

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 5th. November 1864.

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Advert - Owl Cotes Colliery, Heath.

Best Hard Coal	9-2d. per ton.
Best Soft Coal	7-6d. per ton.

Laid down in any part of Chesterfield. Agent for Chesterfield and District, John Brockmer. Accountant and Collector of Rents, Debts, etc., Eyre Street and Mill Street, Spa Lane, to whom all orders should be addressed.

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The Death in a Pit.

An inquest was held at the house of Mr. Smith, the Crown Inn, Staveley, on Wednesday, before Mr. Busby, coroner, respecting the death of Lediah Goodwin, aged 13 years. It appeared that deceased had worked in the Speedwell Pit and was last seen at the pit-bottom about noon on Monday last, though out of his proper place; and he was afterwards found in a sump well, quite dead. The sump well contained a great quantity of water, and the cover was not generally kept on it. No blame was attached to anyone. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Meeting of Ironworkers.

On Monday the annual meeting of the Wolverhampton district of millmen of the National Association of Ironworkers, was held at Wolverhampton. A very satisfactory report was read, upon which a member remarked that the fact that the association having so long paid 14-0d. per week to each man who had been out on strike at Leeds was a sufficient proof of solidity. If the strike had occurred in the South Staffordshire district, the men would not have given way; and the Leeds strike would nevertheless, show the masters that the ironworkers of the country could support any portion of their fellows in a just cause. If such an occurrence again took place (And he trusted it would not), they would not be able to teach the still further lesson; but he was confident that what had been done in Leeds would not be attempted in South Staffordshire. He exhorted his fellows to resist any reduction of wages that might be made, on the grounds of enabling South Staffordshire ironmasters to meet competition from other parts of the country, for the masters of those parts would also reduce wages then; and the men would thus have to suffer for the competition which could not benefit the masters. The meeting was a harmonious one.

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Colliery Accident.

On Monday, an accident of a rather curious nature occurred at the Renishaw Park Pit of Messrs. J. and G. Wells. It appears that a vast amount of smoke was issuing from the mouth of the pit, and the banksman not being able to see clearly, thought he was running an empty corve onto the chair, when it, in reality, was at the bottom of the shaft. The corve ran right into the mouth of pit, and descended with a fearful crash to the bottom at a depth of upwards of 200 yards. The corve was smashed to atoms, and the chair at the bottom was considerably damaged. The descending corve also injured the woodwork of the shaft, and the men were unable to be drawn up for a length of time. Fortunately no-one was hurt.

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Whittington.

We understand that Mr. John Carr, late viewer of the Sheepbridge Ironworks, has been successful in obtaining from the Company the wages due to him at the time of his leaving their works. It will be in the recollection of our readers that Mr. Carr was sometime ago convicted of embezzlement, and sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months. But from information afterwards gathered and forwarded, with a numerously signed memorial, to Sir George Grey, he was liberated at the end of eight months. Mr. Carr gave notice that he should enter an action at the last Derby Summer Assizes, and eminent counsel were engaged on his behalf, when the defendants suggested arbitration, and ultimately arranged to pay the costs taxed which were incurred by his defence at the time of his conviction.

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The Great Colliers Strike in South Staffordshire.

Termination of the Strike.

A very important meeting of the colliers on strike was held at Cosely, the centre of the district where the strike has now been going on for seventeen weeks, on Saturday. Delegates from several adjoining localities were present. Mr. Levi Britton was called to the chair, and he and Messrs. Josiah Raybould, Josh. Lee and Lenney, the chief agitators of the movement, addressed the meeting at considerable length. It was stated that after enduring the most intense misery consequent on the lack of the barest necessities of life for the seventeen weeks past, they now found they must succumb to the grinding oppression of the masters. The privation had been awful, and their funds were now being fast exhausted, and the calls on the public support and the district so heavy, that many of them feared that the continuance of the strike in its present form would not be to the men's advantage. There was no doubt a great number were willing and anxious to resume their work at the reduction of wages, and this feeling was prompted by the starving family that they were compelled to hear crying for bread, which they could not adequately supply, and not through any conviction that they were in the wrong in their struggle against the masters. It was stated that the men throughout the Brierley Hill district, with a few exceptions, had agreed that to prolong the strike would be futile. It was therefor proposed that they should resume their employment at once at the reduced rates, and keep the 4,000 miners at Oldbury and West Bromwich still out until they got their full demand of 5-0d. per day, and to subscribe such an amount from the earnings of the remaining 50,000 who might be employed as would produce for each man 12-0d. or 13-0d. per week. All the men had the sanction of the others to go to work as early as they chose, with the understanding that they must assist the strikers at Oldbury and West Bromwich in the manner mentioned. The several speeches were given in the bitterest terms of mortification. The meeting quietly dispersed.

