

The Tavistock Gazette

August 4(?), 1864

" At the Nuns' Cross Tin Mine meeting, held at the Manor Inn, Walkhampton, on July 30th, the accounts showed a credit balance of £25 5s 5d, and a call of 15s per share was made. Captain Foot reported that since the last meeting the adit level had been driven 10 fathoms 3 ft 6 inches; the end had been crossed by several branches, which had impeded the progress. The last branch passed through was very hard, and from its having drained the level at the new shaft it was believed to be the same branch that caused so much trouble in sinking the shaft. There is not much doubt now of a continuation of good ground. The lodes as yet are before them, and they cannot do better than continue driving in the same direction. The ground at present is good, the level being let to drive at £4 10s per foot.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. August 1864.

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Advert.

Wanted, A Carpenter used to Pit Work - apply of the Office, Skegby Colliery, near Mansfield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. August 1864.

Page 2 Col. 3

Advert.

To Sinkers,

To Let, the Sinking of a Shaft, from the Top Hard to the Dunsil Coal. Apply to the Office, Skegby Colliery, near Mansfield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. August 1864.

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Coal Cutting by Machinery - Banquet in a Coal-Pit.

On Thursday afternoon the introduction of machinery for the purpose of getting coal was inaugurated at the High Royds Colliery, near Barnsley, by a dinner at the bottom of the pit, to which a large and influential party had been invited. The place was tastefully decorated with evergreens and bracken, which completely covered the whole of the coal. After witnessing the working of the machine, the chair was taken by Mr. Alderman Carr, of Sheffield; Mr. R. Inns, of Barnsley, occupying the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of, the chairman, giving "Success to the High Royd Colliery", said the machinery would make the means of considerably decreasing the most laborious part of the colliers work, and increase the prosperity of the colliery proprietor. From what he had seen of the working that day of the one in the pit, he had no doubt it would answer the expectations which had been formed of it. The vice-chairman then gave the health of "Mr. Jones, the patentee and maker of the machine". Mr. Jones acknowledged the compliment. He said that he had shown the practicability of getting coal by machinery. Mr. Hall, speaking on behalf of the proprietors of the colliery, said the machine worked well, and answered every expectation they had formed of it. He felt confident that their introduction into the district would be a benefit to the coal-masters, and a boon to the men. They would be so improved that nothing would be found wanting in them. Mr. Thorp proposed the health of the chairman, who replied in appropriate terms. He said that in addition to his practice as a medical man, he had become a colliery proprietor, but so far all his prospects in that business were still in prospect. Still he thought he saw a bright prospect before them, owing to the ingenuity and skill of their mechanics. They were only entering on a new era in the history of the coal-trade of South Yorkshire, and one that would be found beneficial to both men and masters, increasing the profits of the one and lessening the labour of the other. After addresses from Mr. Peacock, Mr. G. Craik, and other gentlemen, the party ascended to the top, after a most agreeable as well as novel entertainment, which passed off in a manner satisfactory to all.

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Page 3 Col. 1

Fatal Coal Mine Accident.

On Thursday, the 4th. inst., an inquest was held at Staveley before Mr. Busby, on the body of Jonathan Wagstaffe, who was killed the previous day at the Old Hollingwood Pit, Staveley belonging to the Staveley Coal and Iron Company. William Limister, aged 16, pony driver, said that the previous afternoon he was in the pit driving the ponies from No. 1 Stall to the plane, and deceased was stationed at a door between those two points. It was downhill from the door to No. 1; it rises 5 yards from the door towards the plane, and the remainder is level. About half past three p.m. witness came from the plane with a pony and four empty wagons (Taking them to No. 1 to be filled), and came to within five yards of the door, when he stopped and unhooked his wagons, which were then on the level; he took first one wagon through the door to No. 1, and then came back and fetched 2 wagons; and lifted the fourth wagon off the way. As he was passing through the door with the two wagons he said to the deceased, "You must sit in the bolt-hole until I come up again with the last wagon". When he was coming back in a few minutes for the last wagon he heard the wagon running into the door; and he shouted "Jonathan", but received no answer. He ran to the door, but could not see deceased, and he then ran down No. 1 gate, and through a wind- road and up No. 2 gate; he hung his horse on the wagon and drew it up a bit; when he saw deceased with his face covered with blood. He said "Jonathan", but deceased did not speak, and he then ran for help. Witness said that the wagon must have been lifted on the road after he left, and deceased only had access to it. Alexander Drabble, pointsman in the pit, said he went to deceased just after the accident, and he died just before he got to him. Verdict "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 13th. August 1864.

