

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. October 1863.

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Whittington Freehold Colliery Company.

Thursday last was a red-letter day for Whittington, and it will not soon be forgotten. Our readers are tolerably well informed that, owing to the lamented death of Captain Pierce, the collieries and estates which were intended to that gentleman have been merged into a public company. The largely increased duties and responsibilities of managing so vast a concern having devolved upon the Revd. W.M. Pierce, that gentleman found it impossible to, at his period of life, coupled with other engagements, to give that time and attention which were absolutely necessary for their successful working. The estate was therefore put in the market, and the demand for shares was such that a company was soon formed, and on Thursday the new company took possession of the property. It was determined to commemorate the event by a dinner to the workmen, which took place in the school- room, under the presidency of W. Hawes, Esq., and other directors, and other gentlemen. Afterwards a tea was given to the wives and sweethearts in the same room. We have prepared a report of the speeches, which were of such a practical and interesting character that, rather than curtail them, we have deferred them until our next. All we can say is that if the same liberal sentiments which Mr. Hawes evinced actuate the rest of the directors, we shall soon have a better state of feeling manifested between employer and employed. The respect and esteem which was shown by the meeting to the Revd. Mr. Pierce was of the most gratifying kind, and it must be to that gentleman a source of great satisfaction that nothing should have occurred to disturb the friendship and good feeling which the people of Whittington have entertained towards him for a long series of years.

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Miners' Association.

Two meetings of coalminers of the Clay Cross district have been held within the last few days at the house of Joseph Cammomile, The Crown Inn, Clay Cross. The meetings were energetically addressed by two delegates from the men of the Methley Coal district, Yorkshire, who are at present out on strike owing to a reduction in the price of getting the coal, and other alterations in the system adopted by the masters. The delegates urged the necessity of an organisation amongst colliers to resist the encroachments of the masters, and the formation of a common fund to maintain the wives and families of those who are on strike. The delegates depicted in gloomy colours the sufferings and wrongs of the Yorkshiremen. Happily such calamities as strikes are unknown in the Clay Cross Collieries, owing to the just and humane person in whose hands the management of these extensive collieries are placed, and the general good sense of the men. Strikes are alike injurious to the employer and the employed, who always ought to have interests in common. It now some years since similar meetings have been held in Clay Cross.

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Conference of the Coal Miners of the United Kingdom.

The miners of the United Kingdom hold a conference at the Co-Operative Hall, Leeds, on the 12th. of October, when delegates from all the principal colliery districts, are expected to be present. Among the subjects to be discussed, that of the education of boys working in collieries will be amongst the most prominent, as will be seen from the following queries which have been addressed to the delegates who are to be present, and on which they will take the opinion of those whom they represent: - 1st., Are you of the opinion that the operation of the education clauses tends to produce a growing indisposition among owners and agents to admit young persons under twelve years of age into their pits? 2nd., Are you of the opinion that the educational clauses effect any real durable benefit to the colliers boys? 3rd., Have the education clauses operated to secure better school attendance for the ages from 10 to 12 years by that portion of your scholars? 4th., Are you of the opinion that the education clauses need improvement? 5th., What did you suggest as right and proper to be done legislatively to secure better education for the children of miners? 6th., Are you of the opinion that the application of the education clauses of the Factories Acts - viz., half schooling and half work, for colliers boys, from the ages of 10 to 12 years - ought not to be adopted?

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Assault at Tupton Moor.

Peter Robinson was charged by Samuel Bullock, a youth, with an assault. Complainant said: I work for Mr. Robinson at Tupton Moor. On the 15th. of August I was in the pit. Defendant came to me and laid onto me most unmercifully, and told me to go out of the pit and never come back. He struck me with a piece of wood like the leg of a chair. Benjamin Shipley said: I work in the same pit as complainant. I was in the pit on the day in question, and saw defendant go up to complainant and strike him. He thrashed him for about five minutes. The case was dismissed.

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Important Meeting of the Iron and Coal Masters.

Advance in Miners Wages.

A meeting of the Iron and Coal Masters of the district known as the "west of Dudley" was held on Wednesday, at the Dudley Arms Hotel, Dudley. There was a very numerous attendance. The position and prospects of the respective trades was freely and fully discussed, insofar as such matters were pertinent to the object of the meeting. It was then resolved to advance the price of coal and lumps, 1-0d. per ton, and fine slack 6d. per ton, from the 19th. of October. It was also resolved to advance the thick coal colliers 6d. per day, and the wages of the thin coal miners 3d. per day, from the same date; and it was further resolved by the proprietors of blast furnaces to advance the wages of the furnacemen 10 percent. All the advances to date from the 9th. of October. It is hoped that these arrangements will be deemed satisfactory, and the result will be produce prosperity in the district.

Birmingham Daily Post.

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The Coal Trade.

The movement in the coal and iron trade in the district for advancing prices and wages seems very general. On Friday afternoon, a meeting of coalmasters was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Dudley Port, and there was a good attendance. It was then resolved to advance the wages of the thick coal colliers 6d., and the wages of the thin coal miners 3d. per day, the advance to commence of the 19th. inst. It was also resolved to advance the price of all coals and lumps 1-0d. per ton, and slack 6d. per ton.

Birmingham Daily Post.

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Ironmaster's Quarterly Meeting - Wolverhampton, Oct. 7th.

