

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. June 1862.

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Wilful Damage at Whittington.

William Moody and Matthew Cope were charged with committing wilful damage at West Staveley Colliery. The prisoner pleaded guilty. Complainant said: I am the manager of the West Staveley Colliery, belonging to E.M. Bainbridge and Company. On Friday night, about seven o'clock there was a train of loaded and empty trucks on the siding of our railway, which runs to the Midland Railway. They were on an incline, but quite safe. About a quarter to nine I received information that the trucks had been set at liberty, by the stop-blocks being knocked out. I went to see what had happened, and found that they had run through a gate and smashed it, and thrown two trucks off the line, doing damage amounting to £2. On Saturday the prisoner, who works at the colliery, came to receive his wages, and from the information received, I had a policeman in readiness to take him into custody for this offense. I charged him with setting the trucks at liberty; he denied it at first, but afterwards he confessed that he had done it. The prisoner was convicted, and ordered to pay damages, £2, fined 10-0d. and costs, or 21 days imprisonment. The prisoner went to Gaol.

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Barnsley - Coal-Cutting by Machinery in Yorkshire.

We have you had an opportunity of examining a newly patented machine for winning coal, which is, in the opinion of the practical men who have inspected it, not only calculated to work an immense change in the coal trade of the country, but it is also fraught with considerable advantages to the miner, in as much as it is capable of accomplishing the rough work hitherto is so laboriously and painfully hewed and hacked by hand. It is called a coal-cutting machine, it is worked by a compressed air engine, and is now in practical operation on the premises of the West Ardsley Coal Company. The Balaclava Pit, in which the machine is now in operation, is 170 yards deep, and has, we believe, the "working face on the plane". For the principle of the implement has been so thoroughly elaborated by its scientific improvers, that it is applicable to all kinds of pits, whether coal, ironstone, or fireclay. The engine house contains a powerful engine and a compressed air engine, the "pressed air" itself being conducted in patent bitumenized pipes to a distance of nearly a mile from the bottom of the driving shaft, the pressure being about 50 lbs. to the inch. The cutter itself is neatly constructed machine made to run on a tub carriage way. It requires a man to direct it, and this "tenter" can, by working round his wheel, advance the pick or cutter over the face in the bed of coal, and thus, in the course of working, bring down the blocks of the mineral as he requires them. It is one of the principles of the "compressed air coalcutter" to improve ventilation. As the cutter is working away with considerable force at the coal, a stream of pure atmosphere is discharged into the machine at every stroke, and this current of fresh and dry air, by filling the "hole", cannot fail to add considerably to the ventilation. The blast of the compressed air engine is so tremendous that on being directed for a few moments on the ground, the solid earth was at once bodily displaced. The cutter has now been working for some time in the pit, but the latest developments and improvements are only just being introduced, we are consequently at present unable to furnish detailed information as to the commercial results; but that these will be satisfactory there is no reason to doubt.

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Staveley - Fatal Accident.

On Friday evening, an inquest was held at Staveley, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, touching the death of John Scott, of Lowgates, Staveley, aged 45 years. On Friday morning the deceased was seen riding on the hind part of a train of empty waggons. He had his feet on the waggon and face towards the engine. The train was running from Barrow Hill to Seymour. The deceased fell on the "six feet", and his arm was frightfully crushed. He also complained much about his back. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Fearful Pit Accident at Bilston - Seven Lives lost.

A most terrible accident happened at Bradley, whereby seven lives have been lost, on Friday afternoon. It appears that four men and three boys were engaged at the Bradley Colliery of G.B. Thorneycroft and Company, making a communication between the engine pit of the colliery and a pit in the thick coal seam. The object in view was to make a water level to draw off into the engine pit a large accumulation of water in the thick coal before described, which was at a higher level than the engine pit. The men had proceeded in their work to within 15 feet of the water, when it burst in upon them in great force. They were driven before it to the shaft, by which they descended a distance of about 70 yards, and shouted for the tackle to be sent down. The butty of the pit, who had just ascended, made instant preparations to comply with their request; but before the skip could be got down to the point at which they raised the alarm, the weight and force of the rushing water had destroyed the scaffolding which here spanned the shaft, and forced the poor fellows into the water beneath. As soon as the two pumping engines, which were at once put on in full work, to draw off sufficient water, Harvey, the manager, descended, and, accompanied by two other men, found two of the deceased driven by the force of the liberated water into the "inset" at the bottom of the engine pit, some 200 yards from the place where they were at work when the water broke in upon them. They were by that time quite dead. When the water broke in upon the deceased, about 40 men were working some distance off in the thin mine coal. Their pit being connected with the engine pit, the roar of the water could be distinctly heard in the thin coal, and the men became greatly alarmed, but they had the means of escaping in several directions, as indeed had the deceased, if the water had not gained upon them with fatal rapidity. Even if the 40 men in question had not had the facilities for escape which they possessed, the water in the thick coal was not sufficient to render their position hazardous. The deceased were Thomas Dunning, aged 48, married, (the "doggy" of the pit), and his son Isaac, aged 12; Charles Deakin, aged 22; Joseph Wilks, married, and having four children; Samuel Speed, 20; Frederick Cound, 15; and William Schofield. The bodies recovered were those of Speed and the boy Dunning. It was not known at the colliery whether Speed was married; but the "doggy", in addition to his son, who was killed with him, had three children. Captain Thorneycroft, who at the time of the accident was on the Magistrates Bench in Bilston, was at the Colliery within an hour after the occurrence happened, and he remained there the greater part of the night, as also did Mr. Hartley and another member of the firm, with Mr. Baker, the government Inspector, and Mr. Smallman, mining engineer to Messrs. Thorneycroft's. By the last two named gentlemen the efforts of the working parties were being directed. Much consternation naturally prevailed in and around Bilston, and pit-banks of the colliery were crowded during most of the evening, notwithstanding the heavy rain.

