

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 1st. October 1864.

Page 2 Col. 7

Fatal Pit Accident at Clay Cross.

C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, held an inquest on Monday last on view of the body of John Booth, collier, of Tupton, who was mortally wounded by a fall of bind in No. 4 Pit belonging to the Clay Cross Company. From the depositions it appeared that at about 10 o'clock of the morning of Monday week, deceased, who was 69 years of age, was coming up the return wide road of the pit towards the furnace, a distance of about 116 yards, and during his journey, a lump of bind, 3 feet long and 1 foot thick, fell onto him, and when found by James Rose, of Church Row, North Wingfield, he was in a very critical position, and had received a considerable injury to both his thighs and legs, which were doubled up under him. He assisted home, and lingered until Friday last in great agony. No-one was to blame in the matter. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

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Page 3 Col. 6

Breach of Colliery Rules.

John Staton was charged by Mr. Wells, colliery proprietor, Eckington, with violating the rules of the colliery, by using Lucifer matches in the drift and smoking. Robert Redhead said that on the 18th. of August he saw the defendant strike a Lucifer match to light his pipe. The witness believed that the defendant knew he was committing a breach of the rules of the pit. Mr. Wells said that there was a danger at the pit because of such practices, and the men were not allowed to have naked lights because of the existence of foul air. Fined 20-0d., and 9-6d. costs. Edward Sissons, engine tender at the Park Pit, was also charged by Mr. Wells with neglecting to comply with Rules 51 and 52 in use at the pit. On the 9th. inst. defendant was engine tender at the Park Pit, and when any of the men required to be let down the shaft the engine tender should put on the signal bell which had the effect of steadying the corve before arriving at the bottom. On this occasion he had neglected to do so, and the parties in the shaft were severely injured. Defendant said that the gearing was not in proper order, and if there was any blame, it should rest upon the engine-wright. It was proved that if defendant had obeyed the rules, and put on the signal bell, the injury would have been prevented. Fined 12-0d. and costs. George Waddingham was charged by Mr. Wells with absenting himself from work since the 19th. of September. Ordered to pay 6-6d., and return to his work.

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Page 3 Col. 6

Using Threatening Language.

Mr. W.A. Badger, colliery proprietor, Dronfield, charged Thomas Jackson, collier, with vile threatening language towards him in the pit. Mr. Badger said that the defendant was very violent, threatening to smash his head, and he would "do for him", when he came away from the premises. Defendant said that he applied for his wages, and Mr. Badger instead of paying him took his ticket and tore it up; he wanted the 25-10d. wages. Mr. Badger was told to pay the wages, and defendant to pay the costs.

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Page 3 Col. 6-7

Murderous Assault in a Coal Pit at Eckington.

William Marples, collier, was charged by Peter Spalling, Eckington, with committing a violent and murderous assault upon him on the 10th. of September at the Park Pit. Peter Spalling said he was a loader and trammer at the Park Pit, belonging to Messrs. Wells and Company, and had been working at the pit on the morning in question, he had a dispute with another boy, who was also tramping, about a corve. He (Mallinder) took a lock-peg and endeavoured to strike him. Spalling pushed him on one side, so that he did not strike him, and got to his corve first. The prisoner Marples afterwards struck him on the side of the head, which knocked him down. He then struck him four or five times on the head, which rendered him insensible for some time. Prisoner was standing over him when he recovered, with a lock-peg in his hand. Prosecutor said, "You have almost killed me", and he replied "Yes, I will kill you if you take a corve of mine again". Mark Williams assisted Spalling home. Prosecutor was cross-examined by Mr. Fretson, to show that he provoked the prisoner to strike him by his quarrel with Mallinder, who is nephew to the prisoner. Benjamin Shannock said he saw the prisoner strike prosecutor with a lock-peg. He struck him two or three times. He said he would kill the prosecutor. By Mr. Fretson: I heard Sam (meaning Mallinder) come and complain to the prisoner that the prosecutor had marked him down; and he also told the prisoner that prosecutor wanted to take his corve. Mark William, Mosboro', said that he was at the pit on the morning in question. He saw prisoner bleeding from one ear, and asked prisoner what had done it for, and he replied that Spalling had been interfering with his trammer and he would knock his head of if he did not let him alone. Mr. Walter Simpson, assistant to Mr. Jones, surgeon, Eckington, was called in to see the prosecutor, and found him in a state of collapse, and presenting symptoms of concussion of the brain. He considered that his life was in imminent danger. For the defence Mr. Wells, for whom the prisoner had worked three or four years, said the prisoner was a married man and his wife an child. During the whole of the time he had worked at their pit he had borne a good character. He never heard any complaint previous to this occurrence. Committed to the Sessions.