The first quarterly meeting of the iron trade of the south Staffordshire district was held here today. There was a good attendance, including a fair number of buyers from a distance. The critical question, as to whether the late advance in prices can be maintained, was a good deal discussed, and the opinions expressed were not unanimous, but the preponderance was on the side of the permanency for some time to come of the present prices. There can be no doubt that the makers are well supplied with orders, but of these a good many are at lower prices than now rule. There are a ??????? number of orders coming in now at the ??????; still some buyers, especially those engaged in the hardware trades, are holding back with ????? to test the soundness of the advance. A large London buyer stated today that the second class makers are asking the trade rates, which is a very unusual circumstance. November, and December, are usually the dullest of the year, and if the advance holds up through this quarter there is good reason to anticipate that it will last. The general trade of the country is steadily and even rapidly improving, and this affords grounds for anticipated continuance of good trade, but the real source of the advance is the scarcity of labour, which is felt both in the ironworks and the collieries. Hence, though there are works capable of producing a great quantity of iron, the men are not available. On the whole there is a probability that the present prices will hold until Christmas, and if so they will last longer. Little pig-iron is selling just now, as most have brought at lower prices than at present prevail and in fact makers both of finished iron and pig iron are paying high wages to work up orders many of which are at former low prices. Best hot blast pigs are from £3-15-0d. to £4; Exceptional makes are quoted 2-6d. to 5-0d. higher; cold blast are selling at 5-0d. account; and haematites now ???????? to £3-17-6d.

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The Whittington Colliery Company.

Dinner to the Workmen.

On Thursday week, the workmen employed at the Whittington Colliery were entertained at dinner in the school-room, to commemorate the sale and transfer of the collieries and works from the Revd. W.M. Pierce to the new joint-stock company, which has been recently formed to work them. The dinner was very well served, and it gave great satisfaction. At one end of the room a platform had been raised for the accommodation of the principal guests. There were present, W. Hawes, Esq., of London, the chairman, J. Pilcher, Esq., F. Swanwick, Esq., W. Fowler, Esq., Rev. W.M. Pierce, M.A. Allott, Rev. A.C. Bromehead, Rev. M. Lucas, Rev. G.V. Wheeler, Rev. J.K. Bolton, Newbold, Rev. J.J. Singleton, Rev. W.C. Halliwell, Clown; Mr. Clay, Long Eaton; Mr. A. Lupton, Mr. Jas. Bate, the manager of the works; Mr. Smith Stuart, mining engineer, Derby; Mr. Cockburn, Rugby; Mr. Bonsfield, Mr. Jenkinson, Whittington; Mr. Sully, of Sheffield, &c., &c.

After the loyal toasts had been duly and enthusiastically honoured,

The Rev. G. Wheeler said that the toast which had been entrusted to his care was one which he could propose with the greatest pleasure, and one which would be drunk by every one in that room with every demonstration of respect and enthusiasm. The only thing he was afraid of was that the few words which he should utter would fall far short of doing adequate justice to the toast, or to express all that he himself felt at the very mention of it. (Hear). Many of them could remember when Whittington was a different place to what it then was - when it was a quiet country village shut in by the surrounding mountains, beautified by the scenery, traces of which still remain on the other side of it. But now where the once clear blue sky shone brightly overhead we saw rising the smoke of extensive works, and where in the peaceful green fields all was quiet, one now heard the whistle of the railway train, indicating that the enterprise, and trade and commerce was extending itself amongst them. (Hear). Wherever such vast works were established there we should find a large influx of people, and, therefore, they found a new population had sprung up at the other end of the parish. If they took a bird's eye view of the country around, they would see dotted here and there those centres of enterprise and labour which had brought such an increase of population in our midst. If they commenced with the Dunstan and Barlow works, and then looked at the Foxley Oaks, the works of Messrs. Firth, and those of Mr. Barrow, we should see at once daily proofs that much had been done in the development of the minerals in this part of the world. (Hear). Now, it happened that they were assembled that day to commemorate an event in connection with the Whittington collieries. He was only speaking the opinion of all present, and that of many more in the neighbourhood when he said that the progress of that colliery had been watched with the deepest interest and with great pleasure by one and all of them, and, therefore, when they recollected how the interest of such an establishment was not only closely bounded up with those who might be proprietors of it, but was reflected back again with tenfold force, it showed that the prosperity of the master was also bound up with the social condition, the intellectual condition, and the spiritual condition of those who work in connection with it. (Cheers). Whether the work was successful or not would prove the greatest advantage or the most serious disadvantage to the working man's home and family. If it be successful many a heart would be gladdened, but if it prove unsuccessful, many a heart would be rendered unhappy. (Hear). Whether any failure be made in connection with it or

not they could safely say that from the time it had been opened to the present moment, it had been one continued success, employing a large number of men, and extending a widespread influence, not only in that neighbourhood but in other districts. When they looked at those new houses had sprung up in Newbridge Lane and when they saw such an assemblage of people there, they felt that the Whittington collieries were exercising a mighty influence in their midst. (Cheers). The collieries had now passed into other hands, and their excellent chairman had told them that he had come amongst them as the representative of gentlemen who were in future to conduct the works. He would not say one word in praise of him who had left the undertaking, but this he would say, and most sincerely and truly, that if he thought it would be the means of disconnecting him from their parish - if he thought they should see him less frequent - though that they must expect; if they were to have less of his kind advice, liberal support and friendship, they should deeply regret the day they were celebrating. (Hear, hear). It was a comfort, however, for them to know that such would not be the case. The step which Mr. Pierce had taken was one which he had adopted after the most thoughtful and most wise consideration, and those gentlemen into whose hands the colliery had passed he hoped would never be unmindful of the responsibility which rested upon them; nor be forgetful of the rights which existed between master and man, and while they looked for honest labour, he hoped they would always find ready and willing hands to work. (Cheers). He hoped, from that day forward, an increasing success would attend the works in connection with which they were assembled, and as they would be developed to a greater extent, they would open out a new field of industry and enterprise, and he trusted that all persons connected with them would enjoy that success which he, for one, was most sanguine in anticipating. He would propose a toast which they would one and all most cordially drink - "Success to the Whittington collieries". Drunk with all the honours.

