

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. March 1864.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

William Butterfield, of Clay Cross, late an engine man in the employment of the Clay Cross Company, was charged by Mr. John Waters, assistant engineer to the Company, with being intoxicated and neglecting his duty whilst in charge of his engine, on the 12th. inst. The Company not desiring to press the charge, the matter was settled by defendant paying costs, 13-6d.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. March 1864.

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Advert - To Sinkers.

To be Let, the Sinking of a Pit, 11ft. in diameter. - Plans and Specifications may be seen at the office of Addy and Ward, Springfield Main Colliery, Coal Aston, near Dronfield.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 12th. March 1864.

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Inquest.

Fatal Pit Accident at Whittington.

An Inquest was held on Thursday, on the body of a man named Thomas Wright, ironstone miner, aged 49 years. It appeared that he, his son (Matthew Wright), and Thomas Edward Else were working together in a pit on Glasshouse Common, belonging to Messrs. Appleby, on Wednesday last, getting stone. Deceased said to his son, "Pull down all the loose stuff", when the son interposed by saying that he would sound it first. He had scarcely uttered the words when a quantity of the roof he was about to test fell upon deceased and his son. They were rescued as soon as possible and attended by Dr. Walker. The deceased was afterwards removed to the hospital, where he lingered until the following day. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. March 1864.

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The Lockout of the Yorkshire Collieries.

The lockout at the South Yorkshire collieries, there seems to be little doubt, will become an accomplished fact, so that in the course of a few days there will be something like 3,700 men out of work. Both sides seem determined, so that the struggle will eventually be the most severe that has ever taken place in the district. The men, it appears, will be dependant in a great measure on the support of the union, which now extends over England, Scotland, and Wales, and are confidant of being able to make a long stand. At present there are between five hundred and six hundred out, but the entire body will be out in a few days.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 19th. March 1864.

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Inundation of the Spitalwell Ironstone Pit.

Gallant Rescue of Men and Boys.

One of those dreadful mining calamities which throw a deep gloom over the district far and wide, took place on Tuesday afternoon about 3 o'clock at the Spitalwell Ironstone Mine, near the Chesterfield Cemetery, and it is feared that twelve persons have lost their lives. The pit is the property of Mr. Barrow, and is worked exclusively for ironstone. It has never been a pit which was considered liable to be inundated with water, but has always been remarkably dry. There are two large engines at the mine bank, one for pumping and one for drawing material to the surface. The coal that laid underneath the ironstone was got by the late Mr. Gillett, and there is believed to be a large vacuum filled with water.

It is worked by two principal shafts, 92 yards deep, one is the engine shaft, and the other the winding shaft. At a distance of about 500 yards from these shafts the workings communicate with another shaft at Upper Hady, called Wagstaff's Pit. The workings from the bottom of the two shafts at Spitalwell divide themselves into two different levels, one called the Top Rake and the other the Bottom Rake. These particulars are necessary to be explained, in order that the position of the men in the workings may be understood. There are usually employed in the mine from sixty to seventy men, but on Tuesday, owing to the terrible inundation at Sheffield, only about twenty-eight were at work, the rest having gone to gratify their curiosity in seeing the destruction wrought in the neighbouring town. Of this number eight were in the middle district of the Bottom Rake, four in the district of the Top Rake, and the remainder in the north and south districts of the Bottom Rake.

About half past three on Tuesday afternoon an old heading that entered the engine shaft four yards from the bottom suddenly began to pour into the pit a tremendous volume of water, which, rushing into the lowest workings quickly cut off their communication with the shaft of the Spitalwell. The men in the south district of the Bottom Rake finding themselves in this position at once made their way along the bord gate to the shaft at Upper Hady, and were there drawn up. The overman, John Turton, and one or two deputies who were with him in the north district of the same Rake, were able to wade through the water to the ordinary drawing shaft, and were got out. The eight men in the middle district as soon as they became aware of the disaster, rushed towards the shaft and found the water within eighteen inches of the roof. Turton, who heard them at the other side of the water, urged them to come on, but only one man named Taylor, who swam to the bottom of the shaft, and was safely drawn out. His eight companions who would not follow him remain in the pit, and their state excites the liveliest apprehensions. Escape in the Top Rake was cut off by the water at the bottom of the shaft and four persons remained there on dry ground, but whether they have air enough is doubtful.