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Brampton.

Henry Walters was summoned for having assaulted Peter Powell, collier, on the 1st. inst., at Brampton. The parties worked in the Inkerman Pit, defendant being underviewer. On the day in question the complainant applied to the defendant for some increase in wages he working at tramming. The defendant told him he had two stalls to tram for, and if that was not sufficient he would give him another. The complainant then began to be abusive and the upshot was that the defendant gave him a good thrashing. The complainant called a witness who admitted that the abusive language was used and the Bench dismissed the case.

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Wingerworth - Leaving Service.

William Gascoyne was summoned by William Hulton, for having left his work at Wingerworth Colliery without leave, and without giving the ordinary notice.

Mr. Busby appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Cutts for the defendant.

Mr. Busby, in opening the case, said that he appeared on behalf of the Wingerworth Coal and Ironstone Company, to prefer a charge against the defendant who was a banksman in their employ, for having left their service without leave. The situation of banksman was a very responsible place and any neglect in the proper performance of their duties would be in a manner to endanger the lives of all those employed in the pit, particularly the absence of the banksman for in that case the communication between those working underground and those at the surface was entirely stopped until the banksman was replaced.

Complainant stated that defendant was a banksman on the Wingerworth Works and had signed the agreement which he (witness) produced. The men were bound to give fourteen days notice before leaving. Defendant earned 3-6d. per day. His duties at the pit were to see the men down the pit in the morning and out at night besides attending at the pit-top during the day. In the case of any neglect on his part, the lives of the men in the pit were endangered.

Saw defendant at about 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning. He left him at work from eight till nine. Afterwards heard from the men that he had gone home. All the men were down the pit, about 150 or 170, a half-hour or twenty minutes elapsed before another banksman was put on. In case of the parties below requiring anything, or being in danger, there would be no one to answer the call or receive the signals, at the pit-top.

Cross-examined: Defendant had worked for three years at the pit. He entered their service of the 10th. April 1862. Cannot speak as to his leaving the employ since that period. Saw him sign the book, produced it in which he agreed to give fourteen days notice. Gave him a copy of the rules at the time. Did not give him notice to leave the employ. He has been guilty of the same conduct three or four times. Did not know of his infirmity when he left, and had not since. On the next morning he came about five o'clock and stayed until a quarter past. It was Tuesday morning that he went away and it was a little wet. Did not know that he was ill. Saw him a few minutes before and he did not say a sentence to him about it. The next morning he came to his work, did not speak to him. Ordered the man to tell him to work, but had no covers alone with him himself.(?) He did not work any more that day. Believed that he did come to work some day in the week after but he had no orders to do so. He worked that morning from 6 o'clock till 8 on the bank. Did not know that he left because he was ill. Was a delay of a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes before another banksman was put on. A man named Brodrice told him not to work by his (witness's) orders.

In further cross-examination the witness stated that the day was Thursday that the defendant left and not on Tuesday, that he had received orders to take out a warrant against the young man. William Smith, collier, deposed that he was on the pit-bank and heard him tell the lads to go away and camp (play) and that a few minutes later he found the pit-bank deserted, and the boys and defendant having gone away.

Cross-examined: He did say it was because he was ill.

Mr. Cutts for the defence stated that the young man, defendant, was suffering from an ailment which at times compelled him to leave his work. He should call his father who would explain to them the nature of the ailment. Mr. Cutts averted in rather strong terms that fact that a warrant was issued against the defendant when a summons would have served equally as well. The man had been in the employ of the Company for three years, and could easily have been found. There was no necessity for such strong measures to have been taken. Mr. Cutts also alluded to the complainants error as to the date and retailed that he should prove it was neither Tuesday or Thursday but Wednesday that the young man left his work.

Thomas Gascoyne, father of defendant, then stated that defendant had been in the employ of the Wingerworth Company for three years. He suffered from an ailment. It was caused by a bull having gored him in the back some years ago. He was taking medicine for it now and was attended by Mr. Robinson, surgeon. When he got any undue cold he was unfit for work. When he came home, it was on Wednesday morning, he was quite cold, and wet through. He came at about nine o'clock, and did not go out the whole day afterwards. He appeared to be in great pain. He was obliged to change everything he had on. He returned to his work on Thursday morning when he was able to.

Mr. Maynard said that the Bench was of the opinion that ought to convict the defendant. It appears that he was at his work on the morning in question about half past nine and that when Mr. Hufton passed him he did not complain of his illness to him which he might have done, besides which they had evidence of him having told the boys to go away and camp or play, which clearly showed what his intentions were. He did not agree with Mr. Cutts that the issue of the warrant was a hardship. Defendant had previously left his work which fully justified the measure being taken. The Bench would commit the prisoner for 14 days.

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Walton.

