

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 4th. June 1864.

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Advert - Wanted. A Wheelwright and Carpenter, accustomed to colliery work. - Apply to Unstone Iron Works.

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The South Yorkshire Colliers.

The strike and lock-out at the South Yorkshire collieries continues, and no advance has been made on either side with a view to terminate the struggle. At the two pits on strike, which have been recently opened at all who offer themselves as willing to go in at the old prices, scarcely a single application was made, although the non-union men are suffering great privation. A notice to the men that the Oaks Colliery men who occupy house under the proprietors to give up possession has expired, but so far none have left. They have, however, made preparations for camping in a field close to the houses they at present occupy. During the week a good deal of excitement prevailed amongst the colliers in consequence of the recently published statement of the wages paid to the men at the Oaks Colliery, and which was signed as correct by three gentlemen belonging to Barnsley. By it the average wages paid throughout the pit was 5-1½d. per day. A deputation of miners waited upon Messrs. Taylor and Inns and Dr. Sadler, and got them to again go through the books, when they found that they had given the men credit for more than they really earned, and reduced the average to 4-6¾d. The men then stated that they had worked more days than had been put into their account, but that could not be gone into. The executive of the union have issued a statement in which they say - "From all the information we can gather from the men, backed by their own check-weighman's books, taking the employers account of the wages paid, we find that the miners at the Oaks Colliery have only earned on the average 3-9d. per day for 62 out of 72 days, allowing them to have played 10 days each in twelve weeks". Matters, however, are looking better, and there is a feeling abroad that the efforts of the gentlemen above named may yet bring the dispute to a termination satisfactory to both sides.

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Boiler Explosion at Bramley Moor Colliery.

About 11 o'clock on Monday morning the colliery situate at Bramley Moor, near Eckington, owned by Messrs. J. and G. Wells, was the scene of a terrific boiler explosion. While the colliery was being worked as usual one of a pair of large boilers blew up with a loud explosion, scattering sticks, stones, etc., in which it was embedded, far and wide; some of the flying debris striking a youth named Samuel Mallinder, who was on the pit-bank at the time, and seriously injured him. One end of the boiler was blown from the body over a field, a distance of 100 yards; another portion into the same field, a short distance off. The main part was projected in a contrary direction, striking in its course the bottom of the engine chimney, which fell down with a crash on the front of a second engine house, knocking the same in and filling the house with debris. The engine-tenter fortunately happened to be in the cabin at the time and escaped. The boiler continued its course for a distance of near 70 yards. Mr. J. Wells and Mr. Jones, surgeon, were quickly in attendance. The men in the pit were drawn out by means of turnstakes.

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Reduction in Miners Wages.

On Wednesday, a meeting of coal and iron masters was in Wolverhampton to consider the question of the wages now paid to the miners in the extensive district of South Staffordshire. It was shown that at the present low prices of pig-iron and the comparatively prostrate condition of the market in that description of iron, the metal cannot be made at a profit by the makers, who are of all others the most favourably circumstanced relative to their mines and the quality of the material they yield. Upon the rest it was declared that the process entailed a decided loss. It was, therefore, unanimously resolved that notice should be given to all the men of a reduction of 3d. per day - namely from 3-3d. to 3-0d. To the men in the Bradley district, some 2,500 or 3,000 in number, who have recently been on strike against a deduction from 3-6d. to 3-3d., the reduction will be at the rate of 6d. per day. A proportionate reduction, it was understood, should at the same time be made in the wages of the men employed about the blast-furnaces.

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Fearful Accident at Bradford.