The Chairman said they would not be surprised, after the manner in which he was introduced at the earlier part of the proceedings, that he should undertake the task of returning thanks on behalf of himself and the gentlemen with whom he was associated, for the warm manner in which they had responded to the toast so ably proposed by the Rev. gentleman on his left. He had said - and he hoped he had said it truly - that those who would succeed Mr. Pierce in the management of this colliery, did so with a full sense of their duty in realising the largest profit, but with a proper sense of their duty to those they might employ in the district in which the collieries are situated. (Hear). He quite responded to the sentiment that, whilst property had its rights it had its duties, and he hoped they would always find them willing to contribute to the social amusement and improvement of the district, by encouraging every institution which would increase the happiness and prosperity of the people of Whittington. And whilst saying this much, he must guard them from believing that because it was a company of gentlemen, that they did not intend to look after their own interests or to practice economy in the management of every department of the concern. (Hear). Whilst they should be generous, they should be just, by promoting the interest of every one associated with them. The interests of the employer and the employed were inseparable, and they must both sink or swim together and he hoped that in times of prosperity, as well as adversity, they would all feel as reasonable men should do under such circumstances. This was one of the instances so remarkable in connection with the English character. All that they could hope was that they might look back to their connection with the colliery with pleasure, and that it might increase from its present state to a degree of prosperity fully commensurate with their efforts. (Cheers). There was an old-fashioned notion that individual capital only could be made successful, and that a combination of capital would not succeed. There was no reason why they should not succeed in Whittington as well as in other places. He hoped also they might live to see each other on a similar occasion next year. They would find them willing to promote all those institutions which tended to increase the education of those by whom they were surrounded. (Cheers). He believed that without education they would all be useless members of society, and as masters it was just as much necessary to promote the interests of their workmen as it was necessary to establish their own prosperity. (Cheers). He must ask them to drink another toast; - the health of the gentleman who had preceded them -

(Cheers) - who, by singular intelligence and persevering industry, had raised the works to a degree of success he never dreamed of. He had shown himself able to cope with greater difficulties, and to overcome them with less labour than falls to the lot of most men. It was exceedingly gratifying to him (the chairman) to hear from all sides that gentleman spoken of in such terms, and it would be a difficult task for them to obtain the same amount of respect and esteem. They must emulate his example, and he (the chairman) hoped they would receive them as they received him now, with their heartiest wishes. (Loud Cheers).

The toast was drunk with three times three, and "one more".

The Rev. W.M. Pierce, on rising to respond, was received with loud and prolonged cheering. He said: Gentlemen, I will not lose one moment in expressing to you how deeply I feel the expression of your good opinion which you have just now manifested as I stand before you today, as far as regards the colliery and works in general, for the last time as the proprietor of those works. I stand before you also in a position which, if I may look back upon events - to me somewhat painful, but I will not look back, I will look forward. (The rev. gentleman was here so deeply affected that he could scarcely speak). He continued to say - I will try gentlemen, to look on the sunny side of circumstances which bring me before you today. I have now been connected for some years with this place, and I am bound to say it has been mixed up by many agreeable associations - with much that is very satisfactory to me, and though the management of a colliery is not exactly my vocation, still I cannot have lived amongst you so long as I have done without being in some manner well satisfied of the way in which you are disposed to receive the good offices, kind words, and friendly spirit you have evinced towards me. (Hear). It has been my good fortune since I came here to be engaged in various works, and to some extent I may have been useful, but I could not have done it if I had not had the co-operation of the workmen and others to assist me in the direction of such works; therefore, I feel that though I have been permitted by God's mercy to pass through circumstances which I never contemplated, still I am bound to say that the consideration which I have received from you as a body of workmen is a source of great congratulation to me, and it has aided much the success of the works. (Cheers). I have not taken the step which I have now adopted without consideration. I look upon them as a property of extraordinary value, and I hope and trust that the gentlemen into whose hands they have now fallen may be eminently successful. (Hear). Of this I am certain, that they will work them with that admirable determination, perseverance, and common honesty which almost always secures success - that they will look to you for that support which you have always extended to me, and that they will find that support. I have not the slightest possible doubt that you will look back upon this day as one of the red letter days of your life. Gentlemen, your festival to-day is one to inaugurate the new company. No sooner was it decided that the property should change hands, than the first thing said was "Let us give the workmen a dinner, and let them know what we mean". I think they acted very wisely, and I hope they will call you together again, and that they will be so good as to ask me to come amongst you. (Cheers). You have been kind enough to drink my health with great warmth and earnestness and sincerity, and I heartily wish you every success. I hope and trust it may please God to see the Whittington Colliery Company flourish. (Hear). I can look back upon my intercourse with the parish of Whittington with great satisfaction. I feel I have not done all the good which Mr. Wheeler has attributed to me, but it is a great satisfaction to me that others have appreciated the little good I have done. It has pleased providence to enable us to erect a new church in this parish, and to put an able minister in that church, and I hope you will take advantage of the means of grace which God has put before you. I believe most of you know what your religious duties are, but like most of us you don't practice what you know. I hope, however, most of you will take part in the services in that church which I have been instrumental in promoting, because if we have not God's blessings upon our labours, what we do will not be worth much to us. Therefore, I call upon you not only to act as workmen but to live up to your Christian privileges, and depend upon it you will succeed, whatever your occupation may be. (Cheers). Now, gentlemen, I am going to

call your attention to another circumstance. We have been told that this neighbourhood and this district is greatly flourishing, and that it is putting forth powers it never seemed to possess. I hope that those who have embarked their capital in works in this neighbourhood will see a return for their enterprise. We must strive to help each other, and as there is plenty of room for us all, if we do that we shall flourish. (Hear). When I hear of the success of this enterprise, I look around in my own neighbourhood and see a great works conducted with extraordinary perseverance, and an amount of money invested which is almost without calculation. I am going to ask you to drink with equal enthusiasm and earnestness success to a neighbouring works, and with the success of which the Whittington colliery is mixed up. I ask you to drink "Success to the Dunstan and Barlow Works". (Cheers). They are conducted by a gentleman who has done me the honour of being here today, and who has done much to make the success of these great works. (Loud Cheers). The name of Mr. Fowler was coupled with the toast.

