

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 6th. February 1864.

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Larceny.

George Cousins, a banksman in the service of Mr. S. Lancaster, of Newbold, was charged with defrauding his master of 1-9d. Remanded until this day, (Saturday).

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Advert - Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Colliery Company (Limited).

Good pickmen may have constant employment, at a high rate of wages, at Nesfield Colliery, near Barlow.

Apply at the works, Feb. 11th., 1864.

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Shocking Case of Brutality to a Horse.

A few days ago, a lad named Jacob Wilson, in the employ of Messrs. Barber and Walker, the extensive colliery owners, barbarously punished a horse which he was working in connection with one of the Eastwood coalpits. The poor animal not, we suppose, working to the desires of the inhuman biped, is said to have been subject for some time to a cruel system of punishment. He appears to have been in the habit of pulling out the poor animal's tongue and beating it; on Wednesday whilst he was performing this cruel act, he actually dragged out the tongue altogether. Mr. Harrison, the manager of the pit, on hearing the circumstances, immediately gave information to the police, and the lad was taken into custody. We understand that the animal has been shot.

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Derbyshire Mining.

There is a continuance of activity in the Iron Trade, notwithstanding the threatening aspect of affairs on the Continent, and the high rate of discount. There is a good demand for rails, not only for the home department but for the colonies. The Butterley Company are executing a large order for India; and, should even a proportion of the projected new lines be granted by Parliament, there will be a great impetus given to this department of the Iron Trade. The Steel Trade is likely to be permanently benefited by the introduction of that metal extensively in the art of warfare. At Sheffield spherical steel shot has been made with great success, and the same may be said of the manufacture of steel cannon. The Coal Trade appears to be improving to an extent unparalled of late years. The greatly increased demand for iron, and the fuel required to keep going the additional furnaces, is such as to keep the collieries in active operation. An increased supply is being sent into Yorkshire, but is not at the moment, as employment is many other districts a scarce commodity, and the many large factories with smokeless chimneys only too plainly indicate the nature and extent of the depression. The Chesterfield and Silkstone Colliery Company are prosecuting the development of their works, which only a short time ago seemed to be "hanging fire" for the want of capital. The directors, however, have taken the bull by the horns, and have faced their difficulties boldly. They have so much water to contend with their original estimated capital has been exhausted. They had a valuation made of the property, which showed that besides what they had expended, there were assets amounting to upwards of £20,000; the result was that the Company obtained another £10,000 to complete their works. The colliery in Brampton, Derbyshire, which was formerly opened by Messrs. Nicholls and Fletcher has been sold to a limited liability company, who contemplate greatly extending the works. They have already purchased the colliery belonging to Messrs. Swallow, and it is intended to construct a mineral railway from the works to the Wingerworth siding, which is not 2 miles in extent, and the making of which would not be attended with a very large outlay of capital. It would greatly facilitate the transit of coals, which are the Silkstone bed, and would also materially cheapen the costs. Messrs. Barber, Walker, and Company, coalmasters, of Eastwood have recovered £4,900 against the Nottingham Canal Company for damages sustained by them by the leakage of the canal into their coal mine.

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Larceny.

George Cummons was charged with converting to his own use certain monies, the property of his employer, Samuel Lancaster Esq., at Newbold, on the 27th. ult. - Prosecutor, a colliery proprietor at Newbold, stated that prisoner had been in his employ as a banksman, authorised to receive monies on the bank. On the day in question he received certain sums, but had not accounted for them; and when charged with this offense had admitted his guilt, urging that he had a child ill, but that he intended to repay it. Charles Boland, John Langborn and Isaac Ball were each called, and swore that on the day named they had paid - one, 3-4d., the second, 1-4d., and the third, 1-6d. - The prisoner, who had only accounted for 4-9d., pleaded guilty, but hoped his master would deal mercifully with him. Mr. Maynard (to prisoner): You are charged with stealing; if you had been charged with embezzling, we should have sent you to Derby. It is not your masters wish that we should be severe, nor is it ours to be so; and having been a week in prison, we shall consider it and treat you leniently. It is a very severe thing for a servant to rob a master, for they have many opportunities. We think it right to punish you, we shall send you to the House of Correction for fourteen days. If you had gone to the Assizes, the punishment would have been far more severe. The prisoner was then removed, and his wife, who appeared downcast during the hearing of the case, wept bitterly upon hearing the decision.