The Low Moor Company have a stationary engine at Storr Hill, Wike, near Low Moor. Three tramroads diverting thence, one in the direction of the works at Low Moor; another in the direction of the coalpits, near Brighouse; one in the direction of Clifton, a distance of three miles. The colliers who worked in the pits between Wike and Clifton are conveyed every weekday morning in a train of 4 covered carriages from Storr Hill to Clifton. The train has to pass over more than one incline by means of a stationary engine. The first incline has a gradient of 1 in 20 over 900 yards from Storr Hill to Wike Lane, and the trains are usually run down by a wire-rope from the stationary engine. The train for the conveyance of colliers and lads left Storr Hill at about half past six o'clock on Wednesday morning, but at the bottom of the incline, near the crossing in Wike Lane, the train was overturned by some of the carriages getting off the line. One man named Joshua Wilkinson was instantly, twelve or fourteen men and lads more or less injured, and the carriages were seriously damaged, and one of them broke into pieces. Some buildings against which the train ran were also damaged, the walls being knocked down. Some of the injured persons were removed to the Bradford Infirmary, and the rest to their own homes. It was reported, on Wednesday afternoon, at Wike, that two boys were since dead. The accident appears to have arisen from the guard, Herbert Barmby, having run the train down the incline without attaching it to the wire rope of the engine at the top of the incline. Barmby is in custody. Wilkinson was not one of the occupants of the carriages. He was going across Wike Lane, at the moment the train came across it, and was knocked down and crushed to death. On Wednesday evening, a boy, named John Dawson, aged 9, died at Bradford Infirmary, four hours after the amputation of a thigh, which had sustained a compound fracture.

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Shocking Pit Accident near Wigan.

On Tuesday afternoon, a man named James topping, a furnace tenter, at the Harbour Pit, Winstanley, near Wigan, was killed by falling down a second shaft in the mine, a distance of 60 yards. At 4 o'clock he descended the Five Feet Mine to relieve the other furnace-tenter, and scarcely had the latter left him a few moments when he heard a noise as of somebody falling down the other shaft leading to the Four Feet Mine below. When the cage was wound up, which was done immediately, the deceased's lamp gauge and his coat were found therein, and on examining the bottom of the second shaft, his lifeless body was discovered. The injuries inflicted by the fall were the most sickening character, the poor man's skull being cloven in, and his body sadly mangled. How the accident occurred is not known, as, when the furnaceman going off duty left the deceased he was proceeding towards the furnace, in a contrary direction to the mouth of the shaft.

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Frightful Catastrophe at Low Moor.

At half past six o'clock on Wednesday morning, a train of carriages used to convey colliers from Low Moor to the Company's pits at Clifton, was overturned at the bottom of an incline, a tramroad between Stow Hill, Wike and Wike Lane, and one man named Joshua Wilkinson, was killed on the spot, twelve or fourteen men and boys were all seriously injured, and the carriages were smashed to pieces. The accident occurred in consequence of the guard, Herbert Barmby, recklessly omitting to attach the rope at the top of the incline to the train, and trusting to two brakes to check and control the train in its course down the line between Stow Hill and Wike Lane, he started the train without taking the usual precaution of attaching the rope, simply because to do so would involve some trouble in removing three loaded coal wagons, which stood on the main line behind the place whence the train started, and over which part of the line the rope would have to be brought. Barmby is in custody at Bradford. The incline and pits belong to the Low Moor Company. It was reported at Bradford on Wednesday evening, that several of the sufferers were since dead.

The Tavistock Gazette

June 10, 1864

At the Nun's Cross Tin Mine Meeting, held at the "Manor Inn," Walkhampton, on May 28, the accounts showed a cash balance of £20 4s 9d. A call of 15s per share was made. Captain Thomas Foot reported that "since the last meeting the adit level had been driven 11 fathoms. The end is now driving across the old workings, and in 6 fathoms more the centre of them will be reached. In this drivage, judging from appearances in the old underground workings, we expect to cut No. 1 north lode. We shall then have to drive a further distance of 12 fms. 3 feet to reach the south side of the old workings, in which all the lodes and branches will be intersected. There will be about 10 fms to drive on the course of the lode to reach the point of junction on the caunter lode. The surface workings at this point are 25 fms wide, and we hope from their extent, we may find the lodes productive when intersected."

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Advert - To Be Let.

The Sinking of a coal-pit at West Staveley Colliery, specifications may be seen at the colliery office, New Whittington. Tenders will be received on the 18th. of June. The owners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

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Death from a Fall of Calcined Ironstone.