Mr. Fowler said he thanked them for the terms in which they had received his health. He must in the first place express his regret, which was mingled with pleasure, at the change Mr. Pierce was undergoing. He said regret, because they did not wish to part with Mr. Pierce from that neighbourhood, because they knew how generous he had been as a benefactor, and how anxious he had been for the advancement of all matters which tended to the improvement of this district. It was known to all of them that he was bound to his legitimate ministrations. His (Mr. Fowler's) regret was tempered with pleasure because it was perhaps for his own comfort that he should retire from active commercial pursuits. He congratulated the new proprietors of the works for having inaugurated their new proprietorship by such reciprocity and good feeling, and he hoped it might be repeated annually. Their chairman, Mr. Hawes, had shown in specific language how identical were the interests of the employer and employed, but he knew the feeling was not very general with the workmen. They had a notion that it was the interest of the master to get as much work as possible for as little money, and on the other hand the workmen thought it was his interest to get as much money as possible for as little work. Now, if the matter was examined closely they would come to the conclusion that it was impossible for a master to give high wages unless the works were profitable, and it was impossible that the works could be profitable unless the men worked steadily and with perseverance. First, as a master he must honestly and truly say - and he could speak for many others with whom he was connected - that there was an honest desire to pay liberally to industrious and respectable workmen. (Hear). He could say most unfeignedly that any man who was an industrious and respectable man, he was rejoiced above everything if he could advance his interest to make it worth his while to serve him, instead of disputing about three pence per day wages. He might say that in very many works the colliers were to blame, for if a man would work six days a week sedulously, they would not let him. A master could afford to pay higher wages if the pit was kept going every day, as the expenses of working the pit were the same whether the collier worked four days or six. For the management of large works the men knew little of the cares and anxieties a master had to undergo. The men thought it was all plain sailing and easy going, and that the master got all the profit. That was a very great mistake. They would, on the other hand, say they (the masters) met them with a sort of rough independence, but, however, there was amongst the workmen of this district a kindness of heart and a good disposition, which was worthy of all praise. (Cheers). He had in his own establishment many instances of that, in proof of which he would only mention the fact that, with one or two discreditable exceptions, every man at his works subscribed his 6d., 1-0d., or 2-6d. every fortnight in aid of the Lancashire distress. (Cheers). He thought the masters and workmen ought always to be able to put their horses together, and to settle any little difference that might occur within themselves, and to do all they could to raise themselves in the social scale. He had no objection to unions of workmen if properly conducted, and he thought strikes were the legitimate weapons of a workman to uphold against his employer; but whilst agreeing in principle with them, he totally disagreed with the way in which some workmen carried them out. They said, "You shall join, or be black sheep." That mode of procedure struck at the root of all freedom of labour, which every man should resist. Again in large ironworks there were two

classes of workmen. In case of a dispute they appointed deputations to see the master. He might say to one deputation of workmen, "I will give what you require, but to the others he might say, "Your demand is unjust". The first men got all they desired, but they said, "We will not go to work unless the second class of men are paid what they ask". Thus many families were thrown out of employment, simply for the want of the exercise of those principles which ought to exist between master and man. The sentiments which had been enunciated that day ought to make the workmen present proud that they could work under such masters, and he hoped they would go on well together. He concluded by proposing the health of the clergy. (Cheers).

The Rev. A.C. Bromehead briefly responded.

The Chairman said the next toast was "Success to the workmen of the Whittington Colliery". (Cheers). He had told them that property had its duties as well as its rights, and that labour had its duties as well as its rights, and the first question was how were they to exhibit their sense of the duties imposed upon them. He had been accustomed to employ labour in the South. He had been a working man himself and well understood the wishes of the working men as he did the wishes of the masters. (Cheers). He advocated the establishment of savings banks and mentioned that his father was one of the first to establish such an institution in London. He was in favour of reading rooms and libraries for working men and if they should form a band he would be glad to support it. (Cheers). Both he and his colleagues would aid any movement which would keep the men from the public house and which would afford them the greatest possible amount of amusement. (Hear, and cheers). He believed that a holiday and proper recreation were essential to the working men. They would remember that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". (Hear, and cheers). All they wanted was a proper understanding and arrangement which would enable each man to have his holiday so that neither workmen nor master would suffer. After referring to the enormous interests which were dependent upon the labours of the working men, he contended that they ought not to do anything which would bring that labour into discredit. (Cheers).

A workman named Hallam acknowledged the toast, and after describing the good dinner those present had had, he said they as workmen hoped to do their duty. They hoped to do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. (Hear, and cheers). There was a feeling amongst many working men that masters wished to impose upon their workman, and it was only by such meetings as this that such a notion could be removed. (Hear). As working men they were better off now than they were twenty years ago. They received better wages, and their families were better fed and clothed and had happier faces. (Cheers).

The Rev. I.K. Bolton proposed the Midland Railway, coupled with Mr. Swanwick.

Mr. Swanwick responded.

The health of the Rev. G. Wheeler, to which that gentleman responded, concluded the toast list.

In the evening the wives and sweethearts of the workmen were entertained to tea, which brought the days proceedings to an agreeable termination.

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Assault.

John Kirkland was charged with assaulting John Briddon, in Speedwell Pit, Staveley, on the 26th. of September. Complainant said, that about dinner time on that day some rails came up for him (complainant) and he told defendant they were his, when defendant called him a liar, and then struck him and pushed him down, and tried to throttle him. Complainant's evidence was corroborated, and defendant was fined 2-6d. and cost, or seven days hard labour.

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Cruelty to a Pony.

George Sharman was charged by Thomas Egglestone with cruelty to a pony in West Staveley Pit, Whittington, on the 2nd. inst. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 10-0d. and costs, or 21 days imprisonment, with hard labour.

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Leaving Service.

John Davy was charged by Enoch Goodwin with leaving the service of the Tipton New Colliery Company, on the 9th. inst. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was ordered to return to work, and to pay expenses.

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Strike of Colliers in the Wigan District.

The colliers employed in the Hindley Yard Coal Pits, belonging to the Kirlees Hall Coal and Iron Company, brought up their tools on Thursday last, and are now on strike. Up to the present time, it appears the men have been filling both the round and the small coal together, and have received one price for each. A fortnight ago the masters gave them notice they would have the coal separated, and would pay two different prices for the round and the small; and the men, believing that this course would prove inimical to their interests, have struck work.

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Springwell Colliery.

