been suggested as the cause of the catastrophe. The deaths from falls of coal and roof have been eight coal and thirteen of roof, against seven from falls of coal and eleven of roof in 1859.

The usual details and tables are appended to the report, which on the whole we may say is very satisfactory. Of the lamentable accident at Kilburn, which our readers may remember, Mr. Hedley says: - "The deceased and two others were descending the shaft in the morning (two ropes worked in the shaft), and when near the meeting, something unusual was noticed; the engineman was warned, and he immediately stopped his engine, but not before the ascending cage came into contact with the descending one. One of the deceased took a prop or sprag 15 inches long with him, and it got jammed between the cage and shaft, and forced the cage out of the guides, and it was turned over on the side; the ascending cage struck it and partially doubled up the upright bars; two persons were saved by being held by the bent bars of the cage, but four were precipitated down the shaft. It is contrary to the rules to take a prop or other material down the shaft, but this was concealed under the clothes."

Mercury.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 2 Col. 3.

Advert - Steam Engine.

To be sold, a steam engine, about 5 horsepower, with force pump and governors complete. Apply to Mr. M. Gibbons, New Brampton.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Advert - Clay Cross Accident.

Subscriptions received since last Advertisement: -

Miss Clay, Bank Close	3 - 0 - 0
John Brown, Esq., Rose Hill	5 - 0 - 0
Mr. J. Smith, Traffic Street, Derby	5 - 0 - 0
Mr. E. Merchant, Derby	1 - 0 - 0
The Patent Rivet Company, Smethwick	2 - 2 - 0
Messrs. Newall and Company, Gateshead	5 - 0 - 0
Messrs. Wade, Son and Company, Hull	5 - 0 - 0
Mr. John Wilson, Alfreton	5 - 0 - 0
John Hickman, Esq., Market Harborough	5 - 0 - 0
W. Palmer Morewood, Esq., Alfreton	20 - 0 - 0
The Wingerworth Coal Company	25 - 0 - 0
Messrs. Roe and Son, Derby	5 - 0 - 0
John Ward, Esq., Clay Cross	1 - 1 - 0
Captain Pierce, Whittington	5 - 0 - 0
John Rhodes, Esq., Woodthorpe, near Sheffield	1 - 1 - 0
Henry Rangeley, Esq., Unstone	3 - 3 - 0
Messrs. Lucas and Sons, Dronfield	5 - 5 - 0
Mr. Richard Wright, Dronfield	0 - 10 - 0
Andrew Badger and Sons, Falls Wood	1 - 1 - 0
Mr. Thomas Knighton, Tupton	1 - 0 - 0

Subscriptions will be received by the Mayor of Chesterfield, the Derby and Chesterfield Banks, and by the Honorary Secretary.

George Barrow,  
Honorary Secretary.

Chesterfield, Sept. 12, 1861.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 2 Col. 6.

Fatal Colliery Accident.

On Friday, the 6th. inst., an inquest was held before Mr. Busby, at the Three Horse Shoes Inn, Brimington, on the body of Thomas Eaton, of Brimington, ironstone miner, aged 34 years. Deceased worked at Messrs. Appleby's ironstone mines at Glasshouse Common. On Wednesday, the 4th. instant, deceased was going from work, and got on one of the waggons which ran on a tramway from the pits to Dixon's Wharf. He was getting from the third waggon on the second, and had got one foot on the end of each waggon, when the waggons separated, and he fell to the ground, and one of them ran over him and crushed his head, body, and legs. He died from the injuries on the 6th. inst. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 3.

Alfreton.

The escape of the water from the private and public wells in the lower part of the town of Alfreton into the workings of the coal mine, which is making rapid approaches towards the middle of the town, causing the inhabitants to convene a second meeting, which took place on the 6th. inst. at the King's Head large room, to receive a report from the local Board of Health, which had favourably received a deputation from a former meeting on the subject of a water supply for the whole town. It was stated by a member of the above Board that they had applied to R.G. Coke, Esq., to endeavour to find out the situation where a permanent supply of good water may be obtained, and propose the necessary plans for this very desirable object.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 4.