Mr. Seymour, the resident viewer of this and all other pits belonging to Mr. Barrow was telegraphed for, and he arrived at the works to direct operations for the removal of the water and the restoration of the men. Water had risen in the shaft to nearly the height of the roof, and there was no escape up the incline in the Bottom Rake the only way the men could be got out was by lifting the water from the bottom of the shaft. Being a drawing shaft, of course, it was not supplied with pumps, and therefor the only way which the water could be lifted was by tubs. As there was none in the vicinity of the pit, they had to be made on the ground, which

occasioned considerable delay. Much time was necessary to fix a wooden water course from the pit to the margin of the bank, and before everything could be got ready for the lifting of the water in these tubs, the night had far advanced. The engines are of the best make, and they perform their work admirably.

The news of the accident spread throughout Chesterfield with lightning-like rapidity and numbers proceeded to the pit bank and its approaches, which were crowded. Hundreds of people passed to and fro in Hollis Lane, the greatest sympathy appeared to be manifested to those who were thus entombed in the pit. The relatives of the men who were in the mine were on the pit-bank, and their distress was naturally very heart rending. Although the lower parts of the mine were flooded with water there was an incline rising to a considerable height, off which the men might take refuge and be free from the water, and it was the general opinion that they would adopt this method of saving their lives. There was another danger to be feared as deadly in its effects as water - choke or black damp; and it was more than probable that the men would have perished from the effects of this fatal gas rather than from the water. The great danger to be feared from the rising of the water in the mine, was that it should reach the roof of the level at the bottom of the shaft, and thus cut off the ventilation, leaving the men nothing but impure air to breath; or rather only such a quantity of pure air as might be contained in the level at the time the ventilation was cut off by the influx of the water.

The following is a list of the men who are in the pit.

James Fidler, Wife and Two Children
Herbert Fidler, Wife and Four Children
Matthew Fidler, Unmarried,
William Belfit, Wife and One Child
Charles Mosley, Wife but no Family
Luke Slack, Unmarried
Benjamin Sharman, Single
George Wilson, a Youth
Dennis Cutts, a Youth
George Shaw, a Youth
Daniel Taylor, A Youth
Albert Wilcockson, a Youth

Crowds of people lined the pit-bank and its approaches, whilst hundreds were congregated in the road below. There was the greatest anxiety manifested by the public to learn the state of the water in the mine, and the probability of the life or death of those who were in it. A large coal fire threw its horrid glare over the pit top, and the light showed the boundless machinery by which the ironstone was brought up from the mine. Superintendent Wheeldon and a body of men were present to keep the crowd from inconveniencing the operation of the workmen, and all the activities and exertions to relieve the mine of water. At midnight on Tuesday, when we left the water stood at 24½ inches above the surface of the arch, and the greatest doubts were entertained for the safety of the men.

John Turton, the overman, who was in the north district of the Bottom Rake at the time the water rushed in gave us the following account of the affair: - He said he was engaged, with his son and some other men, in attending to some timber-work that side. He had sent his son to the pit-bottom with a message. The hanger-on shouted to him that the water had burst in, the boy rushed back shouting to them all to escape. They at once made their way - waiting for the water - with all speed to the shaft. The men were at once drawn up, and Turton went for a short distance into the workings on the south side to see if he could hear anything of the men working on that side of the mine. The water was then pouring in in a stream as thick as his body, and the