We are glad to state that the miners of the Springwell Colliery have resumed working full time.

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West Staveley.

At this colliery the old stock is cleared off and the men commenced making full time. Under the new management an extension of business is hoped for.

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Colliery Accident.

A youth, named Robert Moorhouse, living at Eckington, was seriously hurt in Messrs. J. and G. Wells Park Colliery, near Eckington. It appears that the lad was driving a pony, with a number of loaded waggons, on a tramway in the pit, when he fell under the wheels. The pony stopped and one of the waggons rested on the poor lad. He screamed out, and help being near, he speedily released. He was conveyed home, and was examined by Mr. Jones, surgeon, who found that the body of the lad was severely crushed, but no bones broken.

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Colliery Accident at Mosboro'.

A serious accident occurred on Monday morning, about eight o'clock, to four persons, who were severely burnt by an explosion of firedamp, whilst at work in the Victoria Pit, Moorhole, belonging to Messrs. J. and G. Wells, of Eckington. When the men came to work they found that a large quantity of bind and drift had fallen since they quitted work on the previous Saturday. At the time mentioned the men were about an hour at work in the south end (210 yards from the main works) clearing away the bind and drift. During this period, one of them - Samuel Goit - said he smelt sulphur, and cautioned the lads to stand back. A piece of bind - about one hundredweight - fell, which set the firedamp which had accumulated above in motion, and the noxious current coming in contact with their lights resulted in an explosion, the result of which was felt 900 yards away. The following is a list of the casualties: - Samuel Goit, 40, married, five children, very badly hurt in the hands, arms, and face: Thomas Large, 31, married, five children, severely burnt in the hands, arms, neck, and face: Fred. Ferns, 14, shockingly burnt in the hands, arms, chest, and face: Fred. Hodgson, 14, burned in the hands, arms, face, and ears. They were helped home and tended by Mr. Jones, of Eckington, and, although they are dreadfully disfigured, they are progressing as favourably as can be expected.

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Death in the Pits.

Mr. Hedley has again favoured us with a copy of his annual report to the Home Office. It is dated February 1863, and embraces the entire year of 1862. During that period, happily, no calamity so extensive and so deplorable as that at Clay Cross occurred to rivet the attention of the public to the subject of the management of mines. Indeed, this report contrasts most favourably with any Mr. Hedley has yet presented. In 1861, a life was lost for every 94,000 tons of coal in the area of this inspection, whilst in 1862 the loss was 1 to every 154,000 tons. Forty two accidents occurred during the year, and 43 lives were lost by them. It is somewhat singular that out of the total number of deaths only two followed the explosion of gas, and a similar number were killed by the explosion of powder used for blasting. The most disastrous cause of death is found in the falls of roofs and coal. These, as Mr. Hedley points out, can only be prevented by propping, a system which has saved many lives; and still the marvellous indifference to danger which we find occasionally in the miners life, renders it exceedingly difficult to enforce the adoption of precaution so valuable. Yet so treacherous, are these sources of danger and death, that careful examinations of coal and roof by experienced men frequently fail to discover the impending danger. From invisible joints in coal and roof masses fall without warning, and the ordinary method of testing by knocking the coal and roof with an iron implement does not detect unsoundness in a thick mass. The difficulty in detecting these fertile causes of accidents induced Mr. Hedley to advise the universal adoption of the propping system, whether falls are expected or not. On the principle that it is better to prevent than cure this recommendation should be everywhere carried out, and if it should be, and the system is aided by the vigilant observation of the managers, we may hope for a further reduction in the death rate in pits.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. October 1863.

Page 4 Col. 4.

Terrible Coal-Pit Accident near Leicester.

A fatal coal-pit accident took place on the 8th. at Coleorton, a village noted for its collieries, equidistant from the Swannington and Coalville stations on the Midland Railway, and about 16 miles distance from Leicester.

A "coal wall" in one of the pits gave way, and the pit was flooded by a large influx of water from an old working. A considerable number of colliers were at work at the time, and made immediate efforts to escape. Some of them found their way to the bottom of the shaft, where, after remaining for a short time up to the arms in water, which rushed by them and down other roads in torrents, they were rescued from their perilous position, and brought to the surface by the means of the cage alive. But six others, four men and two boys, were still known to be in the pit, and fears began to be entertained for there was no probability of ever rescuing them. Descent and descent was made in search of the missing men, but still without success, in consequence of the depth of water in the workings; but, subsequently, the flood having subsided - the men were enabled to pursue their search up the "roads" and, in the course of the afternoon, one man, went wading up to the arms in water, kicked against something, which, on examination, turned out to be the lifeless body of one of the boys, Clement, aged 16, of Linby Hall, Swannington. Another descent was made, and in about half an hour afterwards the searchers found three other men - Joseph Marsden, of Swannington; Frank Dorman, of Coleorton; and Thomas Bird, of Worthington, all alive, but in a very exhausted state, about 20 yards from the bottom of the shaft. When these were landed at the top another gang was sent down to make a further search, but not meeting with any more of their fellow workmen they engaged in rescuing about ten horses, which though about covered with water made their position known by "blowing". Whilst engaged in this occupation a smell of sulphur or "choke-damp" was perceived by the men, and this so quickly continued to increase much in strength that they were compelled to abandon their labours, and it was with considerable difficulty they got up the shaft without their lights being extinguished by the "damp". Further descents were continually made and the pumps were kept continually at work throughout the whole of the night but, up to Friday morning, notwithstanding the miners carried with them Davy's safety lamp, they were unable to proceed in any direction whatever up the workings, in consequence of the lights becoming immediately extinguished by the foul air. The names of the men still missing are - Thomas Aird (50), Newbold, who leaves a wife and nine children; and Jeremiah Rowes (50), of Belton, who leaves a wife and six children. Sixteen horses are also in the pit.