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Miners Testimonial to Mr. Hedley.

On Monday last "the Miners Testimonial" was presented to John Hedley, Esq., late Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the Midland District, at the George Inn, Alfreton, when about 150 colliers and colliery managers were present. After dinner the chair was taken by Robert Harrison, Esq., supported on the right by John Hedley, Esq., and Messrs. Radford, Houghton, Bostock, and Brown, and the left by T. Evans, Esq., the present Inspector, W. Haslam, William Both, Esq., and Mr. Brentnall. The vice-chair was occupied by R.G. Coke, Esq., supported by Messrs. Naylor, Weston, and Walters. After the usual loyal toasts had been given, and heartily responded to, the chairman proposed the health of Mr. Hedley in a speech of considerable length, eulogising him for the admirable manner in which he had discharged the important duty as Inspector of Mines during the eight years he had been in office; showing that by his kindness and partiality he had won the esteem of all in the district, having been thoroughly unbiased in all his transactions with the colliery manager or owner, without showing favour or affection to any party where gross negligence had been proved. He had reluctantly visited the offenders with a reasonable displeasure, to whichever class he belonged, whether rich or poor, master or servant. Taking the culpable party before the magistrate was a most unpleasant duty to perform; it was his last resource after repeated warnings unheeded and disregarded. Whilst he had ever been mindful of the interests of the working men in promoting the adoption of measures having for their object the safety and security of men's lives, he had always been willing to give a word of advice to managers and owners in carrying out such measures, so that by kindness and persuasion he had brought about many improvements in the district which would not have otherwise been effected.

The presentation was then made by Mr. Joseph Radford in a very appropriate speech. It consisted of a very beautiful clock of elaborate design, with two massive bronze figures of "Science and Art". The base bears the following inscription, engraved on a silver plate; - "This clock, with a silver inkstand, on the 8th. day of August, 1864, presented to John Hedley, Esq., late Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the Midlands district by the managers and workmen of the undermentioned collieries, as a memorial of sincere respect, as a token of esteem for the urbanity, impartiality, and great ability displayed in the discharge of his important duties, during the eight years he held the government appointment. List of the Collieries; Beggarlee, Birch Wood, Brinsley, Coates Park, Clay Cross, Cotmanhay, High Park, Hucknall, Highfield, Pentrich, Riddings, Selston, Swanwick, Watnall, Stoneyford, West Hallam and Wingerworth." Also a splendid silver inkstand, having the following inscription: - "This inkstand, with a clock, were presented to John Hedley, Esq., August 8th., 1864, by the workmen and managers of collieries in the Midland District, as a token of esteem for the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of Inspector of Mines for upwards of eight years".

Mr. Hedley, on rising to respond, was loudly cheered. He said that the testimonial was far too good for him; he felt that he did not deserve so valuable a gift, but he should prize it the more because it was presented by working men. He must confess that the eight years which he had spent in this district had been the happiest in his life. During that time many improvements in ventilation and the general management of collieries had been effected, and he was highly satisfied by the progress made in mining operations in the district. He had been in most of the coal districts of Great Britain, and had mixed amongst the colliers, but he had found none superior to the men in this district. He gave some very interesting and amusing accounts of the

plans he had adopted for the purposes of convincing bailiffs and underviewers their airways were far too small and contracted, in preference to upbraiding and threatening them if they were not made larger.

The health of Mr. Evans, the new Inspector, was proposed by Mr. Hedley. They had known each other for many years, and he had great pleasure in introducing him as an old friend. He had no doubt that Mr. Evans would be found better qualified to fill the office than he had been.