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Page 4 Col. 2

The Mining Population. - The Grievances, the Proposed Remedies.

The Weighing Clause.

As the collier was usually paid by weight for the coal he sent up to the pits-mouth, he was necessarily at the bottom of the pit whilst the owners weighman was at the top, disputes are continuously arising, until at last the delegates of the men in 1860 prevailed upon the government to insert a clause in the Inspection Act, then under revision, ordering that the coal should be duly weighed by a just steelyard at the pits mouth, and that the men might, at their own cost, appoint a checkweighman, not to interfere with the working, but solely to take an account of the men's work. To this fair clause the coalowners offered every opposition in their power, and although the clause passed the House of Commons it was thrown out in the Lords. The Bill, thus mutilated, was rejected by the Commons, but as the Inspectors were self interested in the passing of the Bill, they prevailed upon the coalowners to accept a compromise, and the weighing clause was agreed upon, but the rider that the checkweighman of the men should be selected from the persons employed at the colliery. Were the spirit of this clause fairly carried out there would be little, if any, cause for complaint, but taking advantage of the loose wording of the clause, the great majority of coalowners, or their agents, contrive to make it inoperative by all possible means, such as throwing every impediment in the way of the checkweighman performing his duty, and introducing the system of pay by measure instead of weight, with tubs or corves being of all sorts of sizes, rendering it almost an impossibility for a comparatively ignorant miner to keep or obtain correct account of his earnings. It was this system, combining with that rocking of the tubs tantamount to a reduction of 6d. to 1-0d. per day in the wages, that produced the late strike at Messrs. Love and Stacker's collieries in Durham, where the evictions took place; and it's systematic attempt to evade the 29th. or Weighing Clause of the Colliery Act of 1860 that produced nearly all the strikes in the colliery districts. Where the men are paid by a standard weight, the wages of the district, the evils resulting from these strikes would be almost wholly obviated.

Employment of Females.

The employment of females in the mine is forbidden by Lord Shaftesbury's Act, although still practised secretly in Scotland, and many of those districts of England; but the Act does not forbid them being employed about the pit-mouths banks; and this system is in full force in Scotland, Wales, and the Lancashire and Staffordshire colliery districts of England. All the thinking and intelligent men amongst the miners deplore and condemn this practise. The women work and are clad exactly like the men, are completely unsexed both in appearance and habits, and are generally steeped in the lowest depths of moral degradation. All who live with the miners will hear them as a class speak strongly as to the sense of demoralisation around those pit-banks where females are employed. The excuse made for the employment of females in that most unwomanly occupation by the coal-owners, is that their labour is cheaper than the labour of men, but it is considered very problematical by those acquainted with those district organisations coexistent with employment do not even cause the proprietor to pay "dear for his whistle".

The Jury System.

The miners complain strongly upon this point. They allege that in nine out of ten the jury are composed of that class necessarily open to the influence, direct or indirect, of the coal proprietor, who is generally the wealthy man of the district, and hence the difficulty of obtaining any other verdict but one of "Accidental Death", even where it is patent that death was caused by the neglect and carelessness of the owner or agent. They also state that in almost every case the jurymen consent, however honest or independent, are totally ignorant of the working of mines, and are therefore not competent to arrive at a correct understanding of the facts.

#### Want of Education of the Boys.

The miners complain that whilst the owners of factories and mills who employ boys under a certain age in their establishments they are compelled by the Factory Act to provide and allow them sufficient time for education, the education clauses of the Colliery Act are in this respect lamentably defective, and that in the majority of the collieries the boys employed so far as the owner is concerned, are allowed to grow up to manhood in almost a semi-barbarous condition, hence the fearful brutality and crimes which frequently disgrace the colliery districts.

The bad ventilation and dangerous state of many of the mines, causing innumerable accidents and deaths, are also loudly complained off, but this evil is only the consequence of the insufficiency of the Inspection Act which would be in a great measure improved by the amendment of that Act. There are many other grievances, such as the long hours of labour, compulsory pit sick clubs, etc. etc., and these are all removable by the men themselves when they become possessed of sufficient knowledge for their purpose.

What, then, are the remedies proposed by the working miner, through their delegates, assembled in conference at Leeds? They have come to the unanimous conclusion that the grievances enumerated can only be removed by legislative interferences, and hence they embodied them into a petition to Parliament, praying for a Royal Commission to enquire into, and report upon, the whole state and condition of the mining population. Proposed remedies may be thus shortly summarised.