mine was rapidly filling. He shouted, and some men, from the middle district, who had reached the other side of the water, were only eight yards from him. He urged them to try an swim across, promising to assist them as they neared his side. The water was then within eighteen inches of the roof, but there was plenty of room for the men to get through; in fact, had they had confidence enough, they might have dived from one side to the other. William Taylor was the only one who acted on his advice, and he, stripping off his clothes, laid hold of a piece of timber, and floated himself across. The other men urged their inability to swim, and said they would stop where they were. Taylor and Turton were drawn up to the bank, but Turton was still anxious if possible to rescue the remaining men, fastened two planks together and went down again, thinking that with their assistance he might possibly get the men over the water. In this attempt, James Williams accompanied him, but they were unable to make the men hear, either the water had risen to the roof or the men had retreated higher up the workings.

Turton and Williams were drawn out as quickly as possible, and from that time no further attempts were made to get into the pit. Herbert Wilcockson, one of the men still in the mine, had been employed for two or three years as a night-hand, and Tuesday was the first time he had ever worked at the pit during the day.

With a view to lessen the water in the mine, Mr. Seymour sent to the Ingmanwell Colliery to ascertain if the pumping engine could be put to work, but on going down the shaft it was found that the mine was free from water, an attempt was also made to dam up the water so as to divert its course, but it was found to be impracticable, throughout the night the greatest possible efforts were made to reduce the water.

Later Particulars.

Wednesday Morning.

The pit banks again lined with an eager crowd of spectators who watch with the greatest anxiety every movement of the workmen, Mr. Howard, surveyor, was in attendance, as also was Mr. Hale, who with his assistant, ready to render all that medical aid could do in the event of their services being required. Last night some of the most able overmen from the Staveley Works were present, including Thomas Emmerson, who, though deprived of a leg was as active as any on the place, Richard Applethwaite, George Ord, as well as John Ord and John Turton, the overman of the pit, all of whom were indefatigable in pushing forward the pumping operations.

At midnight last night the water stood 24½ inches above the soffit of the arch.

At 3.20, 20½ inches above the soffit of the arch.

At 5.45, 15 inches above the soffit of the arch.

At 6.40, 9 inches above the soffit of the arch.

At 10.30, 2½ inches above the soffit of the arch.

At 1.30, 1.75 inches below the soffit of the arch.

At 2.55, 7½ inches below the soffit of the arch.

At 5.00, 14½ inches below the soffit of the arch.

During the morning new buckets were put in, and the pumps which were working at the rate of 14 strokes per minute, appeared to be lifting about a third more water than they had been doing hitherto, and the result being experienced was a lowering of the water. Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, it was found that the water had been lowered one inch and a half below the arch of the horse-road, and at three o'clock it was seven inches below. Mr. Ord, the overman, with others took down a Georgy lamp, to test the nature of the atmosphere, when the lamp continued to burn, indicating that the air in the pit was pure. This circumstance gave

great hope that the men who had been in the mine might be alive, and therefore he rapped with an iron bar on the brattice board that divided the shaft, with a view of attracting the attention of the men, but not a sound could be heard to indicate that there was any life in the pit, and the party came to the pit-top with hearts very much depressed. Again at five o'clock when the depth of water was again measured, a large "holloa" was given and no sound in reply could be heard. This melancholy information soon spread amongst the crowd and it was generally believed that all had perished. As the evening advanced the crowd increased, and it was with difficulty the police could keep people from rushing to the pit-bank. The pumps and tubs, it was calculated, were now raising about six hundred gallons a minute, and the water was lowering to a greater degree than it had hitherto done, it was determined that when the water had lowered two feet below the roof of the pit, rafters should be floated on the water, and if the men could be found they should be placed upon it. The crowd increased and at 9 o'clock it was said that there was at least a thousand people in the locality of the pit.