The Iron and Coal Trades of Yorkshire and Derbyshire - Sept. 5th.

Throughout the week the reports of the present position and future prospects of the Iron Trade have been of a more confident and encouraging character. The orders which are being given out afford ample indications that the trade is improving, and that when the autumn demand sets in it will be more active. The harvest operations throughout the country have been nearly completed, and the yield of grain is, on the whole, much more fruitful than for several years past. The trade with America is nearly a blank, but the loss of the American trade has been felt less seriously on account of the increase in the exports of all descriptions of iron to the collieries generally. The cutlery and steel trades have most keenly felt the effects of the American crisis. The pig iron trade is dull, and rates are unsteady.

The Coal Trade is on the improve, but this may now be expected, in consequence of the demand for autumn. The great enquiry is for the hard descriptions for locomotive and marine purposes; though the production has been greatly increased, especially in Derbyshire, the demand is fully equal to it. The opening of the line of railway into the South Wales coalfield is was thought would seriously affect the interest of the Derbyshire coalmasters, but, from what we can learn, the danger has not shown itself in such a palpable form to be noticed.

The subscription in aid of the sufferers by the late accident at Clay Cross continues to flow in, and although as yet no personal canvas has been made, it is anticipated that about £3,000 will be raised by voluntary effort. The Manchester Order of Oddfellows, who lodges exist in large numbers in our colliery districts, are commencing a voluntary subscription, confined to their own order. It would be well if other benefit societies were to follow the example of the Oddfellows. The organisation which exists in these societies would render it easy to make a thorough canvas, and little doubt exists that a good sum would be realised.

The New Midland Mine, at Ashover, is not being worked at present, and the prospects of the Mill Town Mine are not very hopeful just now. The Mill Dam Mine is looking well, and the men are getting a tolerable quantity of ore. Several mines in the Peak of Derbyshire, which were started some 18 months ago, are only dragging their slow length along, if such a term may be used is reference to mining. The excitement on their establishment has gone, and now the merits of each have been, or are being, tested, but only in a small way. many a promising undertaking has been abandoned as hopeless owing to the "tinkering" method which its promoters have inaugurated. They have started with a capital in many cases which would not defray the cost of a workable shaft, much less provide an adequate plant. The enterprise shown at the Staveley Works, in respect of the castings ordered for the Great Exhibition building, is worthy of the veteran proprietor of the works. It is now certain that this immense contract, of the value of £60,000, consisting, we understand, of about 4,000 tons weight of castings, will be completed and delivered on the ground of the building within the prescribed time.

Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

John Carr, foreman to Messrs. Fowler, of Sheepbridge, charged William Palfreyman with leaving his service on the 2nd. instant without notice. To pay expenses and return to work.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 14th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 5.

No Headline.

John Carr, the manager of Messrs. Fowler and Company, of Sheepbridge Works, charged Alfred Gledhill with leaving his service as a collier on the 23rd. of August last, without giving notice. Committed for seven days hard labour.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. September 1861.

Page 2 Col. 3-4.

Advert -

The Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Colliery Company, (Limited).

Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies' Acts of 1856-7, by which the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount of shares subscribed for.

Capital £40,000, in 8,000 shares of £5 each, with power to increase.

Directors:

John Say Sparkes, Esq., H.E.I.C.S., Brunswick Villas, St. Johns Wood, London, W.

William Mitchell, Esq., 54, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Henry Brownrigg, Esq., 33, Lime Street, London, E.C.

George Brocklebank, Esq., Gloucester Place, Greenwich. (Director of the General Steam Navigation Company).

George Senior, Esq., Coal-Owner, Barnsley.

Major Charles Sanders, The Ingrams, Thirsk.

(with power to add to their number).

Managing Director:

John Say Sparkes, Esq., H.E.I.C.S.

Bankers:

London and County Joint Stock, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Solicitors:

Messrs. Courtenay and Croome, 9, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Broker:

Charles W. Marten, Esq., 26, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

Consulting Colliery Engineers:

Messrs. Brown and Jeffcock, Sheffield and Barnsley.

Secretary and Engineer:

James Wright, Esq., C.E.

Offices - London, 42, Bridge Street, Blackfriars.