An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. Woodward, the Sir Colin Campbell Inn, Whittington, near Chesterfield, touching the death of William Pearson, labourer, at the ironworks of Messrs. Fowler, who met his death whilst working at a heap of calcined ironstone on Monday afternoon. It appeared from the depositions of Patrick Haly that deceased with others, was occupied in getting stuff from the heap which had burned, and for the purpose it had to be "holed". At no portion of the day, however, was danger anticipated, for during the dinner hour, by which time the heap had been undermined a considerable distance, deceased laid himself down to rest, apparently with the greatest unconcern. He not, however, long resumed his labours after dinner when a large quantity fell, and although he (Haly) called and warned him of the impending danger, he (the deceased) instead of running from, ran towards it, and the debris fell and caught him, and he was knocked down against a wagon. He was both burned and struck by the stuff, and died in about 5 minutes. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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The Turnpike Nuisance again.

Samuel Lancaster, Esq., colliery owner, was charged by John Bradbury, road surveyor, with suffering water to run on the turnpike road, in the Parish of Newbold, on the 27th. ult. The particulars of this charge will be fresh in the recollections of our readers. At a previous sitting of the Bench, the defendant promised to remedy the nuisances complained of, but up to the time of the present charge being made, the water had been allowed to run on the road. The side of the road was still in a state of unrepair, the ditch wanted cleaning, and the rubbish also remained where it was.

Mr. Lancaster urged that, in consequence of having to wait for some other job being completed, he could not, sooner than he did, finish repairs he had promised.

Mr. Maynard - We must make a conviction. That is the only way we can do. You come here, backwards and forwards, and do nothing. (To Mr. Bradbury) - What is the nuisance?

Mr. Bradbury - I want the ditch cleaning out.

Mr. Maynard - Is there anything on the road which was left by the water?

Mr. Bradbury - Oh, Yes, Sir, it has filled the ditch up.

The defendant was then ordered to remove the nuisance and pay costs.

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Leaving Work without Notice

Samuel Whitehead, collier, of Birley Vale, was charged by Mr. Samuel Hardwick, manager to Mr. Wells, colliery proprietor, with leaving work on the 14th. of May, contrary to one of the rules of the colliery. Mr. Hardwick stated that defendant had been in the employment of Mr. Wells since 1862: and knew that he was required to give 14 days notice before leaving. On the day named he left without giving notice, and Mr. Wells wished the charge to be pressed, as there were similar cases arising every week. Defendant stated that he had given the necessary notice a few weeks previous, and had, with the knowledge of Mr. Hardwick, agreed to remain at his employment until he could get another place. The magistrates ordered defendant to pay the costs, and return to Mr. Wells for the term of 14 days. They would not make an "example" in this case.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

George Wade and Thomas Simmonite, colliers, in the employ of Messrs. Addy and Ward, Coal Aston, was summoned for neglect of work on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Carr, the steward, said there was great irregularity at the pit, and it was the intention of his employers to put a stop to it. The defendants had, on the days named, absented themselves from their employment, causing great inconvenience to the proprietors. To pay 6-6d. each.

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Accident at Clay Cross.

An accident occurred at the No. 2 Pit, Clay Cross, by a fall of bind, which killed a miner named Whyman, and injured, but not seriously, Joseph Shepherd, another miner, near him. An inquest was held on the body yesterday (Friday), before Mr. Busby, coroner.

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Monster Meeting of Colliers.