Up to a late hour on Saturday evening only three of the seven deceased killed by the irruption of water from a pit adjoining that in which they were "thurling" towards the water, had been discovered. They had all been washed out through an old watercourse on the opposite side and lower down the shaft, in the direction of the third or engine pit.

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Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert - The Chesterfield New Dunston Colliery Company (Limited).

The Company are now supplying their best hand picked home coal, delivered in Chesterfield, at 10-6d. per ton.

Best Cobbles, 5-4d. per ton.

Rough Slack, 3-10d. per ton.

Apply at the Colliery, Hasland Lane.

Special Rates to Higglers may be known at the Colliery.

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Page 3 Col. 2.

Staveley - Robbery.

On Monday evening some persons stripped the whole of the brasses of a locomotive engine, the property of R. Barrow, Esq. The damage sustained does not consist merely in the actual loss of the brasswork, but the engine was disabled in consequence for nearly a week.

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Page 3 Col. 4.

Whitsuntide at Clay Cross.

The unusual depression in the coal trade seriously affected this place. It has never been known to be so bad. Many of the pits are not working above from four to five and six days a fortnight, and the consequence is that it a serious time with many of those who have families dependent upon them, and also with those engaged in trade. It is very dull here, while the pits are not working, and there is a general standstill on all the works. There is little, if any, of that holiday making, and jovial proceedings of previous years in Clay Cross.

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Advert - Owl Cotes Colliery, Heath.

Hard Coals	6-8d. per ton - 2-6d. leading
Soft Coals	5-0d. per ton - 2-6d. leading

(Cash)

T. Evinson, Agent for Chesterfield.

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Page 1 Col. 5.

Advert - Coal! Coal!! Coal!!!

Reduction in Price.

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. -

Black Shale coal (Dressed and Screened),	5-6d. at the pit;
Screened Slack,	3-4d. at the pit;
Common Slack,	2-0d. at the pit.

Terms - Cash on Delivery.

Orders received by Mr. J. Wordsworth, Low Pavement; Mr. T. Irving, Gluman Gate; Mr. Henson Earl, Lordsmill Street.

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Advert - Alton Colliery, Ashover, Chesterfield.

Fletcher and Cheetham, beg to inform the public that they are now manufacturing encaustic and flowered floor tiles, coke, furnace fire bricks and blue bricks.

Prices may be had on application.

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Page 2 Col. 3.

Dreadful Accident.

On Monday an accident of a serious nature happened to George Wilcockson, brother to Sergeant Wilcockson, of the Borough Police, Chesterfield. He was sinking a pit for the Clay Cross Company, and had set a shot, but in removing it he cut the fuse in two and exploded the powder. Two other men were sinking near, and when the smoke had cleared off they discovered that Wilcockson was fearfully burnt. His eyes were completely stopped up, his cheeks was cut open, and one of his little fingers blown off. He was taken to the Company's hospital, under the treatment of Dr. Wilson he is progressing favourably.

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Leaving Service.

Henry Walters, manager of the colliery of Messrs. Nichols and Fletcher, of Brampton, charged Benjamin Kay with leaving his service without giving fourteen days notice. The prisoner was engaged on the 8th. of February, and signed the rules of the colliery to give 14 days notice. He left work on the 11th. of June, without giving any warning. The prisoner, who said nothing in answer to the charge, was ordered to return to work, and the costs to be deducted from his wages.

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Somercotes - Pit Accident.