Prospectus:

This Company is incorporated for the purpose of establishing a colliery, and raising the well known Silkstone Coal upon the estates of the Dukes of Devonshire and Rutland, at Sheepbridge, in the vicinity of Chesterfield.

The moderate depth of this bed of coal, which can be reached and worked in about 4 months, the very small costs at which it can be raised, the first rate quality of the coal always commanding the highest prices, and its contiguity to the Midland Railway, render this field one of the most valuable coal properties in England.

The existence of the coal, and the cheap rate at which it can be obtained, as proved by borings and shafts already sunk both in and around the field, entirely remove this undertaking from anything like risk or speculation - as thus affords an opportunity seldom met with for the moderate capitalist to invest in one of the most profitable and important productions in the kingdom.

From accurate surveys made by the most eminent mineral engineers, the directors can with confidence predict that the returns upon the capital will at the very least be 21 percent, while the facilities for winning the coal are such as to render it almost a certainty that dividends will be paid within 12 months from the commencement of the works.

The coal is the "Silkstone", well known as the best suited to domestic use, and for which the demand both in the locality of the works, as well as in London, is almost unlimited, and at the highest prices.

The shafts will be sunk in proximity with the Midland Railway, communicating and having extensive sidings therewith, thus enabling the Company to forward the coal by rail from the pits mouth to any town or port in the country.

The coalfield comprises about 600 acres, and is estimated to contain nearly 4 millions of tons of coal. The lease is for a term of 36 years, and held at the very moderate rental £210 per acre, of which a minimum of about 17 acres per year must be removed; hence the Company has no sums to pay as a bonus for the lease, as is usually the case; and no portion of the capital will be applied to any purpose, save the construction of the works and the prosecution of the business of the Company.

The lessors have also bound themselves to construct and keep in repair for a moderate sum, the branch line of rail to join the pits with the Midland Railway, and to provide all the requisite sidings thereto; also to convey thither all the Company's coal, and a fixed charge of 6d. per ton haulage.

It is a well known fact that at some collieries, when the engineering operation are scientifically conducted, from 800 to a 1000 tons per day are continuously raised. The arrangements of the proposed Company will easily produce that quantity; but taking the low daily average of 700 tons, and estimating 290 working days, there would be raised 200,000 tons annually. In order, however, to be free from any exaggeration, the calculations of profit have been based upon 175,000 tons only. From the reports given by different mineral surveyors, some of which are appended hereto, and taking the highest of their estimates, it will be seen that the coal can be raised and put into the railway waggons to cost not exceeding 4-6d. per ton (including all royalties, expense of management, and fair allowance for the redemption of capital expended in opening the colliery). After deducting these from the lowest prices now ruling in the neighbourhood, there is left a clear average profit of 1-0d. per ton, or an annual income of

£8,750, being upwards of 22 percent on the total capital of £40,000, even should the whole be required.

It should also be observed that the foregoing estimates do not include the profit to be derived from coking the refuse coal, or taking advantage of any more favourable market than can be commanded at the pits mouth, although the directors feel great confidence that from the facilities that they will possess of supplying the London, Sheffield and French markets, much greater profit will be realised.

Although the directors have fixed the capital nominally at £40,000, it is almost certain that little over two-thirds of that amount will ever be required: hence it is thought probable that the total calls on each share will not exceed £3-10-0d. at most: These will be asked at 10-0d. per share on application, £1 on allotment, and the remainder in calls of £1 each as required; and in no case will calls be at less intervals than 3 months.

A considerable amount of the capital being already subscribed, as soon as the directors think that a requisite number of shares applied for, they will commence the works; at the same time, unless at least one half the capital be subscribed, all deposits will be returned in full.

The company has been completely registered with limited liability, no shareholder can, under any circumstances, be made responsible for a greater amount than that paid upon the shares for which he subscribes. No payment, either in shares or money, will be given to the projectors promoting the company.

Applications for the remaining shares to be made to the bankers, brokers, at the Company's offices, 42, Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London, E.C.; or at the office of this newspaper.

Extracts from Reports.