#### The Inspection Act.

They propose that this Act be amended, as to render it really effective for the purpose contemplated by creating a sufficient number of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors to allow all mines being properly inspected, inside as well as outside; by making it compulsory that all Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors shall possess a practical knowledge of the working of mines, and they would be selected and appointed by the government, free of any interference or control by the colliery owners. The colliers believed that a well-defined Inspection Act, carried out by an efficient body of Inspectors, would do more than any other measure to prevent the lamentable loss of life and limb now annually taking place, and remove many of those evils which now produce irritation, disputes, and strikes.

#### The Truck System.

That the Truck system be forbidden by a stringent act of Parliament, really intended to prevent the evil.

#### The Weighing Clauses.

That the weighing clause of the Colliery Act should be more clearly defined, that it should declare the mode of payments for coal-getting in collieries should be by a proper standard weight and not by measure.

### Employment of Females.

That the employment of females in or about the mouths or banks in the pit be strictly forbidden by act of Parliament, under any circumstances whatever.

### The Jury System.

That special coroners, well versed in mining matters, should be appointed in the mining districts to investigate all cases arising out of colliery accidents; that one half of the jury should consist of practical miners belonging to other collieries than where the accident might have occurred.

### The Education of Boys.

That no lad should be sent into a coal mine to work until he was twelve years of age and that he should be able to read and write; and that the provisions should be made for educating boys employed in mines as were made for those in factories. No lad between 12 and 14 to work more than 8 hours a day, to allow sufficient time for education.

Such are the principal legislature remedies proposed by the miners delegates to remove the evils now existing, however difficult it might be to carry them out, it cannot be said that they are wildly visionary. Their enactment would go far to improve the deplorable condition of the mining population depicted in the first article of this series, and the greatness of the end would well justify the legislature in applying the means.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 8th. October 1864.

Page 2 Col. 6

Staveley - Fatal Coal Mine Accident.

On Monday afternoon last a fatal accident occurred at the Springwell Pit, Staveley, to a youth named Thomas Hall, of Chesterfield, twelve years of age. It appeared that deceased was employed to take the wagon of the cage at the bottom of the shaft, and that at the time of the accident the cage was descending that shaft, and deceased attempted to run underneath it, when the cage struck him on the head and dislocated his neck, killing him instantly. An inquest was held at the Municipal Hall, Chesterfield, on Thursday last, before C.S.B. Busby, Esq., coroner, and after a few depositions had being adduced, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 15th. October 1864.

Page 4 Col. 3

The Agitation in the Colliery Districts.

Destruction of Property.

A series of meetings is now being held at Bilston, the object being to keep alive the agitation and to invoke sympathy with the workmen. It is to be regretted that any of these should be characterised by acts which are calculated to seriously damage the cause of the men on strike. On Monday the largest meeting which has been yet held for the South Staffordshire colliers took place at Bilston. Detachments of the men marched into the town from Wednesbury, Great Bridge, Tipton, Dudley, Oldbury and Brierley Hill, each headed by bands of music and men carrying mottoed banners. They were followed by armed policemen, and by the time the meeting commenced the police force in the town number 150 sabres. At the meeting there were about 8,000 persons, nearly all of them miners. The speakers complained of alleged interference by the police authorities, and said they should bring such interference before the constituted authorities, for the men on strike were peaceable and loyal subjects of Her Majesty and would let no-one tempt them to break the peace. The alleged interference consisted of the refusal of Major M'Knight, the Deputy Chief Constable of Staffordshire, to allow the bands to and fro on the high roads near to collieries when miners are at work, such movements by the men who are out being intended to draw out the men who have resumed work. Broad Leigh's offers were again severely criticised, from clergymen and others who have counselled a return to work on masters terms were censured as ?????? only of the wealthy. Efforts made on the previous night by individual employers to secure some arrangements between themselves and the leaders of the strike were described, and the determination repeated that henceforth no communication with such an object in view should take place between representatives of the two contending sides. It was repeated that the masters were quite able to give the rise, and they were only contending for the subjection of the men. The central point of the district were announced at which bandsmen were to meet on Tuesday morning to beat the drums at half past four in the morning to "draw out the blacklegs". The chairman announced that pecuniary help and expressions of sympathy had been received from the Birmingham branch of the Amalgamated Engineers, whose secretary had been instructed by the lodge to write to the General Secretary with a view to a grant from the general fund. The Birmingham lodge had also formed itself into a committee to procure help from other sources. The sympathy from different branches of artisans was very strong in their favour; and this sympathy, if the colliers were true to themselves, will enable them to win this struggle, which was characterised as of large importance to the colliers; for if he should lose, his "day of hopes" was designated as "gone". At the close of the meeting a resolution was unanimously come to that the strike should be continued till the masters gave them their "bare wages". The Lancers who are in barracks in Birmingham have for some time been kept saddled up, ready to ride to the Black Country at a moments notice; a number of the volunteers have been kept under arms at Bingley Hall ready for any emergency to which the colliers strike may give rise in Birmingham, where there is a strong sympathy for the colliers amongst all classes. A rumour had got afloat that the colliers intended to march into that town in vast numbers, with anything but a peaceful intention. Such an incursion it was feared might afford a pretext for a manifestation of active sympathy on the part of a certain class who are always numerous in large towns, and therefore the consequences of a serious character to the safety of the peace and of property in the middle of the metropolis. Hence the preparations described. On Monday, the leaders of the movement received an official communication from the Mayor of Birmingham, in answer to a formal application which the colliers had made to his Worship desiring permission to hold a meeting on