A monster open-air meeting of colliers was held on a hill the "Wrens Nest" in the Dudley district yesterday. There were about 7,000 colliers present, and the spectators were about half that number. It was the largest meeting of colliers that was ever held in the Staffordshire district, and a procession with ten bands of music proceeded from Dudley to the place of the meeting. Mr. S.H. Miller, of Dudley, presided, and there were delegates present who represented Scotland, Leeds and other places north. The chairman, in the proceedings, expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present, and said that that moment was a time for which he had waited two or three years, and he must say with some feelings of pride that this meeting was the largest that had ever been held since the opening of the Association. If the masters could not but see their numbers, they would give up their intention of attempting to break the union. They said at first that the union would not last two months, but they made a great mistake, for it now was getting old, and there were at present no signs of weakness in its condition, nor he thought, ever would be. Although they had dropped the wages of their men, the coal-masters had not dropped their prices, and they had no right to drag the scale of wages until they had dropped their prices, and then they ought to ask the men to take a drop, and the union would reason the matter for the men, but they would not pledge themselves to take it. The following resolution was now passed: - "That the union of this district approve of the objectives of the Miners National Association, and pledge themselves to support its operations and contribute to its funds". - Mr. Holmes, of Methley, treasurer to the National Association of Miners, then spoke, and after a preliminary address gave the following statistics: - In 1861 there were 230,500 colliers at work in the mines of Great Britain, upon who were depending for support 300,000 persons. The coal produced was 83,635,000 tons, valued at £21,000,000. But in that year the lives lost were 1,061, or eight times above the general average of deaths by violence from dangerous occupations. The lives of the whole population of Great Britain averages 13.4 years, agriculturists being 42.3; miners life averages only 27 years. From the Income Tax returns for last year it was shown that, in comparison with the increasing wealth of the country, the wages of the working population are not increased, which ought to be the case. The speaker also mentioned the "Truck System", which, he said, still prevailed in Scotland, Wales, in the form of which countries being particularly oppressive, the fact of ??????? working on the pit-banks were also mentioned, and the efforts of the Duchess of Sutherland, who is doing her best to have this system removed were especially commented upon. The Revd. J. Rayner Stevens, the chaplain of the Society, then addressed the meeting, and afterward various delegates, and having lasted for upwards of four hours the meeting broke up with the usual compliments to the speakers.

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Demonstration of Colliers at Barnsley.

On Monday Evening one of the largest meetings of colliers which has ever taken place in the district was held in the May-Day Green, Barnsley. The meeting was called for 7 o'clock, and long before that hour vast bodies of colliers marched into town in procession, accompanied by music, and singing hymns. Mr. J. Normansel was called to the chair, and commenced the business by stating that he was not in favour of strikes - much less was he in favour of the lock-outs which appeared to be just now the rage. It was his opinion that want of a union was the real cause of strikes, and until the men saw the principle and adopted it, so long might they expect to have turn-outs and lock-outs. Mr. W. Brown, of Leeds, in a lengthy address, contended that the lock-out of between 3,000 and 4,000 men had no cause whatever, and was anything but flattering to the Christian principles of those who had adopted that course. He congratulated the miners of South Yorkshire for the peaceable manner in which they had borne their privations, and trusted they would continue to do so, and so secure the sympathy of the public, and all were agreed that of all things in the world there was nothing worse than a lock-out. Lock-out of the little children, and of the women, who had the rare spirit to marry men, the average age of the class to which they belonged being 27 years. He continued that the men were justified in the demands they had made for an advance of wages, as he considered that 5- 0d. per day was not too much for a collier. Indeed, the masters themselves appeared to be of that opinion, for when they went into a fresh county to engage men they offered them 7-0d. per day for eight hours work, and a bonus. To show that he was correct in his statement, he held in his hand a document, which would bear him out. It was dated "Priestfield, Staffordshire, June the 10th.", and stated: -

"This is to certify, that I do engage William ----- and ten other colliers or pickmen to work in the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, for the term of one month, at the rate of 7-0d. per day for each and all of the colliers aforementioned, to work each day during the 24, and each days work to be from 6 o'clock in the morning on each day until two o'clock in the afternoon, and at the expiration of the said month each man to receive a bonus in cash of one pound.

Signed, etc."

In conclusion the speaker exhorted the men to pursue the same peaceful course they had done, and he could assure them that from his own district they should receive increased support until their just rights were conceded. That time he hoped would not be long in arriving, for he could scarcely conceive of the coalowners could be happy in knowing that those who had raised them to their present position were starving (Loud Cheers). Mr. Normansel said that they had met there in order to bring about a settlement. That could only be attained by the men having supported, and so lead to the lock-out being removed. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the supporters of the men, and the chairman, and others. The vast body, numbering nearly 5,000, then marched homewards singing hymns as they proceeded along.