Extract from a report furnished by the eminent colliery engineers, Messrs. Brown and Jeffcock, of Sheffield and Barnsley, who have under their superintendence the principal large collieries in South Yorkshire:

"To the Directors of the Chesterfield and Midland Colliery Company."

"Barnsley, and 18, Bank Street, Sheffield, 22nd. July 1861."

"Gentlemen, In accordance with your instructions, we now report to you upon a portion of the Dunston and Barlow coalfield, and for this purpose we have been furnished with a plan showing the position and extent of the tract of coal proposed to be leased.

Having carefully examined the estate, and made a very full investigation of the nature of the project, we are enabled to report that in our opinion a very favourable opportunity is presented of opening out a large and profitable colliery.

Without going fully into details, which we can give if desired on a future occasion, we beg to state that the seam of coal is the Silkstone, or Black Shale, so well known in the London market; there is every reason to believe it will be found of good quality. The thickness, as proved by boring near the site which will be the best of the winning, is 5 feet.

We estimate the cost of opening the colliery here at £12,000, in case there is not a large quantity of water met with (which we do not apprehend); should, however, much water be

found, it will necessitate the employment of a larger engine and pumps, perhaps entailing an additional cost of £2,000 or £3,000.

The above estimates though exclusive of the cost of constructing the railway and sidings, and of erecting coke ovens, if found desirable to do so.

The quantity of coal to be raised should not be less than from 100,000 to 150,000 tons per annum, and we estimate the cost of working, inclusive of interest upon capital, at 4-6d. per ton.

We have made enquiries as to the sale prices of coal at the Midland Railway sidings, and we have ascertained the average price would not be less the 5-6d. per ton, thus leaving the profit at least 1-0d. per ton, which upon 150,000 tons would be £7,500, or 40½ percent upon the outlay of £18,500.

This is supposing the coal to be all sold; but the small coal would be more advantageously made into coke. The cost of erecting 100 coke ovens, with apparatus for washing the large coal, would be from £3,000 to £4,000; this outlay would no doubt be compensated for by the increased price obtained for the coke beyond the value of the small coal from which it would be made.

(Signed), Brown and Jeffcock, Civil and Mining Engineers."

Extract from a report from Thomas Harrison, Esq., colliery engineer, Barnsley (a gentleman largely connected with the Yorkshire collieries).

"To the directors of the Chesterfield and Midland Colliery Company."

"Gentlemen, In accordance with your request I have carefully examined the Dunston and Barlow coalfield, for the purpose of preparing an estimate for the cost of the works requisite to carry it on; and also a report on the probable profits resulting therefrom. The field consists of about 600 acres; the coal is at moderate depth, and is of first rate quality; the price, £210, is a fair one, and the vicinity to the Midland Railway are advantages which in my opinion render it one of the most desirable and valuable in the county, and one which will yield very large returns if proper capital and management be applied.

My estimates of the cost is as follows: -

Sinking three pits, with engine, machinery, and all necessary buildings, appliances, plant and stock	£9,320
Cost of railway to pits	£3,500
100 coke ovens, at £25 each	£2,500
Total	£15,320 (say in all, £16,000)

The above plant will be sufficient to raise at least 150,000 tons annually. I estimate the cost of obtaining the coals, including all labour, agency, interest, depreciation of capital, haulage, royalty, at 4-3d. per ton.

150,000 tons at 5-7d. (the average selling price), if coke be made of the small coal  
£41,875

Deduct cost of obtaining same, at 4-3d. £31,875

Leaving a profit of £10,000

or above 66 percent of the capital used

(Signed), Thomas Harrison.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1-2.

Mining and Metals in this District.

Attention is just now being directed to a new colliery company - The Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Colliery Company - the object of which is to develop a property at Sheepbridge. It is estimated that the coal will be reached in 4 months, that 175,000 tons per annum can be raised, and that 66 percent profit can be realised upon the outlay required. The sinking operations at North Derbyshire are still going on, and we understand that the dispute between the contractor and the Company will be settled. The Mill Town Company are still continuing their operations to get through the toadstone, but as yet they have very little prospect of success. The boring operations have shown that some time will yet elapse before they can get through the toadstone, which is always a tedious and expensive operation. The plant belonging to the New Midland Company will shortly, it is expected, come under the hammer, as there is little prospect of the mine being further worked. There is little else to notice this week in the Derbyshire mining district. The hopes of the men of the Peak seem to be fixed upon the opening of the new railway, which is to form the means of exit for the minerals, and to afford a cheap facility for bringing coals to the district, which has hitherto been a matter of great expense.