the outskirts of the town. His Worship writes; "Taking the application in connection with the conversation I had with on Thursday last I understand it is to be your intention, if such a meeting were held, to attend it with many thousands of fellow workmen, so I have to say, therefore, that in reply to your application that I entirely disapprove of the holding of such a meeting within the limits of this borough; and I wish further to say that I do not consider a meeting necessary for the object you have in view, namely, to enable you to explain to the inhabitants of Birmingham your position with your employers". During the whole of the strike the Earl of Dudley has had one of his collieries (Himley Colliery) at work by men who have accepted the reduced wages; but the workmen have been subjected to much taunting and intimidation. On Sunday the cottage of one of these workmen, named Joseph Roberts, who lives at Gornal Wood, was partially destroyed, and his own life and that of all his family attempted, by what is called a "trade outrage". At an early hour of the morning Roberts, who was sleeping with his wife and children in the top storey of his dwelling was aroused by something like a heavily loaded can having been thrust through the window of the bedroom of which they were all lying, and almost immediately afterwards a terrible explosion happened, which blew off the roof of the house. Assistance was soon forthcoming when it was found that all the sleepers had experienced a providential escape. They were all uninjured. This is the first colliers strike during which this class of outrage has been committed in this district, this is the third crime of this kind which has been committed here during the present movement. No detection has yet taken place in any incident; but the police authorities are making every effort to secure the arrest of the offenders.

We regret to learn that the colliers on strike in South Staffordshire have shown irritation by an outrageous act of violence, we note in passing that some of the papers describe it as "one of the dastardly trade outrages, which are unhappily so notorious in workmen's disputes in Sheffield". The victim of the attempt is a collier who has been working in a pit of the Earl of Dudley's at reduced wages. A can of combustibles was thrown through a window into the room in which he was sleeping with his wife and children, almost immediately exploding, carrying away the roof of the house. Most singularly none of the family was injured. A great meeting of colliers was held at Bilston on Monday, at which renewed determination was expressed to remain on strike until their demands were conceded, increased irritation being displayed towards those who were attempting to mediate. The Mayor of Birmingham has formally notified his disapprobation of a scheme of holding a great meeting in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, and it would seem that the inhabitants of that town are somewhat alarmed at the prospect of a visit from the colliers.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. October 1864.

Page 2 Col. 3

Advert - To Colliers.

Good Stallmen can have constant employment at Monkwood Colliery, near Barlow, can have houses at the colliery if they wish.

Apply to the Steward at the colliery.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. October 1864.

Page 2 Col. 4

Advert - Wanted.

A number of steady coal miners. Apply at the Tapton Coal and Ironstone Company's works, near to the Chesterfield Railway Station.

October 24th., 1864.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. October 1864.

Page 3 Col. 6

Meeting of Colliers at Wigan.

