

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

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Barrow's, Staveley.

On Friday last as two pitmen were passing along on No. 5 Jenny Road in Springwell Pit the pickshaft belonging to one of them was caught by a waggon and passed through his body. He was frightfully injured and at present little or no hopes are entertained of his recovery. The men being cautioned against the danger of walking along the side of the road he was on when the accident happened.

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Wages Cases.

Peter Robinson of Tupton Moor, agent to the Clay Cross Company at No. 4 Main Pit, was summonsed by James Vegan, also of Clay Cross, collier, for non-payment of 12/-d. for 3 days wages due to him. Mr. Busby appeared on behalf of the defendant. The complainant said he was employed by the defendant as a collier at No. 4 Main Pit and had been paid at the rate of 2/6d. per ton. The complainant and another man had continued to work on these terms and were in the habit of getting on average 4/-d. per day. Some time ago defendant stopped him from his work for three days and he now sued him for loss of time. He came and asked the advice of the Bench about it but Mr. Maynard told him to go and offer himself for work next day and if he would not allow him to go on with his work that day he was then to offer himself for work every morning during the term of his notice and if at the expiration of his notice he was not paid in full then he might apply for a summons. Defendant afterwards set him to work but did not pay him for the three days that he had caused him to lose. Mr. Busby said: "I have three grounds of objection to the cause. First, defendant is not an agent of the Clay Cross Company within the meaning of the Act. Two, the case was one in which the Bench had no jurisdiction. Three, the complainant was in partnership with another as a butty collier." The Bench, however, overruled the last two objections and said that as the claimant let stalls at so much a ton or per yard and the rules specified that no less than two men were allowed to work in a stall and that if the complainant agreed to work that stall at so much per ton or yard and that ??????each sharing with like it was not what was meant by the Act as a partnership of butty colliers. Mr. Busby asked to complainant: "How many men do you employ under you." Complainant answered: "None." Mr. Busby then grounded his objection on the Act that Mr. Robinson was not an agent of the Company and that he had nothing to do with paying the men. In fact he was prohibited from paying them. There were proper persons appointed to do so, indeed in this, confusion would be the result if everyone was to be paymasters in a place where some thousands of persons were employed and the complainant must apply through the County Courts as there was more jurisdiction in the matter in that Court and the Judge could enter more into the merits of the case. Case dismissed.

Wages Claim.

The defendant in the about case was also charged by Samuel Stoppard of Tupton, collier, with non-payment of 8/-d. due to him at the rate of 3/3d. per day. Stoppard said the defendant had made the arrangements in her own house that her son was to have 3/3d. per day. She herself saw Mr. Brown but he told her he had nothing to do with it and was told to see Bloore but this she refused to do as it was Mr. Robinson who employed him. Mr. Busby asked: "Did you see Mr. Binns." Mrs. Stoppard answered: "We have not. Mr. Binns only sits once a fortnight for this purpose. If we were to see him, we would do nothing in it until he had seen Mr. Robinson." Mr. Maynard said: "The boy was clearly entitled to the money, but unfortunately he has summonsed Mr. Robinson instead of Mr. Binns. In all similar cases it would be advisable to summon the latter gentleman." Mr. Busby said: "It was taken into consideration the great difficulties a company like that of Clay Cross has to contend with from the wilfulness of the men etc." Mr. Maynard said: "We have no doubt that they have many difficulties to contend with."

Wage Claim - Important Case.

Peter Foyles, of Whittington Common, contractor, was summonsed by John Rooth of Sheepbridge, sinker, for non-payment of £2/11/-d. wages due for him at 4/3d. per day. Defendant said he did not owe that amount. The complainant said that he was employed by defendant as a sinker at the wage of 4/3d. per day and according to the 6th. rule of the by-laws was to give or receive 14 days notice. He was discharged at a moment's notice in consequence of which he applied to the magistrates but was advised by Mr. Heathcote to go and daily offer himself at the colliery for 14 days and if they did not employ him to apply again at the end of that time. He did so and there was now due to him the above sum for his lost time. Defendant said: "He refused to do his share of the work and was impertinent." This, complainant denied and said that up till the time of the alleged dispute he was employed for three days. He had no witnesses. Defendant brought a number of witnesses to swear anything against him. For the defence Foyles called chargeman Robert Cameron who said the complainant swore because he had to work in a very wet place. He was saucy and idle. This statement was denied by complainant. Mr. Maynard said that if the men absented themselves or misconducted themselves in any way the master had only to enforce to rules by appealing to the law which they only thought necessary to follow so far as it was suited to themselves. If the complainant had left without fulfilling his notice defendant would probably have got a warrant for his apprehension but as it was he thought it proper to send him away at once. Ordered to pay wages and costs £3/4/6d. which was paid.