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Strike at the Carr House Colliery.

The colliers, to the number of 500, employed at the Carr House Colliery, near Rotherham, on Wednesday turned out on strike in consequence of the proprietors having refused to grant an advance of wages in compliance with the request of the men. On Thursday the men, four abreast, marched through the streets of Rotherham, distributing handbills which detailed their grievances and asked for the assistance of the public. The men have asked for an advance of 1-1d. for 25 corves, and 6d. per yard upon the headings, and 3d. upon bank cutting. In 1862 they received 6-8d. per 25 corves, at 7 cwt. to the corve; now, they have but 6-5d. per 25 corves, at 8 cwt. to the corve. The trammers have suffered a corresponding reduction, although the weight has increased. The continuance of the strike, unless the proprietors give in, materially depends on the assistance the men receive from the public.

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Mr. Hedley's Report on Coal Mining.

Mr. Hedley, in his report on the coal and ironstone mines of the Midland district (including those of Derbyshire) said that there had been 42 accidents in 1862, for which 43 persons lost their lives. In the same period there had been 75 non-fatal accidents, for which 80 persons had been injured. Of these accidents 40 have occurred due to falls of coal and roof; and of the fatal accidents, 25 of the deaths had occurred from the same cause. This class of casualty, according to Mr. Hedley, averages more than 30 percent of the total loss of lives in mines. It is the most treacherous contingency with which mine managers have to deal; and careful examinations of coal and roof by experienced men ?????????????????? to discover the impending danger. "The invisible joints in coal and roof, masses fall without warning insufficient to be heard amidst the noise of the work; and the ordinary method of testing by knocking the coal and roof with an iron tool does not detect unsoundness of the affected mass. The system of propping or spragging the coal before commencing holing has," says the Inspector, "saved many lives, though there is great difficulty with the men in enforcing this excellent precaution. Four deaths have occurred by the coal falling from joints although it was spragged. It was the practice of supporting the roof along the face of the work with two rows of props, only where it appeared necessary; but the impossibility of detecting in all cases the danger from coal in the roof induced me to advise the universal system of propping with not less than two rows on the face spragging the coal every two yards. Some of the accidents from falls of roof have occurred from the deceased placing themselves under masses which they had in vain laboured to pull down which suddenly fell. Good propping and frequent careful examinations are the only means of protection against these accidents.

But of the 43 fatal accidents between 1842(?) in the Midlands collieries, 23 occurred in Derbyshire. In the course of his report, Mr. Hedley furnishes a useful table showing the proportion of deaths to the quantity of coal raised in the districts.

Year	Deaths	Tons of Coal	Number of Tons to each Death
1856	46	4,500,000	97,000
1857	55	4,750,000	86,000
1858	42	5,060,000	121,000
1859	40	5,460,030	134,000
1860	50	6,215,000	124,000
1861	69	6,503,340	94,000
1862	43	6,647,000	154,000

"Goafs" in the Midland Districts do not as a rule yield much gas; it is chiefly found in the seams; and owing to the impervious nature of the strata the gas from the seams above or below a working seam does not penetrate into the goaf. Hence there are comparatively few deaths from explosions - only 28 occurred during the seven years, and of these 15 occurred in 1857. The high ratio of deaths to the coal raised in 1861 occurred through the lamentable drowning of 23 miners by inundation. The Midland District comprises Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire. As the seams of 2 ft. 6 ins. thick in this district are not worked, the employment of boys under twelve years of age is not required. In the few instances in which

they are employed under this age, the boys leave the mine for school half a day twice a week, as required by the Act. Mr. Hedley says that the owners of collieries have generally complied with the 28th. section of the Mines Inspection Act and provided an office for the payment of wages. Names of two colliery proprietors of Chesterfield are mentioned as persons against whom proceedings were taken for breaches of the Act in 1862.