A correspondent, writing on Saturday night, says: - "Throughout last night and today every exertion has been made to recover the two missing men in the pit, but without success, in consequence of the still prevalence of the "choke-damp". There have, however, been times when the sulphurous smells have considerably abated, and the opportunity thus afforded has not been lost by the men, who continue unceasing in their search for the missing bodies, and have been enabled to proceed for a considerable distance up the working towards the top of the incline - where the "coal wall" gave way - but we are glad to state has now got dry; though, in the lower parts - towards the "Dip" and "California" Pits - there is still a great depth of water, it only having been got lowered half an inch. One other horse has just been discovered alive, about 400 yards from the bottom of the shaft (towards where the breach was made), and another dead carcass has also been found in a like direction. Shortly after the dispatch of this parcel the "damp" again came on so very powerfully, extinguishing the lights of the miners, so that, for the present, they

have been compelled to abandon their labours. All hopes are given up of ever recovering alive the men now in the pit. Seven horses are still wanted.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 17th. October 1863.

Page 4 Col. 5.

Derbyshire and Yorkshire Mining.

The iron trade is generally improving, and during the past week several furnaces which were blown out have been put in blast, and the trade in these counties is assuming a degree of activity which has not characterised it for some time past. The demand for manufactured iron has also improved, and the latest advices from the Continent are favourable to the trade. There is an increased inquiry for railway ironwork and plates for shipbuilding. The recent trials of armour plates have resulted much in favour of those manufactured by Messrs. Brown and Company, at the Atlas Works, Sheffield, and as they are made from Derbyshire iron, it will, no doubt, add to the manufacturing reputation of this county. There is great progress being made in the Cleveland district (Yorkshire), and at the present time there are no less than seven new blast furnaces in course of erection, which will make the additional number in that district sixteen. Messrs. Bolckow and Vaughan are erecting four at Eston, and Messrs. Samuelson and Company are putting up three at Newport. Others are preparing to erect additional furnaces. Messrs. Head and Company of London, have purchased land on which to erect rolling mills, and the trade of that district was never in a more flourishing condition. A decided improvement is being experienced in the coal trade, and at all collieries the men are well employed. At some there is scarcity of hands. The winter demand for the London market is exceedingly good, and rates for the better description of coals are higher than at this period last year. The hard coal of Derbyshire is much in request for steam and locomotive purposes, and a ready market can be found for all that can be raised. The quantity of coal forwarded into London from the principle collieries of the Yorkshire and Derbyshire fields, and one or two large pits accessible to our railway system, is extremely large, and it is only by giving details of the traffic of the principle collieries that an adequate idea can be formed of its extent. For the nine months of the present year ending September the 20th., 3,621,324 tons 18 cwts. of coal and coke were entered at London, and of this tonnage the Clay Cross pits, near Chesterfield, has supplied in round numbers, 137,323 tons. The various Silkstone collieries lying between Barnsley and Wakefield, and in the neighbourhood of the first mentioned town, 118,120 tons; Pinxton, 50,802 tons; Staveley, 46,988 tons; Langley and Langley Mill, 36,232 tons; Codnor Park, 36,135 tons; Ince Hall, 35,604 tons; Riddings, 34,657 tons; Lambton, 29,896 tons; Duffryn, 28,152 tons; Elsecar, 25,241 tons; Gawber Hall, 23,747 tons; Eckington, 19,247 tons; Whittington, 18,650 tons; Kirklees Hall, 17,116 tons; Babbington, 17,922 tons; Plumtree, 17,640 tons; Victoria, 14,213 tons; Wingate, 14,065 tons; Lund Hill, 13,872 tons; Whittington(?), 14,463 tons; Ripley, 9,962 tons; Coates Park, 10,717 tons; Whitwood, 8,958 tons; and Barnsley, 4,668 tons; and Worsborough, 3,583 tons. Of coke, 36,779 tons have been conveyed in the same period.

The Clay Cross Company have recently purchased a large tract of minerals in the neighbourhood of their own works, and they are now sinking a colliery, which, with other works in connection with it, will afford employment for a large number of hands. The Erewash Valley Railway being in the immediate locality, there will be a ready exit for the coals. Other coalmasters are also sinking new pits in the Erewash valley, so that in a short time we shall have a great augmentation of mineral traffic on that line.

Everything related to lead mining in the Peak has assumed a very dull character. There is little disposition to speculate on new adventures, owing to one or two recent failures, and it is likely that some time will elapse before the public will take the bait again. The Mill Town

Company, having sunk through the toadstone, found a larger quantity of water than they anticipated, and they are now driving a level to intersect a vein of ore. There is every appearance of good work. The local share markets have been better attended this week, and a good business has been done in bank and water shares. Few mining stocks have been asked for, except Mill Dam, even, shares are still held tolerably firm. A final division of the proceeds of the sale of the North Derbyshire Mine is expected shortly. There will be a sum to divide, but the exact amount is not yet stated.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert

- Wanted, a number of colliers at Fallswood Colliery, Derbyshire. Steady men will meet with constant employment. Application to be made to the above colliery.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 2 Col. 4.

Mill Town Mine, Ashover.

The private company which was formed some time ago to work the Mill Town Lead Mine, Ashover, have been sinking to get to the vein, but as yet they have not succeeded in getting to it. They commenced with a capital of nearly £2,000, and it is anticipated that unless they meet with good work shortly, they will have to call up further capital.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 2 Col. 5.

Derbyshire and Yorkshire Mining, October 15th.