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Larceny at Unstone.

Hubert Hibberd and Joseph Marples were charged by Mr. Henry Rangeley, coal proprietor, Unstone, with taking from his premises on Saturday the 11th. March an ironstone corve. Defence was that the defendants removed the corve from the sight of Walter Booth, in the service of Mr. Rangeley, who did not object, in fact they only borrowed it without any notion that any objection would be raised. Mr. Rangeley said that he had sustained so much injury by this type of thing that he was determined to stop it but at the same time he had no wish to press hardly upon the defendants. Dismissed.

Claim for Wage.

Joseph Marples, one of the defendants in the last case, summoned Mr. Henry Rangeley, coal proprietor, for the balance of 23 days wages at 3/6d. per day. Ordered to pay the amounts due and costs. George Bacon also summoned Mr. Rangeley for the sum of 19/-d. wages due with the like result.

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Assault.

William Bexton, collier, of Clay Cross was charged by Samuel Stapleton, aged 12 years, with assaulting him on the 16th. inst. Mr. Smith appeared for the defendant. The complainant said that his horse was badly and went slowly and for that reason complainant(?) who is a corporal beat him on the back and thighs with a thick stick. Sergeant Fearn upon being called said that he examined the boys body and found wounds the size of his hand. The magistrates, having administered a rebuke to the defendant, fined him 5/-d. and 19/6d. costs or one months imprisonment.

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Inquests.

Coal-Mine Accident.

On Saturday last on the 26th. inst. an inquest was held before C.S.B. Busby Esq., coroner, at Woodthorpe in the Parish of North Wingfield on the body of Thomas Spencer, coal miner, aged 19 years who was injured by a fall of bind in the No. 4 Pit belonging to the Clay Cross Company on the 3rd. January and died on the 21st. inst. William Ashley, of Woodthorpe, miner, said that he was at work with the deceased in No. 4 Pit at the time of the accident. He (Witness) was getting coal and deceased was filling when some bats fell from the roof onto deceased's back and crushed him down to the ground. He was brought out of the pit and taken home and Dr. Wilson of Clay Cross attended him until his death. There was a prop set close to the place where the bat fell and witness did not think that there was any blame attached to anyone. Verdict - Accidental Death.

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Painful Accident.

On Friday last an accident of a most painful nature occurred to a young man named William Garatty of Eckington, collier, at the Springwell Colliery of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company. He appears to have been walking in company with another man along a tramway or jenny in the pit having at the time several picks under his arm. They were overtaken or met by a number of waggons, the other man stepped aside but Garatty remained in the path when the waggons pushed him against the sides of the walls and caught one of the picks driving the point into his side to great depth and then suddenly wrenching it out causing a fearful gash. He sank to the earth and was conveyed home. Mr. Halls, the surgeon to the Company, and Mr. Jones, Eckington, attended him. He is still living but no hopes are given of his recovery.

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Fire at Renishaw Park Colliery.

On Saturday a quantity of roof fell in a distant part of the colliery owned by Messrs. J. and G. Wells and a good deal of gas collected in a cavity was by some means ignited and set the coal on fire. The fire was confined to a very limited space and was extinguished so the men were able to return to their work yesterday morning.

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Mill Dam Mining Company.

The manager of this company at Great Hucklow reports that on Tuesday he weighed 65 tons of ore, five tons more than he weighed on the occasion of his previous report. The mine, he observed, continues good.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

Richard Barlow was charged with having assaulted Robert Young of Staveley on the 1st. inst. It appeared from the evidence of the complainant that he was employed at Staveley as ventilator of the Speedwell Pit. In all cases where it was apprehended that any danger it was his duty to put up a danger signal at any gate. On the 16th. March he had occasion to put up a danger signal but defendant disobeyed the order and went up the forbidden road with a naked light thereby endangering the safety of the pit. Fined £1 and costs.

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Inquest.