Jonathan Bennett was summoned for the non-payment of 15-0d. wages due to James Mosley; 15-0d. to Charles Gee; and 17-6d. to Samuel Harrison.

Mr. Cutts appeared for the defendant.

The cases of Mosley and Gee were taken first.

Mosley stated that he was engaged by the defendant to work at the sinking of a pit belonging to Mr. Ludlam, at Walton. The wages were to be 5-0d. per day, and time that he was to work was two shifts of three hours each. When he was engaged nothing was said about any notice to be given. The claim was for three days work. He worked on two shifts on Friday, another two on Saturday, and again on Monday.

In cross-examination, complainant stated that he began work on Monday at three in the morning and worked until six, and again at night until twelve. He and Gee then left. They went to Jonathan Bennett and told him that they could not work any more.

Mr. Cutts, for the defendant, contended that the engagement was to work two shifts each day. The defendants had not done so, and in that manner had broken their contract.

The defendant was called and stated that the men worked at the time they stated, but the shift worked on Monday night was on account of Tuesday's work. He had never received any intimation that the complainants were going to leave.

The Bench considered that the men had broken their contracts, therefore they disallowed the claims.

In the case of Harrison the defence was that, being employed by the day it was necessary for him to give at least one days notice, which he had not done, but left without giving any notice.

The Bench disallowed the claim.

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The Miners Conference.

The conference resumed on Monday morning. Mr. M'Donald, president, in the chair. There were only about twenty delegates present. It was moved by Mr. Schofield, seconded by Mr. Kirkpatrick, that the miners of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Scotland, Shropshire, and Staffordshire, representing 14,351 financial members as follows; - Yorkshire, 3,624; Wigan district, 4,258; Kearsley district, 2,500; Shropshire, 4,339; Cleveland district, 400, forming the Miners National Association, resolve unanimously to unite with the miners of the country; and pledge themselves to use every effort for the attainment of this much desired objects. It was resolved that the next conference be held at Wigan, on the 2nd. of January. It was also resolved that an address be prepared, setting forth the objects of the Association, and sent to all the districts, inviting the districts to send representatives to the next council - Mr. Stevenson moved, and Mr. Halliday seconded, "That this Conference has heard with very great pleasure the report from some districts where the iron machines for getting coal are in operation, for the purpose of superseding miners, and are said to be a success; believing that, as the Conference does, that it is a serious blot upon our science and civilisation, that 1,000 human beings - miners - in this country are annually slain in the mine, beside a great number being permanently disabled; and they are of the opinion, for the sake of humanity, and that fearful accidents may be hereafter prevented, that the sooner these machines are put into operation the better, in as much as they - the miners - may then have an opportunity of devoting their valuable strength and lives to a much healthier and safer employment" - All resolutions were adopted. The chairman, speaking of these things generally connected with mining operations said that if only a little caution - profitable caution - were exercised by the working miners of this country, strike would be unheard. Strikes were never found in a colliery district where the wagons were waiting for coal, but they were found in the districts where there was the lower production, where there was coal enough and to spare. If the miners generally would restrict their labour, with regard to supply and demand, the former to be co-equal to the latter, they would be enabled to get a higher rate of wages than hitherto, and they would banish strikes altogether. He recommended various districts to take up the question of the restriction of labour. Mr. Pickard said, on behalf of 111 lodges of miners in the Wigan district, whom he had that day met an alarm had been circulated that in the Wigan district, the coalminers were about to strike, that this, he might state, was not at all probable, and indeed, it was false, inasmuch as the men had no desire to strike. The time had arrived when the intelligence of the age had dictated a better course of action on the part of the miners. The 10 percent question had for the present been suspended until the decision of the masters' association would be enabled to be given, and also question to be informed as to the state of the money market, the exact price that the masters received for the coal in the market. After some further business, the conference closed with singing and prayer.

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Advert - Wanted.

A Carpenter and Wheelwright. Apply at the Unstone Ironworks near Dronfield.

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Ludlow v. Hopkinson.

This was action to recover £2-0-0d. for money lent. The plaintiff who is the manager of the Dunston and Barlow Mining Company, stated that the defendant had given them notice to leave their service, and as he could not go to some work which he had obtained before the next payday, he begged to have £2-0-0d. on account of his wages which he was given. Unfortunately there were several Hopkinson's in the Company's employ, and the amount was deducted from the wrong party, a Joseph Hopkinson, the defendants name being John. This occurred through the clerk simply placing the initial and not the full name. The consequence was that the defendant received the full amount £2-12-11d. which was due, the Company therefore sued for the recovery of the £2-0-0d. In reply to his Honour, defendant said that he knew he had received the £2-0-0d on account, and also received £2-12-11d. when he went on the payday. He did not know the difference as he was no scholar. Ordered to pay it at 5-0d. per month.