On Monday afternoon, colliers resident in the Wigan district and connected with the Miners Provident Benefit Society, made a grand demonstration, having for its object, in the first instance, the celebration of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Association; and in the second, the inauguration of a movement for an advance of wages. A procession had moved through the principle streets of the town in the morning, accompanied by three bands, the colliers all wearing blue and white rosettes, shortly ?????? ??????? ??????? ?? ?? ?????? ?????? purposes ?????? two addresses from several of the leaders of the society. There were present at the opening of the proceedings between 3,000 and 4,000 persons, and the utmost order prevailed. Mr. William Baxendale was called to the chair, and in his introductory remarks he said that the meeting was called to learn whether the miners in the district, looking at their position and the advance of the price of coal in the market, wanted an increase in their wages. If they did, and when they had decided what to ask, let them be determined to have it. Mr. William Rigby, the next speaker, considered that an advance of wages was due, and was necessary, but he deprecated any resort to a strike if the masters refused the demand. Restriction of labour was far better, for let them look what strikes were doing for south Staffordshire, and remember how many families had been beggared in Yorkshire, at the end of which ??????? ?????? had been obtained. Mr. William Pickard, miners agent, in the course of a lengthy speech, gave an account of a visit he had paid to South Staffordshire at the instance of the local society. The Staffordshire men had sent a request that the Wigan colliers would strike if their masters did not desist in forwarding coal to the disturbed districts; the answer he (Mr. Pickard) conveyed was that the Wigan district did not think that it had any right to say to the masters that they should not sell coal in Staffordshire or anywhere else they might think fit. From what he had learnt during his visit he could state that there was more intimidation on the part of the masters than there was by the men, for there were many masters who were willing to begin work again at the old terms, but they were not allowed to do so. He condemned heartily the recent outrages, and showed that the vast majority of the men had no sympathy whatsoever with the perpetrators. The meeting resolved in every respect to continue the society's support for the miners on strike in South Staffordshire, and then the proposition that an advance of wages should be asked from the local employers was submitted and carried nem. des. amidst applause. Members of the lodges represented in the meeting were asked to send to a delegate meeting to be held on the following Monday representatives prepared to say what the masters(?) wanted, and how it was to be asked. The assembly then dispersed in an orderly manner, and proceeded to the several lodge room where the anniversary was celebrated in the usual manner.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. October 1864.

Page 4 Col. 2

Information under the Colliery Act.

It will be remembered that on the 25th. of July last a man named William Rawson was killed at the Springfield Main Colliery, Dronfield. The facts of the case were that a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The Inspector of Collieries for the district considered that some amount of negligence was to be imputed to Mr. John Carr, the manager, and Mr. William Martin, underviewer of the colliery, and accordingly informations were issued, two against Mr. Carr. First, neglecting to cause the entrance to a portion of the pit suspected to contain firedamp to be properly fenced, contrary to the general rule number 2 of the Act; and, second, of neglecting to cause an adequate flow of ventilation in the mine; three against Mr. William Martin, as follows - first, of neglecting to cause an adequate amount of ventilation; second, in not entering in a daily report of the state of the mine, and, third, failing to examine the workings of the said mine with a safety lamp. The hearing of these informations was down for today, but Mr. Busby, of Chesterfield, who appeared in support of the informations, stated that he had had a long conference with Mr. Fretson, the defendant's solicitor, and the result was that the Bench would be spared the hearing of the cases. The defendants agreed to convictions, with small penalties in some of the cases, and the others were to be withdrawn of the payment of costs, the defendants, of course, agreeing to place the mine in a condition satisfactory to the Inspector. The Bench agreed to this course.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. October 1864.

Page 4 Col. 3

The Great Strike of Colliers.

On Monday six colliers were brought up before the stipendiary for South Staffordshire, at the Petty Session at West Bromwich, charged with intimidating men who were at work at a rate which the men on strike refused to accept. Four men who intimidated the complainant in the service of Mr. Walter Williams, ironmaster, were convicted, and were ordered to be imprisoned for three months, with hard labour. Mr. Roberts, solicitor, of Manchester, appeared to defend the men on instructions from Mr. Thomas Griffiths, the chairman of most of the meetings of the men. He maintained that the language used by the defendants could not be regarded as intimidation, that, indeed, it was only such language as men in that class to which defendants belonged would use to induce their fellow workmen to leave work and without thereby being guilty of intimidation. Satisfied of the validity of the defence, Mr. Roberts gave notice of appeal at the next Quarter sessions. Two men were then charged with intimidating a complainant in the employ of the Earl of Dudley, but the stipendiary ordered them to be discharged and summonses taken out against them for an ordinary assault. Twenty-four men were then charged with leaving their work at the pits of Mr. Spittle at West Bromwich, without having given notice. These men were all working for the former wages, yet turned out because other masters refused to give the same to the men on strike. They have been out for five weeks, and all the persuasion of their employer has been insufficient to induce them to return. Hence these proceedings. The proceedings had not terminated when our report was dispatched. They were also defended by Mr. Roberts. Less activity was displayed by the movers of the strike on Monday previous in the "drumming" round the district; for the magisterial proceedings drew a vast number of persons outside the court. The proceedings of Wigan miners have been watched with the utmost interest by the men here, who have printed a speakered plan, announcing meetings three times a week, up to the close of this year. Throughout the Bilston and Wolverhampton districts the sympathy with the strike on the part of the men is rapidly diminishing, and the Bilston committee have virtually given up any further opposition to the masters terms.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. October 1864.