At the time of the accident Mr. Barrow and Mr. Hedley, the Government Inspector, were both in London but on hearing of the accident they both returned and reached the pit about half past nine o'clock. Mr. Barrow was deeply affected at the prospect of such a serious loss of life, and he heard the details of the accident with great pain. The water had been lowered at a rate sufficiently certain to make it possible to explore the pit that night, and this fact becoming known the crowd on the pit-bank and the road became considerably increased. At ten o'clock, Mr. Coke, mining engineer, with Ord and Turton, the overmen, went down the shaft and measured the depth of the water, and after they had done this there was a general cry of "Silence", and the hum of conversation was instantly hushed, and the great crowd of spectators held their breath in silent anticipation. Turton called out at the bottom of the shaft "Holloa", throwing his voice up the level where the men were known to be. An answer was returned "Holloa" the first indication which had been received that there was a living creature in the pit. Turton shouted "Are you alright?" The answer returned was "Yes". Turton again enquired "How many are there of you?". The answer was "Eight". Turton said "Who am I taking to?". The answer was "Fidler". Turton then said "Make yourselves as comfortable as you can, lads, we shall get you out in about an hour". The party were then drawn up the shaft to the pit-bank, when one of the party said "Hurrah, lads, they are alive". Several ringing cheers were given from those on the pit-bank and it was taken up and re-echoed by the whole of the spectators. The excitement now became intense, and the poor relatives of the men (many of whom had never left the pit since the accident occurred) were overjoyed, and several fainted with the prospect of those so dear to them being still alive. The gladsome intelligence that eight of the men were alive in the pit and would shortly be extricated spread over the town with great rapidity, and the result was the people from the town rushed to the pit and crowded every available part in the hope of seeing them brought to the surface. Nowhere was the intelligence more welcome than to Mr. Barrow, on to whose venerable face tears of joy trickled down. Mr. Hedley, Mr. Seymour, and indeed all the officials of the Staveley Works were in ecstasies at the great probability of getting all the eight men out alive.

It was thought most prudent not to venture to attempt to extricate the men, until the water had been removed a little, as it was then 5 feet 8 inches deep. Pumping operations were refitted up continuously, and the crowd waited anxiously to see the arrival of them on terra firma. The spectators passed the time as well as they could, some smoking their cigars or pipes, whilst numbers closed round the shaft fires on the pit-bank which in the severe coldness of the night not only illuminated the place but threw out very acceptable warmth to those who had made up their minds to remain for the night. After midnight had turned there was a perceptible diminution of the spectators, especially as it had oozed out that no attempt would be made to rescue the men until two o'clock, at that time considerable numbers again assembled on the pit-top, and it was with difficulty that the police could press back the crowd.

Gallant and Glorious Rescue of the Men.