Mr. Evans, who responded to the toast, thanked Mr. Hedley for the kind manner in which he had introduced him. They had been acquainted many years, and were both appointed Inspectors on the same day. When he looked at the beautiful clock and inkstand he was convinced that Mr. Hedley was very highly esteemed by those who presented them. He was determined on all occasions to act with the strictest impartiality, and trusted that all present who had the charge of collieries would be particular in observing the rules, and use every necessary precaution for the prevention of accidents.

Mr. W. Booth, proposed the "Coal Trade", after which followed the healths of the chairman, the vice-chairman, the treasurer, and secretary, bailiffs, and underviewers, the workmen, their wives, and sweethearts, etc.

The company broke up about eight o'clock, highly satisfied with the days proceedings, excepting the dinner.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1864.

Page 2 Col. 7

Sheepbridge Iron Works.

The Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Works, at Dunston and Barlow, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, are the property of Messrs. Hankey and Fowler, have been transferred to a Joint Stock Company, formed privately for the agency of Messrs. Chadwick, Adamson, M'Kenna, and Company, with a subscribed capital of £500,000. The whole of the property is taken by valuation.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1864.

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Fatal Accident at Clay Cross.

On Thursday, Mr. Busby, coroner, held an inquest at Clay Cross, on the body of a man named Stevenson, employed by the Clay Cross Company. The deceased and others were employed to check the speed of trucks going down an incline, and to sit on the brake handle to do so. The lot of trucks he was upon became separated into two bodies, and the second caught up with the first at the bottom of the incline. There was a collision, and the deceased fell off the truck and was almost cut to pieces. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 20th. August 1864.

Page 3 Col. 4

Neglect of Work.

John Williamson, Thomas Martin (Alias Butterfield, alias Finger), and Richard Evans, were brought up on warrant, charged by Mr. Peter Robinson, colliery agent for No. 4 Main Pit of the Clay Cross Company works, with having absented themselves from their work on the 8th. and 9th. inst. Mr. Robinson described the defendants with being very irregular with their attendance on other occasions. They were each ordered to be imprisoned for 2 months, with hard labour, at the expiration of their imprisonment at the County Gaol in Derby.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. August 1864.

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Advert - By Mr. Dobbs.

Brampton.

To Colliery Proprietors and Others.

To be sold by auction, by Mr. M. Dobbs, nearly opposite the National School at Brampton, on Wednesday, Sept. 7th, 1864, a weighing machine calculated to weigh 4 tons, also 10 new coal wagons, 13 wrought iron turn-plates, each 10st. 3lbs., 2 cast iron do., 4 in. do., 3 or 4 tons of metal rails, pit corve, 30 or 40 yards of pit roping, a lot of lashing and wood chains, a pair of conductor screws,, 2 wood ringers, and chains, capital new wheel straw chopper, very good cross-cut saw, 2 water barrels and cleeves, 20 staved gate and 2 posts, 27 staved ladder, quantity of sawing wood, together with rammers, drills, and a lot of old iron, also sundry rakes, forks, spades and other tools.

Sale to commence at one o'clock, Three Tuns Inn, Chesterfield, August 24th, 1864.

Derbyshire Times.

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No Headline.

At Leeds Assizes on Saturday, nine men were indicted for conspiracy, accompanied by violence, at the Oaks Colliery, Barnsley. The facts of the case are well known. A strike commenced at the Oaks Colliery in February last, and continued down towards the close of July. In its progress men were brought from distant places, to "man the colliery", and the defendants along with other men, sought to prevent the foreigners from working. Violent measures were frequently resorted to, for engaging these the defendants were now indicted. They were found guilty, and sentenced as follows. Wilkenson, Dundas, Winter, Simmons, and M'Carthy for four calendar months; and, Wright, Doran, Carr, and O'Hammerton (who did not take so prominent a part in the riot) for three calendar months each.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. August 1864.

Page 2 Col. 7

Explosion of Gas in a Coal Mine.