Correspondent of the Mining Journal.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2.

No Headline.

In our advertising columns of this day we give the prospectus of the newly projected Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Colliery Company, Limited. The objects of this Company are to work and sell the well known Silkstone coal, upon the estates of the Dukes of Devonshire and Rutland, near Chesterfield. The enormous development of our coal trade during the last few years for home consumption, as well as by our largely increased and daily increasing exports to the Continent, have thrown open a vast field for investment in the working of one of the most important products in this kingdom, and one wherein we believe the combined action of moderate capitalists by means of a limited company could not be more legitimately or more profitably employed, as is evidenced by the enormous and rapid fortunes acquired by our colliery owners. From the reports of several eminent colliery engineers it appears that the prospects and success of this Company must be first-rate, whilst the absence of faults and water - the great drawbacks to this kind of property - proved by pits and borings sunk over the coalfield, removes this undertaking in a great measure from the risks attendant upon ordinary mining investments. From the careful way in which the estimates have been framed, the directors say that they feel confident that at least 22 percent will be paid in annual dividends, and the coal can be obtained with so much facility that they anticipate the declaration of these within one year from the commencement of operations. It will be seen that the Board of Directors is composed of well known and first class business men, and from this fact, together with the candour and clearness with which the statements are given in the prospectus, we heartily believe in the bona-fides of the undertaking and the success that will wait upon it; hence we have every confidence in recommending it as a safe and profitable investment.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 21st. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 2-3.

Breaches of the Mines Inspection Act and Colliery Rules.

On Wednesday week, Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector of Mines, summoned Messrs. Wells, of Renishaw Park Colliery, Eckington, before the Bench, at Hemsworth, near Sheffield, for the following offenses: -

1. For not ventilating a certain heading, in the above colliery, on the 10th. of June, whereby an explosion of gas took place and burnt a young man.
2. For not giving the Inspector notice of such an explosion.
3. For neglecting to ventilate a heading in the same colliery, on the 20th. of June, which the Inspector discovered when inspecting the colliery that day.

In consideration of the care with which Messrs. Wells using take in the management of their other collieries, a penalty of 40-0d. only was inflicted in each case. On the same day, and before the same Bench, Thomas Hardwick, a deputy in the same colliery, was summoned for a breach of the Special Rules, in leaving the mine before the men and boys left their work, and neglecting to appoint a competent person in charge. The magistrates inflicted a penalty of 40-0d. in this case. It is very important for the safety of life that the provisions of the Mines Inspection Act, and also the Special Rules, be promptly carried out; and we hope that these prosecutions will stimulate all parties connected with collieries to look carefully over the Act and the Rules, and to attend to them, otherwise they will render themselves liable to the pains and penalties provided by the Mines Inspection Act.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 28th. September 1861.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Metals and Mining in this District.

There has been no alteration of material importance to notice in connection with the Iron Trade during the week. The trade assumes a healthy tone, and there are more orders in hand, both for the home and foreign markets, than we have had to notice for some time past. The continuation in the American crisis is leading to a very strong assumption that the supply of cotton will be limited for some time to come. Early on Wednesday an accident occurred at Messrs. Knowles and Stott's, Ringley Fold Colliery, by which Thomas and James Atherton (brothers) were killed. The deceased, along with their father, William Atherton, were getting coal, when a large quantity of mineral fell and killed the two sons upon the spot, fearfully bruising their bodies. The lead mines of the Peak are making tolerable progress, and at Eyam, Mill Dam, and several private properties there is some good work being done, but some others are not in such a favourable position. The Mill Town Company's mine is not yet through the toadstone, and it is uncertain when they will be through it. There is a little more enquiry for mining this week, but they have been confined to a few of the more successful ventures.

Mining Journal.