The iron trade is improving, and the demand for manufactured iron is generally good, more especially in the Midland districts, and there is a degree of firmness in the rates greater than has been known for some time past. Railway iron is in good request, and two large contracts are expected to be put in the market in the course of the next week for home supply. There is more animation prevailing in the steel trade, and manufactured steel is in better request. America continues to buy largely munitions of war, and, judging from the orders which several well known firms have in hand, there is no probability of an early termination of the war. Pig-iron is much improved, and there is an active enquiry. The coal-trade has shown a great improvement during the present month, and most of the large collieries have a marker for all they can supply. The demand from the London market is much larger than at any period during the past season, and there is a brisk enquiry also throughout the provinces. The consumption for manufacturing purposes is increased; and as the winter approaches we shall have an augmentation in demand for household purposes. At Clay Cross, Butterley, Staveley, and other large collieries, the greatest activity prevails. We have an increase also in demand for steam coals, and now that the hard coal of Derbyshire has proved to be highly valuable for marine engines and locomotive purposes, there is an enquiry fully equal to the supply. As it is known that the great bulk of armour plates are manufactured by Messrs. Brown and Company, of Sheffield, are made from Derbyshire iron, and as these plates have been proved in the various trials to be the best, there is a great enquiry for Derbyshire iron, and many firms evince a strong desire to emanate that eminent firm in their manufacture of iron for our iron-clads. So much interest has been excited in different parts of the mining district as to the nature and working of the monster engine lately erected by the Clay Cross Company, that Mr. W. Howe, the resident engineer, has consented to read a descriptive paper at the next meeting of the Mining Engineers' Institute, at Birmingham. It is one of the finest, if not the finest specimen of a steam engine in the Midland Counties, and it does its work with remarkable ease. This firm are sinking a colliery 300 yards beneath the surface, and when completed it will be the most extensive in the Erewash valley district. The Butterley Company are busily engaged with some large castings and plates, and they have made very extensive preparations for plates and heavy work. They were the makers of the large engine erected by the Clay Cross Company. There is a very strong desire evinced by some of the workmen to agitate for an advance in wages, but, as far as we can learn, no extended movement towards a strike. Nothing has transpired during the week of interest in regards to Derbyshire lead mines, and the share markets have been inanimate.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Staveley Workmen's Dining Hall.

To Mr. Barrow, the extensive coal-master of Staveley, belongs the honour of being the first to introduce in these counties the cheap workmen's dinner, now so extensively adopted in Scotland. Near the Staveley Station of the Midland Railway is erected a very fine stone edifice for the purpose of supplying cheap dinners, not only to his workmen, but to such of the general public who may avail themselves of the accommodation. It is calculated that a dinner, consisting of soup, meat and vegetables, can be supplied for less than 6d., and to yield a working profit. The dining institute will also be furnished with a library and reading room. There can be no doubt but that great numbers will take advantage of the cheap dinner system. Two persons have been selected to take the head of the management, and in order that they may see the working of the Scotch system, he has sent them into Scotland at his own expense purposely that they may acquire a thorough knowledge by actual observation.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 1.

Collier's Strike - Disgraceful Attempt at Intimidation.

The men employed at one of the pits of the Kirkless Hall Coal Company, near Wigan, have lately struck work in consequence of a proposal by their employers to reduce their wages, and to alter the mode in which they have been accustomed to send the coal to the surface. According to a statement made at a meeting of the men a few days ago, the reduction amounts to 2-0d. per score, and in addition the men are required to separate the small coal from the round, an operation which, from the nature of the seam and the workings, add, so the man allege, ten or fifteen percent to their labour. Against this the men have struck, and in their strike they are supported by the lately established Miners Sick and Provident Benefit Society. The strike has caused a considerable amount of ill-feeling amongst some of the colliers towards the Company, the principle partner of which is Mr. John Lancaster, of Hindley Hall, and on Friday this found vent in the following notice, which was posted at Rose Bridge, in the township of Ince: "This is to certify to the miners that John Lancaster, and Samuel (his brother) too, that he may make his will, for the pistol is loaded for John, and Samuel too".

By the bulk of the miners this document, will, no doubt, meet with that reprobation it deserves, as by many of them Mr. Lancaster is held in high esteem.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 24th. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 4.

Leaving Service.

Edward Cragon, apparently about 18 years of age, was charged by William Ashmore, miner, of Whittington, with having, on the 8th. instant, left his work without giving a fortnights notice. The charge was clearly proved, and the defendant promised to return to his work and pay all expenses, 17-6d., in preference to being sent to Derby for fourteen days.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert

- Bookkeeper wanted who has been accustomed to keep colliery books. Apply to Mr. Furniss, the Manager, Hasland New Dunston Colliery, Chesterfield.

29th. October 1863.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 2 Col. 1.

Advert. - In re Joshua Parker.

The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Notice is hereby given, that by an indenture dated the 13th. day of September, 1863, and made between Joshua Parker, of Clay Cross, in the County of Derby, colliery deputy manager, of the one part, and John Thorpe, of Clay Cross aforesaid, butcher, on behalf of, and with the assent of the therein undermentioned creditors of the said Joshua Parker, on the other part, the said Joshua Parker, did thereby convey all his estate and effects unto the said John Thorpe, absolutely to be applied and administered for the benefit of the creditors of the said Joshua Parker, pursuant to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861; and notice is hereby further given, that the said indenture of assignment has been duly executed or by writing assented to, by the requisite number and value of creditors of the said Joshua Parker whose debts in this respect amount to £10 and upwards, and this indenture has been duly registered.

And notice is hereby further given, that the said indenture of assignment now lies at the office of Mr. Jessop, solicitor, Ilkeston, for execution by the several creditors of the said Joshua Parker who have not executed the same.

Dated this 28th. day of October, 1863.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 5.

Payment in Mistake - *White v. Barrow*.

This was a claim for 26-0d. by a collier named *White* against *Mr. Barrow*, of *Staveley*. *Mr. Busby* appeared for the defendant and pleaded a set-off for that amount. It appeared that the plaintiff had been overpaid £3-0-0d. by a mistake of one of the clerks. He was working in No. 14 stall, and at the time *Mr. Piggford* measured the work in No. 15, but not knowing the name of the workman it was left blank, and when his book was cast-up the work done in No. 14 and No. 15 stalls were added together and paid to the plaintiff who denied that he had received it. Judgement in favour of *Mr. Barrow*.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 7.

Meeting of Miners in the Barnsley District.