On Friday, Mr. Busby, held an inquest at the Rifle Volunteer Public House, Somercotes, on the body of George Smethard, aged 15, who was killed on the previous day, in a coalpit belonging to Messrs. Seely. Deceased was running a train of skips down an incline in the Head Coal Pit, Cotes Park, and ran against a puncheon, which loosened the roof, and a quantity of bind fell upon him, breaking his back and both of his legs. He died from the injuries received before he got to the bottom of the shaft. Verdict, "Accidental Death from the fall of the roof in a coal pit".

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Staveley - Antifrictional Safety Cage.

In the south court of the eastern annexe and just beyond the horticultural subway, visitors to the exhibition will notice a very ingenious and effective safety cage for miners, the invention of Mr. J.T. Calow, of Staveley, in this county. The chief recommendation of the cage is that it is extremely economic and that but one spring, in a well protected position, is used. The grips which take into the spears never touch them except on the breakage of the rope; and whilst in other safety cages the spring is acted upon at every ascent or descent, Mr. Calow has so contrived that whenever the cage is supported, whether by the tension of the rope, or from being at rest on the floor of the mine, the spring remains in its normal condition. Immediately, however, upon the breakage of the rope, the spring comes into action, and by the aid of simple levers the catches grip the guide rods, and the safety of those in the cage is secured. The spring can at any time be replaced for 2-0d., and the cost of the entire apparatus - both from providing against a breakage of the rope and overwinding is proportionally cheap. The overwinding apparatus consists of a pair of expanded hooks, which upon being drawn through a ring at the top of the head gearing, disconnects the cage from the rope and all danger is at an end. The apparatus is in use at pits belonging to the Butterley Company, West Silkstone, West Staveley, and elsewhere, and in every case has given entire satisfaction. Mr. Moody, the viewer of West Staveley, and several other collieries of the district, has given the inventor a very flattering testimonial, in which he states that during the period that Mr. Calow's cage has been in use there ten breakages have occurred, and further accident has in every case been prevented by the apparatus; three of these accidents, Mr. Moody considers, would have been fatal but for the safety apparatus.

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Railways and Minerals.

An improvement has taken place in the iron trade, but the coal trade is exceedingly dull. When the Midland Railway have constructed the new line, via Buxton and New Mills to Manchester, the Bill for which now awaits the Royal Assent, the Derbyshire coalfield will be open to the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, and several hundred thousand tons of small coal now left in the mines, will be sent into Lancashire for steam purposes. The excellent household coals of Derbyshire will also be sent into Lancashire. The prices of coal around Stockport, supplied from Lancashire and Cheshire, is so high that Derbyshire can compete successfully with those counties. In fact, we are informed that coals can be delivered from Derbyshire cheaper than they are from Lancashire. When the system of railways from Stockport through Cheshire to Birkenhead are complete, the Midland counties, via the Midland Railway, will be in direct communication with that important port, and all the ports of the Mersey. The excellent steam coals of Derbyshire will then be sent to these ports for maritime steam purposes. These hard and durable coals are superior even to the celebrated South Wales coals, on account of their bearing transit with little breakage, and bearing exposure for years in any climate without deterioration.

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Page 3 Col. 1.

Cruelty to a Pit Pony.

Joseph Wragg, a youth about 17 years of age, was charged by Mr. William Buxton, one of the overmen in the employ of R. Barrow, Esq., of Staveley, with cruelty to a pony. Mr. Busby appeared in support of the charge, and stated that on a previous occasion the pony had nearly lost the sight of one eye, and in the present instance the other had been exhausted. The lad's excuse was that he intended to hit the pony over the legs. John Pearce, a collier, employed in the Springwell Pit, said that the defendant came in the "pass by" with the pony and a train of waggons. He struck the pony over the eye with the "locker", a large piece of wood used to lock the wheels of the waggons. The pony fell on its knees, and blood and water ran out of its eye. The pony was in such agony that it did not know where to stand, and groaned loudly. The defendant said he did not intend to hit the pony over the eye but on the legs. Mr. Busby said he was instructed to press for a conviction. Mr. Maynard said the practice of striking ponies in pits was a practise too common amongst boys and therefore the magistrates would not inflict a fine but commit him to Derby to hard labour seven days, and they hoped it would be a warning to his fellow work boys and men too. If they had imposed a fine it would have the parents and not the lad.

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Alfreton - Colliery Accident.

An inquest was held on Monday, before Mr. Busby, coroner, touching the death of a collier, named Richard Dallison, of Swanwick, who died on Friday last, aged 60 years. Deceased was employed at the Sleigh Moor Pit, Alfreton, and on Friday afternoon he was riding on the buffer of one of the waggons of the train which was being drawn up the incline, when the chain broke, and the deceased fell across the rails and the waggons went over his loins and killed him. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".