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Derbyshire Mining.

There is, happily, a continuance of activity in the iron-trade in these counties; and, judging from present appearances there is a state of activity much greater than we have known for a number of years past. The Butterley Company have had in hand a large number of orders for plates and rails for India and the Continent generally, and it is anticipated that demand will be considerably augmented when the next mail arrives. It is anticipated that the orders for rails during the next few months will be very great indeed; and judging from the favour with which the lines are received, it is certain that a very considerable demand will be made. We have numerous enquiries for steel and munitions of war from America; and, and although there is no immediate probability of a termination of the war, it will be seen that the North are very much larger buyers than the agents of the South. The commencement of hostilities on the Danish frontier has been the object of considerable anxiety, and the results of those hostilities has occasioned much concern in the iron-trade; for the advent of a peaceful termination of the dispute will be considered a happy solution to what would otherwise be a very disagreeable subject. The coal-trade is in an exceedingly satisfactory state, not only with regard for the demand for the article, but also regards the consumption for the home markets. The supplies for London and the eastern markets have hitherto been very inadequate, but lately and improved feeling has prevailed, and the quantity supplied has been in a great measure equal to the production. The new collieries which have been established are as yet without any productive powers, and therefore the coal raised is eagerly sort after. A company has been established for working the large acreage of coal between Hullfield Gate and Alfreton, late the property of Mr. T.M. Siddall. The property is extensive, and if it once came into the market, employment would be afforded for a large body of men.

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Assault at Tupton.

John Gelsthorpe was charged with assaulting John Hatfield in a pit at Tupton. A dispute arose between the complainant and the little brother of defendants, and in which the former threatened to strike the lad. Defendant went up to him and knocked him down, and kicked him when on the ground. Fined 10-0d. and costs or fourteen days imprisonment. He went to gaol.

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Leaving Service.

George Atkinson, Joseph Storey, and George Savage were each charged with leaving the service of R. Barrow, Esq. at Staveley, on the 29th. February(?). The men all admitted leaving, but said they had been hindered in their work for want of materials. Mr. Busby, for the prosecution, called evidence to rebut the defence, and pressed for a committal, urging in support of this that defendants example had already been followed. Committed for seven days to hard labour.

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Page 3 Col. 3

Neglect of Work.

Thomas Bolsover and Mark Rippon were charged by Mr. Rhodes, colliery owner, with leaving his employ on the 18th. of January, without giving proper notice. There is an understanding at the collieries in this neighbourhood, that the parties give or take a fortnights notice, and in these cases no notice had been given. Ordered to return to work, and pay 10-0d. each and costs.

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Neglect of Work.

John Fox, collier, was charged by Mr. Luke Worrall, coal owner, with leaving his employ without giving the necessary fortnights notice. Mr. Worrall produced the book wherein the agreement to give or take a fortnights notice was signed by the defendant, and also a copy of the rules in use at the Stretfield Colliery. Defendant denied having seen or heard of any rules being in existence at the colliery; and it was shown that he signed the articles when he had entered into complainants service. Committed to Derby for 21 days.

William Marples, collier, was summoned by Messrs. Badger and Son, coal owners, Dronfield, leaving their employ on the 9th. of February without giving the usual fortnights notice. Defendant said that he left because he could not "hurry" in the bank where he was working, and he asked the underground steward to allow him to work in some other parts of the pit where he could "hurry", but the steward would not find him another place. Mr. Haddock, the steward, said that he was appealed to by the defendant, and from his representations he pointed out two other places where he might work, but neither of them would suit him. It was only an excuse to say that he could not "hurry", because any other of the men could do so in that place; and as a proof of that, a man was working in the same place at the present time. Mr. Badger said they did not wish to press the charge severely against the defendant if he would promise to go back to his work. Ordered to return to his work and pay the costs.