On Monday there was a large meeting of miners in the Beech Field Cricket Ground, in the outskirts of Barnsley. The number assembled in the field would be about 8,000 persons, but there were hundreds who came to the town who never entered the field at all. The time of the meeting as originally arranged was one o'clock, but in consequence of some misunderstanding at to Railway Time, the speakers did not arrive till two. The gathering owed its strength principally to country miners, who arrived in large bodies during the fore-noon. The first arrival was headed by the Dodworth and Rifle Corps bands combined. Then came the miners from the neighbourhoods of Rawmarsh, Thrybergh, and other places in the same district. These were followed by the Wharnccliffe Silkstone colliers, each party having its band of music. Having paraded the town, the procession walked to the place of meeting, and after some delay the speakers arrived. Mr. Richard Mitchell, of Barnsley, was then called to the chair, and opened the business with a few appropriate remarks by way of introduction to the other speakers.

Mr. Holmes, of Leeds, then addressed the meeting at some length, advocating with considerable force the co-operative principle, showing that if the working colliers would only be true to themselves they might be colliery proprietors as well as colliery labourers, and, therefore, they would meet in the field of competition, with advantage to themselves, those who were mere capitalists.

Mr. Towers, editor of a journal called "The Miner", next addressed the meeting, dwelling upon several points in which he considered there was a deficiency in the management of mines, especially alluding to what he regarded as an extremely faulty mine inspection.

Mr. Alexander M'Donald, Glasgow, was the next speaker. He dwelt upon the want of proper means of ventilation in pits - the only means of preventing those fearful accidents which were continually occurring in various colliery districts. If justice was done, he said, to some of the colliery proprietors, they would be hanged by the hands of the public executioner, and some of the managers, for using short weights, would be sent to the house of correction, or transported.

The above were the only speakers, except that the chairman strongly urged, as other speakers had done before him, the necessity of union. He also advised the colliers present to ask to a rise of 10 percent in their wages, as coals had risen to the amount of 20 percent.

Votes of thanks were then given to the speakers and the chairman, and the meeting separated, the vast majority walking in procession.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 3 Col. 7.

The Pitmen's Strike in the North.

The strike amongst the pitmen at Oakenshaw, Brandon, Brancepeth, and Sunnybrow Collieries, of which Messrs. Straker and Love are the owners, still continues. These extensive pits are in the county of Durham. At first only a few of the men employed came out on strike, but now upwards of 1,200 men have turned out, and the collieries and coke ovens at which they were employed have necessarily been laid in. The main point of difference relates to the mode in which the quantity of coals hewed by each man is ascertained. The masters require that the tub shall be filled to the brim on arriving at "bank". Should they be in the slightest degree short of that, the workman receives no pay for it. As a more equitable system, the workman wish to have the tubs weighed at the bank instead of measured. There was also another difference, though not less important, as to the price. The masters offer ninepence farthing per ton, which the men allege is a penny halfpenny less than they had been previously receiving. In reply to this offer the men of the various pits on strike have sent in demands varying for each pit, but making on the average a price per ton of about one shilling. About a fortnight since several pitmen were turned out of their houses owing to their connection with the union. On Saturday, the whole of 1,200 men received notice to quit their cottages today. Although the masters have conceded the point as to the tubs being weighed at "bank" instead of measured, there does not appear the prospect of an early termination of the strike, as the men express their determination not to accept the price offered by the masters. The men on strike are receiving the sum of six shillings a week from the union.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 31st. October 1863.

Page 4 Col. 1.

Coal Cutting Machine.

A experiment was made on the Thursday last, at Mr. Middleton's factory, Loman Street, Bargh, with a new coal-cutting machine, which is intended to be used as a substitute for manual labour in coal and other mines. Hitherto coal, as it is well known, has been cut away from the seam with pick axes, by men in a sitting or cramped position - an occupation at once difficult and tedious. About fifty years ago attention was turned to devising machinery for the performance of this labour, but the machines contrived at that time, and at subsequent periods, did not pass beyond the experimental process. The threatened innovation aroused the indignant opposition of the mining populace, and in some instances lead to disturbances and riots. To this circumstance - which may have operated on the fears of employers, combined probably with the effects of the inventions themselves - may be attributed the continuance up to the present day of the old system of working collieries. A few years back a Mr. Ridley took out a patent for an apparatus which very nearly solved the problem, which mining engineers, notwithstanding these discouragements, have never entirely overlooked. The great object being to economise space, he adapted to his purpose the form of a trunk engine which is employed on board steam vessels, and produced a machine which worked a pick against the coal with sufficient power and rapidity to do the labour of many men. There was, however, one radical defect which militates considerably against its practical usefulness. In order to get the necessary length of stroke, the machine was made so long that it could not be taken round the short elbow bends and the abrupt curves in a mine without much difficulty and delay. To obviate this drawback, the machine exhibited on Thursday last has been constructed. It is the joint invention of Mr. Ridley and Mr. James Chinley(?) Jones and also assumes the shape of the trunk engine, but it is only about half the length of the former. This diminution of the length is effected by an ingenious arrangement, by means of which the connecting rod - to which the pick is attached - acts as a substitute for the piston. In this way the required length of the stroke is obtained, as it were within the cylinder itself. The machine is very small and compact, being only 2 feet 2 inches high, and three feet long, with a 2 feet 6 inch pick, and when at work it will be attended only by a man and a boy. It runs upon the ordinary tram used in collieries, a man sitting behind and using it as easily forwards or backwards by a lever or wheel. On Thursday the motive power was steam, but as this could not conveniently or safely be introduced into a mine, it is proposed to work the machine with compressed air, which has been successfully employed in a tunnel now in course of construction through Mont Cenis. Judging from the experiment, there would seem to be little doubt of the invention answering the purposes for which it is designed, as within a few minutes a deep groove was cut along a hard stone of large dimensions. If the opposing substance had been coal there could have been little doubt that it would have been broken into pieces in the first few blows. The pick gave a hundred blows a minute with a force equal to three quarters of a ton. The inventors state that the machine is equal to 25 miners, and will in eight hours undercut 150 yards of coal to a depth of 3 feet. A large party of engineers and other scientific persons assembled to witness the experiment, and a favourable opinion seemed to be generally pronounced as to the result. It remains to be seen whether the prejudices of the mining population can be so far got over as to procure a fair trial of the machine in some of our more extensive coal- pits.

The Post.