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Advert - To Sinkers and Tunnel Contractors.

To be let, the excavation of a tunnel, about 200 yards in length, near the Wingfield Station, on the Midland Railway. - For plans, specifications, etc., apply to Mr. R. Pocklington, Sheepbridge.

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Coal Pit Accident at Clay Cross.

On Monday last, a accident, which terminated fatally, occurred to a married man named John Miskill, a miner, aged 40 years. An inquest was held on the body, on Tuesday, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, and a respectable jury, when the following evidence was given: - John Tyrell said - I worked as "butty" with deceased in No. 4 Pit, Stall No. 127. Only deceased and myself worked in this stall. On Monday morning last, deceased and I went to work about a quarter to five o'clock. We stopped about ten minutes in the gate getting our tobacco. There was a quantity of dirt in the gate-end, I asked deceased either to get away the dirt, or to go into the stall and get some coal. He chose to go into the stall. He started work holing. Before he started, I perceived that a quantity of coal was broken at the back or drawing. I threw deceased a sprag, and told him to set it under the weighty end of the coal. There was a quantity without packing, and deceased commenced to sprag it. I told him to be careful, or it would prove a "man-trap". He then laid the sprag on the floor, and went about two yards higher up the stall. I started holing my dirt, and did not take much more notice of deceased until I heard a noise. I then looked up, but did not see deceased's light. I shouted "John" two or three times, but got no answer. I then took my candle and went to the place where the coals had fallen, but I could not see deceased. I took my candle, and went to the bottom for assistance. I met with two men who came back with me. About two skips of coal (about 14 cwts.) had fallen, and about 7 or 8 cwts. of dirt had covered deceased. Another man and myself got the coal off deceased. He was dead, and much injured about the head and right shoulder. I think it would have been safe if deceased had set the sprag. No one but deceased was to blame. - Verdict, "Accidental Death".

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

Robert Taylor, collier, was charged by Messrs. A. Badger and Sons, coal-owners, Dronfield, with the above offence. Mr. Thomas Badger, stated that the defendant, at the Falls Wood Colliery, Dronfield, on the 30th. of May last, wished to come up out of the pit, contrary to the 20th, 66th., and 67th. rules of the colliery, had signalled to the banksman at the top of the pit his desire to come out. The man in charge of the signal-bell forbade him to do so, upon which he became abusive and otherwise misbehaved himself. Isaac Plywright, the hanger-on, said he requested defendant to wait his turn, as there were a gang of men ascending the shaft at that time, and their corves must go up directly after them, but defendant got into the corve, and he (Witness) allowed him to be drawn up, and afterwards reported the case to Mr. Badger. Defendant said that he did not know that he was breaking any law in existence at the pit. He had never seen a copy of the rules. He had seen a notice posted at the bottom of the pit, to the effect that no collier should be allowed to ring the signal bell to go up before three o'clock; but it was nearly four o'clock on the day in question. Mr. Badger said that he did not wish particularly to press the case; his object was more for example than otherwise. It was necessary to impress upon the men the necessity of obeying orders. The Defendant was ordered to pay the costs. Thomas Turner was also charged by Messrs. Badger with absenting himself from work without leave. The father of the defendant produced a medical certificate, showing that Turner was unfit to attend to his work, and had not been able to do so for some time. Mr. Badger said that if his firm had been informed of this no proceedings would have been taken. The case was adjourned for a month for enquiry

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Work Truants.

John Robinson, John Wragg, and Aaron Gascoigne were each charge by Thomas Eggleston with absenting themselves from the service of E. Bainbridge and others, at the West Staveley Colliery, on the 21st. of June. The complainant stated that defendants were engaged by him at different periods, and each signed the rules. Latterly they had neglected their work, and in consequence they had been greatly inconvenienced. Gascoigne urged that complainant had reduced his wages without notice, or he should not have neglected his work. The other two defendants contended that they had not absolutely left their work. The Bench considering that Gascoigne had not been properly treated, discharged him, and Robinson and Wragg were each ordered to return to work, and pay costs.