A few minutes after three o'clock, a band of brave and gallant men, determined to make the effort to rescue the poor fellows beneath them from their perilous situation. It consisted of Mr. Coke, John Ford, the overman, and Thomas Marshall, a man named Bridget and George Wright, all tall men except Ford, went down the pit to make the grand attempt to rescue them, and John Turton remained at the top to arrange the safe landing of the men. The crowd pressed forward towards the pit-top, anxious to look at the men who had been confined in the pit for 36 hours, with prospects of death before them and without food or liquids. Mr. Coke jumped into the water first to direct the men, and to protect the men from danger. Mr. Coke was immediately up to the neck, nothing being seen of him, to use Tom Marshall's words, but "his yed and a pair of whiskers". The bottom of the pit being covered with iron plates, were as slippery as glass, it was difficult to walk over them as the men had their boots on. Tom Marshall was the tallest man in the party, standing 6 foot 3 inches high, was the first miner to rush out of the tub into the shaft with the water. He had a lamp in his hand, but he had no sooner set foot on the iron plate than he slipped and dropped his lamp into the water. Mr. Coke who was behind laid hold of him by the seat of his trousers, raised him erect, and sent him forward. Tom dashed along up to the shoulders in water, calling out "Holloa" which was answered, and after having gone eight or nine yards he came in sight of the poor fellows, who were entombed in the pit. They were all huddled together shivering with cold, and each had a lighted candle which they held together so as to concentrate the heat in the space as close to them as possible. They were up the level out of the reach of the water, and were perfectly dry, and when Marshall went to them they closed round him, thanking God for the immediate prospect of their deliverance, and each implored, "O, Tom, take me out first", and it was painful to refuse any but Tom said, "Now chaps we'll have our lads out first". Tom therefore took hold of a lad named David Taylor, 14 or 15 years of age, and after fastening him on his shoulder with his strap, he sailed back again with his living load to the pit bottom, where he remained whilst Bridget, whose next turn it was to aid in the glorious work of rescuing his fellow creature, went forward to the men, where each of them implored him as they had done Marshall, but carrying out the agreement to take the lads out first, he brought George Wilson, a youth 18 years of age, to the pit bottom. The rescuing party, as we may now call them, shouted to be drawn up, the tub containing them, rose to the top of the shaft, on attaining which a cheer rang from hundreds of gladdened hearts on the pit-bank, and a tear of sympathy fell from many an eye. It will be remembered at the time of the accident that Taylor's father was the man who left his watch and clothes in the pit behind him, and swam through the water. When Taylor determined to swim through to the pit-bottom, he promised to return and tell the eight persons he had left behind if it was safe, for them to follow him, but as he did not return they believed he had been drowned. As soon therefore as Taylor, the son, was drawn to the pit-top, he asked, "John, is my father safe?". Turton said, "He is, my lad". Then the son said, "Thank God for that". The two youths were immediately taken to the joiners shop which had previously been prepared for them with a hot water bath, and a large fire, where they were examined by Mr. Hale, the surgeon, who administered some arrow-root gruel, stimulated with a little brandy, and their wet clothes stripped off and dry ones substituted. We now leave these youths in the embraces of their relatives and go to the pit again. The tub, and its exploring party is down the shaft and the rescuers are plodding through the water to bring out the rest. The same eagerness is manifested to get out, and after struggling through the water bravely, Alfred Wilcockson, a youth eighteen years of age, and Herbert Fidler, who has a wife and four children, are brought to the bottom and landed safely on the pit-bank, from whence they are taken to the shop just as described. The next two who are brought safely out of the pit were Benjamin Sharman and Dennis Cutts, the latter who had Taylor's watch and his own tied by string round his neck. The last two rescued were James Fidler, who has a wife and two children and Matthew Fidler, who owns a wife and four children. These poor fellows were all got out by George Wright, who in rescuing them acted a brave and courageous part. Each man on being landed was heartily cheered, and they were all taken to the joiner's shop, and after receiving every attention at the

hands of their friends and Mr. Hale, were placed in cabs and conveyed home. The crowd then dispersed and the expression of joy was universal. After the explorers had had a little refreshment they tried to get a few hours rest, which they did in the workshops, but Mr. Seymour and Mr. Howard remained, determined not to leave the pit until the fate of the four men was known. We left the pit at 4.30 a.m., when nothing was to be seen on the pit-bank but the workmen busily conducting the pumping operations and the policemen on duty.

Rescue of the other Four Persons.

Thursday Morning.

A warm, bright sun shone over the scene this morning. On going to the pit we found everybody at his post. Mr. Seymour, who looked worn out with fatigue, having had no sleep since the accident, was still there surrounded by his overmen in consultation as to the best course to adopt. Mr. Hedley and Mr. Barrow also arrived both of whom manifested the most anxious solicitation on the part of the men. "Let no expense be spared, but don't sacrifice life", was the expression of Mr. Barrow on arriving at the scene of the accident, it was repeated this morning, after staying some time Mr. Barrow left the pit, Mr. Hedley and Mr. Seymour direct the operations of the men. Tom Emmerson, Dick Applethwaite, John Ord and John Turton, all overmen, had little or no sleep working with great energy this morning, as also did all the workmen under them. The water having been frequently tested during the morning, and found to be lowering, being twenty inches below the arch in the pit-bottom. It was decided that an effort should be made to get to the men, at 11 o'clock, the following band of courageous fellows descended the shaft, for the purpose of rescuing the remaining four men whether dead or alive; George Ord, underviewer at Staveley Works, John Ord, overman at Spitalwell Pit, John Turton, overman at Spitalwell Pit, Samuel Wagstaffe, Tom Marshall, Eli Fletcher, Joseph Burgin, Charles, Wright, George Wright, Thomas Chapel, William Scott and William Roper.