On Friday, the 19th. inst., an inquest was held at the New Inn, in the Parish of Barlow, on the body of Edward Beckett, coal miner, aged 41 years, who died on Wednesday, the 17th., of injuries received in a coal-pit at Monkwood, belonging to Mr. Plevins. Joseph Binks, coal miner, said that on Saturday, the 6th. inst., he was in Mr. Plevins' pit at Monkwood, and was working in a place between 70 and 80 yards from where deceased worked. A few minutes after 6 a.m., he heard an explosion, and he laid himself down. As soon as it had passed he made his way to the place where deceased was working, and found him about 40 yards from where the explosion took place, very badly burnt. Deceased was stripped for work. The explosion took place in a back level where there was no ventilation excepting by pipes. John Barnett, the manager, said he was through the pit on Friday night, at 10 o'clock, but he didn't find any gas except a little in a "standing", being a continuation of the gate-road and there was air enough in the place to keep it clear of gas. At the bottom of the "standing", opposite the gate-road, he found the deceased's shirt on fire, and his pick was also found there. Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Page 3 Col. 3

Man and Master.

Henry Walters was charged by Charles Mycock with assaulting him at Newbold on the 11th. inst.

On the day in question complainant was proceeding with his work, as an engine-driver, at the New Brampton Colliery, of which defendant was overman, and immediately on seeing him he told him that he should not proceed with his work unless he paid him 1-6d. for boiler cleaning. Upon this to use complainants testimony defendant struck him.

Mr. Busby, who appeared on behalf of the defendant, fully elicited to the magistrates that complainant, on the occasion in question, used the most ungentlemanly language, and only received a gentle push from the defendant. By his conduct in leaving the work at the time named, he had put the colliery managers to considerable trouble, as, if another man could not have been found, the pit would have, during one night, so filled with water, as to render any work the previous day impossible. He was also drunk, and had on a previous occasion, whilst drunk at the engine, drawn the corve over the wheel.

Evidence in support of this having been called, the magistrates decided to dismiss the charges.

The same complainant then summoned the same defendant for 28-0d. for eight days wages, but as the case was far from being satisfactory, it was dismissed.

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Page 3 Col. 3

Refusing to Obey a Master's Orders.

William Wilson and Vincent Levers, colliers, were each charged with refusing to obey the lawful commands of their masters. The case of Levers was taken.

Mr. Busby, of Chesterfield, appeared for the complainants (the proprietors of Lings Colliery), Mr. Clinch (for Mr. Flewker's of Derby) appeared for the defendants.

The two defendants were in the employ of the proprietors of the Lings Colliery, and on the 11th. of August, the underviewer, William Shore, told the defendant, who had got a considerable quantity of coal, and had supported the roof with it, to make a hole through it, in order that the ventilation of the pit might not be impeded. This they refused to do, and the result was this complaint.

An able defence was made by Mr. Clinch, who intimated that, as the defendant was engaged as a stallman, he had no right to make a hole through the coal, for two reasons, viz. that they were the best judges of the safety of the roof they had propped with the coal, and that, in the capacity of stallman, and therefor under a contract at so much per ton, had no right to make a roadway through the coal without compensation.

Mr. Maynard understood that, as he had signed the contract rules, he amenable to those rules, which specified that an overman might take any man from one description of work to another. The defendant was, he was sure, a very respectable person, and he had not offended wilfully, therefore, as they were of the opinion they were both guilty - through error - he would only fine them lightly, viz., 1-0d. and costs.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 27th. August 1864.

Page 3 Col. 4

Neglect of Work.

James Townsend, Jas. Beck, and William Lawless, colliers, were brought up on warrants, charged by Mr. John Brown, colliery agent to the Clay Cross Company, with absenting themselves from their works at Clay Cross. Prisoners had all left without notice, and caused the Company great loss and expense. Committed for two months each with hard labour.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 3 Col. 4

More Neglect of Work.

John Gelsthorpe and Edward Keen, colliers, were brought up on warrants, charged by Mr. John Brown and Mr. Peter Robinson, colliery agents, with absenting themselves from their work at the Clay Cross Company. The defendants had all left without notice. The Company were determined to make an example in all such cases. Committed for two months each.