Charles Locke, was sued by Messrs. Badger for leaving his work without having permission to do so. It appeared that defendant had been working in the pit on Monday the 8th. inst., when he strained his wrist, consequently he did not go to his work on the three following days, although he had on the Tuesday told one of the sons of Mr. Badger that he could not attend his work in consequence of having sprained his wrist. This had not been told Messrs. Badger; hence the summons. Defendant produced a certificate to the effect that he had sustained an injury to his wrist. The Bench considered this a sufficient reason for his non-attendance, and dismissed the summons.

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Miners Conference at Dudley.

Demand for an Advancement of Wages.

At a conference of miners held at Dudley on Thursday, a resolution was passed calling upon all colliers in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire to demand 3-6d. per day.

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Fatal Boiler Explosion.

At half past three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon the boilers in connection with the blast-engine at the Aberdare Iron Works, Aberdare, exploded. Nine of the workmen were killed, several others were injured, and a large amount of property was destroyed.

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Accident at Mosboro'.

On Tuesday a mishap occurred at Plumbley New Colliery, belonging to Mr. Rhodes, on Beighton. The pit is about half a mile from the engine house, and the coal is brought from the mouth of the pit by a truck, which hold nine corves and a barrel of water, up an inclined plane by means of a stout steel rope. At noon, a truck, laden as above, was being brought up, had almost reached its destination, when the engine tender (only about a week employed) gave the rope a check, which snapped the rope in two. The truck, being thus left on the rails, immediately ran back with great velocity. The corves were thrown twenty yards up the embankment and were broken into pieces. A man named Mark Rippon, of High Lane, who was pumping water at the extremity of the rails, had a narrow escape for his life.

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Strike and Lockout of South Yorkshire Colliers.

The men employed at the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, recently asked for an addition of ten percent to their wages. A compromise was attempted by the employers offering an addition of five percent. The offer was refused, and a few days ago the men left the colliery, taking away their tools. In consequence of this step on the part of the Oaks miners, a meeting was called of the South Yorkshire coal proprietors, who adopted a resolution, that if the demand was persisted in, they would, on the expiration of 28 days, lock-out their collieries all men belonging to the miners union. In pursuance of this resolution, most of the South Yorkshire coal masters gave their men 28 days notice, which proceedings have created quite a sensation throughout the district. The men consider that as the price of coal has recently been enhanced, and wages have been advanced in other parts of the country, the Oaks men were justified in their demand, and an obstinate struggle will no doubt be the result, as the masters, at their meeting, expressed a strong determination to support the Oaks proprietors, and to resist any demand for an advance, believing, as they do, that the demand made at the Oaks is only a preliminary step for an advance of wages throughout the district.

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Page 3 Col. 2

Derbyshire and Yorkshire Mining.

The iron trade is in a healthy condition, and, judging by the orders in hand, it is likely to remain active over a very considerable period. The orders from the continent, are, on the whole, exceedingly good, and very considerable quantities of machinery are being sent away weekly. The make of railway iron, and the trade in railway springs is increasing weekly in Sheffield, until the make at one firm amounts to 150 tons per week. The steel and cutlery trade is very active, and the orders given are increasing, and, with the spring, it is anticipated that the trade will be much greater. The coal trade is now permanently improved, and the demand for the London market is as great as it was before Christmas. The weather, too, is favourable to the demand, and the eastern markets are also buying largely. The South Yorkshire coalmasters are very full of orders, and the only difficulty is to find the rolling stock to convey the mineral, due to the great scarcity of mineral wagons. The eminent firm of Messrs. John Brown and Company is to be merged into a limited liability company, the present partners taking a large quantity of shares. An increasing demand upon the attention of the partners is such as to be more than can be borne by individual members. A large tract of minerals has been purchased this week in the neighbourhood of Alfreton; and it is intended during the present year to build an extensive works, which will afford employment to a large number of work people, which will be a great boon to North Derbyshire generally. Several pits to be opened, blast furnaces erected; and it is not at all improbable that a large forge will be built for the manufacture of iron; indeed, it is certain that, with the new works at Pilsley, of the Clay Cross Company, and the new works here indicated, a new and important era will be developed in Derbyshire. Capitalists are being employed to build cottages in the neighbourhood, on very liberal terms; as they can have their property leased on advantageous terms we should imagine few will hesitate to build upon such conditions.