The explorers on being landed at the pit-bottom found the water deepest there. They proceeded along the main level, which was blocked up by a fall on bind, and this stopped their approach to the men, and it also prevented the men who were on the other side of it from getting out. At length the explorers got through a small bord gate into the air-course which lead to the main level. They had not proceeded far before they met the men 120 yards from the bottom of the shaft, coming along this course trying to get out. Belfit saw the explorers first and he rushed to John Ord, the overman, and he said "O John, let me have your hand", which he shook and cried with joy at the prospect of their escape. Ord told them they were all safe, upon which they thanked God for their deliverance. Each of the four men was supported on each side by one of the explorers, and they walked leisurely through the air-course into the main level which it was difficult to get through, owing to the falls of bind, and carried to the pit-bottom, William Belfit, and the youth George Shaw, were then sent up, and on their being sent on the chair to the pit-top, the cheers were loud and enthusiastic. "They are all alive", shouted one of the explorers, on hearing which the cheers were again resumed, and many of their fellow workers threw up their caps in the air in ecstasies of delight. "Now, my lads", shouted Mr. Seymour, "Give them one cheer more", which was cordially responded to. Dick Applethwaite carried the lad George Shaw on his back from the pit-mouth, and in passing through the crowd he recognised his sister. "O Hannah" said the poor lad, who appeared to be very deeply suffering under nervous excitement. He was carried by Dick into the joiner's shop followed by his sister and friends, where he was dressed in dry clothes and a stimulant administered by Mr. Hale, who was unremitting in his attention to the poor fellows. Shaw, Mosley, and Luke Slack were next brought in, and thus all were saved. The meeting of the poor men with their wives and friends was a deeply affecting one. Both men and their friends appeared unable to speak, their hearts were so full of gratitude. Sympathy shown by their comrades and others was such that half the fellows in the place were half stripped in order to afford the men clothing. One young man

stripped himself of everything but his shirt and trousers, and offered them to afford additional warmth to the men. After each of them had been administered a little arrow-root they were conveyed home in cabs. We ascertained from the men that had been confined in the pit, that after the accident they came down the level, and they knew that if there was any damp in the pit, it would arise at the top of the level. They could not hear the workings of the tubs in the water, but could see it rise or fall in the level. Like their imprisoned companions they had plenty of candles, and they calculated the time by the length of time which each candle would burn. Belfit had a watch, but as he got in the water it stopped. The lad George Shaw who was tramping a wagon at the time, got on a heap of bind in the level, where he stood alone for upwards of twelve hours. What the poor lads' feelings must have been, can be more readily imagined than described. The three men trying to get to the pit-bottom, found him and took him with them. Charles Mosley had part of his dinner left on Tuesday, and the four divided it in the night and just had a "mouthful" each. They did not feel hunger, but they began to be very thirsty on the day on which they were recovered. They thought judging by "candle-time", it was about three o'clock, when they were rescued. Such is the glorious termination of an accident, the details of which will ever live in the memory of the inhabitants of this town.

A Few Words of Praise.

To the medical men of Chesterfield, particularly, great praise is due for their readiness to attend upon the sufferers, medical aid could be of avail, some of whom were almost constantly in attendance at the times when it was expected that the bodies could be recovered.