Page 3 Col. 4-5

Ward v. Bagshawe.

This was an action to recover the sum of £10-11-0d. for goods supplied.

Mr. Busby appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Busby said that this was a case where it was as well if the points raised for the defence were to be gone into in the first instance. The defendant was a collier, and had been employed by Mr. Turner Ward, at Killamarsh, some years back. A transaction had taken place in the year 1856, and had been continued until 1859. The first part of the account he should plead the Statute of Limitations for, and on proof that no monies whatever had passed, so that exemption of that Statute might not be claimed. That would deduct the sum of £1-18-0d., insomuch as the Truck Act applied to the subsequent transactions, and indeed to the whole. That debarred the master from deducting any amount from the wages of the men, in consideration of goods supplied. This he should prove to be the case in the present action.

The plaintiffs brother then appeared, and stated that the goods were groceries supplied to the defendant whilst he was in his brothers employ at Killamarsh Colliery.

In cross-examination he admitted that the men's wages were paid under the same roof as where the goods were sold, but denied that the amount was deducted from the wages but they were paid to them in cash, and they afterwards settled for the goods.

For the defence, Mr. Busby, reiterated his former remarks, and handed to his Honour the sixth section of the Truck Act in support of his case.

After the examination of the defendant, who denied he received any money at all in respect of wages but that the cost of goods had been deducted from them.

His Honour gave a verdict for the defendant remarking that this was if not a direct violation of the Truck Act, yet it was evasion of it.

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Saturday 29th. October 1864.

Page 4 Col. 3

Accident at Clay Cross.

On Tuesday an accident happened at the works of the Clay Cross Company to a man named Bunting. A fall of bind struck his leg and thigh-bone. Bunting, who is the first patient admitted into the new hospital at Clay Cross, is progressing favourably in the care of Dr. Wilson.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. October 1864.

Page 4 Col. 4

The Colliers Strike.

The men on strike are still as determined to remain out as ever; but the authorities are determined to permit any intimidation whatsoever are the consequences are that on Monday morning there were no bands or large assemblages in the neighbourhood of collieries where men are at work. The military and police, however, are still in great force in the Dudley and Tipton districts, to which the strike is now confined. In the Bilston and Wolverhampton districts by the greater majority of the pits are at work. The determination of the authorities to permit no intimidation or influences of the character above alluded to has excited the ire of the leaders of the strike, as if offers no inducement, of which many are taking advantage, to return to their work. Accordingly a great mass indignation meeting was held at Tipton on Monday, for the purposes of protesting against such interference with the men on strike. Soon after nine o'clock small companies of men, many of them with their wives with babes in their arms, and their children, began to flock towards Tipton from all directions, and by 2 o'clock, the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, there were upwards of 15,000 present. The whole of the ground known as Tranter's Ground was literally packed with human beings, ?????? ?????? ?????? thousands of those present not either colliers or miners, but puddlers and others, who had come either as sympathizers or looker-on. The meeting was the largest that has been held since the strike began, and was considered by the men on strike as a very important one. The meeting was not only addressed by colliers, but by puddlers and other workmen of the district. Every speaker severely censured the conduct of the police in stopping their "bands" from playing on the highway when near the pits. They also charged the police with having put out the lamps in the morning, for what purposes we cannot say. This is the first time we have ever heard of the lamps being put out. The speakers complained very loudly that the conduct of the police on Saturday morning last, and gave quite a different version of the causes of the row, saying that they were going peacefully along when the police without any warning knocked in the sides of the drums, and then turned upon the men with their cutlasses. The speakers said that the various lodges had come to the determination to defend the nineteen men now in custody to the best of their ability, by employing counsel for their defence at the next examination. After passing a vote of censure on the police of the district for their past and present conduct, they again expressed their determination to still stand out until they had their wages. The meeting passed off very quietly, considering the vast numbers present. There was a large body of police, as well as two troops of hussars, in the town during the time.