Mr. Hedley, Mr. Coke (who almost risked his life in the pit), Mr. Seymour, and the overmen, as well as the engine-men, William Allen and Thomas Burgen, great praise is due for their untiring efforts.

The Cause of the Accident.

The cause of the accident is attributed to the owner of Ingmanwell Colliery having stopped his pumping engine some time ago, with the object, it is supposed, of saving expense. The accumulated water passed along the level which had been driven through a barrier which had been left by Mr. Barrow, which driving was an encroachment upon that gentleman's property, therefore great responsibility rests upon the parties for permitting such an act. If the machinery had not been of the most effective kind, as all Mr. Barrow's machinery is, the lives of the men would have been lost.

The Tavistock Gazette

March 24, 1864

Mining Intelligence:

The Devon Consols Tin Mining Company, with a capital of £15,000, in shares of £1 each, has been formed for working the extensive tin mines situate on the south-eastern mountainous ranges of Dartmoor, held under leases from the Prince of Wales and Lord Churston for 21 years at 1-18th dues. The purchase money for the property, machinery, and leases has been fixed at £5000, the whole of which is to be taken in shares of the company. Mr Josiah H Hitchens has carefully inspected and favourably reported upon the property. He states that the grants form a portion of one of the richest localities of the Dartmoor great tin mining district, comprising the very ancient Bachelors' Hall, White Works, Nun's Cross, and Ailsborough Mines, which have yielded returns. He considers that the mines "are, doubtless, some of the once very productive tin mines of Dartmoor, which are yet to be rendered much more profitably productive, by employing adequate capital, skill and energy to open them out deeper - as in the case of the old Birch Tor and Vitifer Mines, which are yielding very remunerative returns, and promise with much certainty to rank before long amongst the best tin mines in Devon and Cornwall." In conclusion, he regards them as offering an unusually good opportunity for the profitable investment of money, and by the employment of a comparatively small amount (say from £5000 to £6000) a very handsome percentage of profit will be realised.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 26th. March 1864.

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Inquest - Fatal Coal Pit Accident at Staveley.

On Wednesday the 16th. instant, an inquest was held at the Barrow Hill Hotel, Staveley, on the body of George Sage, aged 29 years, coal-miner, who was killed at the New Hollingwood Pit, belonging to R. Barrow, Esq., the previous day. John Thompson said that between six and seven a.m. on Tuesday, he was with deceased and David Griffith in No. 15 stall. Witness holed for deceased and Griffith, and deceased was filling the tub of slack in order to make a place where witness could begin to work. Deceased had filled the tub to within a shovel full or two, when about seven hundredweight of clod fell on his head and killed him on the spot. Deceased sounded the roof with a pick five or ten minutes before the accident, and said it was as hard as a stone. George Ord, the underviewer said that it was deceased's duty to keep the stall safe, and the piece that fell down ought to have been taken down before. There was not room to prop it. Verdict "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 26th. March 1864.

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No Headline.

The Association of South Yorkshire Coalmasters having agreed, in consequence of the demand of the miners of the Oaks and High Royd Collieries, for an increase of ten percent on their wages, to set their collieries down, notice was given to the men to leave. This notice expired on Saturday last, so that at the present time there are upwards of 3,700 men walking about, depending in a great measure on the support of the miners union. From the attitude of both parties there can be little doubt that the struggle will be a severe one. Seeing that upwards of £20,000 is paid weekly in wages, the lockout, if it continues for any length of time, cannot but cause great injury to trade and commerce, as well as much privation and misery.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 26th. March 1864.

Page 3 Col. 1

Caution to Colliers.

John Mellors of Somercotes was brought up in custody by P.C. Booth, charged on a warrant with absenting himself from work, by Mr. S. Naylor, colliery agent to Messrs. Oaks and Company. Mr. Naylor, not wishing to press the charge, the defendant was ordered to work and pay costs, £2-2-2d, and cautioned as to his future conduct.