On Thursday last an inquest was held before C.S.B. Busby Esq., coroner, at the Boot and Slipper Inn, Riddings in the parish of Alfreton, on the body of William Hickson, aged 12 years, son of William Hickson, farm-labourer of Riddings. Deceased was hanger-on at an ironstone pit there belonging to Mr. Oakes and was injured on Friday the 7th. inst. by the fall of some material down the shaft and died on Tuesday the 11th. inst. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was employed to take off and hang on waggons at the pit bottom. It was on Friday morning the 7th. inst he was found lying at the pit bottom cut very much about the head and quite senseless. He was conveyed to the top of the shaft and taken home and he was not able to tell how the accident happened. The banksman deposed that he never saw anything fall down the shaft and the persons who found the deceased lying at the bottom said that they did not see anything near him that would have fallen down. The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally struck and killed by some material falling down a shaft.

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Coal Pit Accident.

On Wednesday the 16th. inst. an inquest at Griffin Inn, Brampton, on the body of William Watkinson, aged 12 years, labourer in a coalmine, who died on Friday from the injuries received on Monday by falling of a skip down a shaft at Mr. Sayer's colliery at Brampton. William Bennett said that it was his duty to fasten the corve to the rope. On the day of the accident he brought the corve partly onto the bridge and partly onto the fireboard before fastening it to the hook. The bridge slipped and the corve fell down the shaft which is nine yards deep. John Wright said that he was in the pit at the time of the accident. He heard something fell and shouted but receiving no answer he ran to the bottom and found deceased kneeling on both knees and his face on the floor. He put him in the corve and took him up the shaft and then home. He was speechless till he got to the top when he said "I want to go to my mother". Two of his ribs were broken and projected into his lungs. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

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Assault.

Joseph Green was charged with assaulting Thomas Yates at Alfreton on the 28th. ult. Complainant and defendant are boys and both of them are employed in the pit together. The former, who is only 13 years of age, said the latter kicked him on both legs which were very much discoloured. The corroborative evidence given was the effect that the complainant was seen lying in the middle of the horse road crying, that he had to be placed in a waggon and taken home and when defendant was charged with the offence he first denied it but afterwards said that he did not kick him hard. The defendant in defence said that the complainant allowed his waggon to get off the rails three times and commenced to cry because he told him that he would tell the corporal. Fined 1/-d and 17/-d costs. The Magistrates informed the defendant that if the expenses had not been so large the fine would have been much heavier as they considered the case to be a very (???) one. As the money was not forthcoming enquiries were made for the boys father who upon making his appearance was informed by the magistrates that if it was not paid they would be obliged to send him, the son, to prison for 21 days with hard labour. The father, who had the appearance of an old man, and who laboured under the misfortune of only having one leg, said that it was not in his power to help his son out of his difficulty.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

John Booth, collier, was charged by William Parker, agent, with neglecting and refusing to set props or spraggs every two yards before commencing holing at Clay Cross and was ordered to be imprisoned for one month with hard labour.

Leaving Service.

George Ashmore, collier, was then charged by William Parker, agent, with neglecting his work at Clay Cross Colliery. The same order was made in this as in the preceding case.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

George Brown of Grassmoor and Francis Goodwin of Hasland, colliers, were charged by John Booker, hanger-on at the Grassmoor Colliery with disobeying his lawful commands on the 4th. inst. by getting on the chair contrary to his orders by which act they had violated the 5th. and 20th. special rules of the said colliery. Booker, the hanger-on, said that all persons descending the pit were under the order of the banksman and all persons ascending were under the direction of the hanger-on and the defendants on the day in question got on the chair contrary to his orders. The Bench informed the defendants that for a similar offense on the 3rd. of February at the same colliery they sent three men to prison. The Bench committed the defendants to jail for 14 days, which sentence they felt bound to impose upon them.

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Leaving Service.

George Harrison was charged by Stephen Cresswell with neglecting his work at Highfield Colliery. To pay 16/8d. costs and return to his work.

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Staveley.

The Staveley Coal and Iron Co.

The Staveley Coal and Iron Company stands at the head of all limited liability companies of recent formation. The Company has just declared a dividend at the rate of 25% per annum so it will only require 4 years dividends to pay off the whole of the £100 shares. The Company is formed of £100 shares of which £60 only is paid up and they are quoted at £14 premium. It is said by eminent middle men that although the valuation of these extensive works amounted to £600,000 they have been almost given away at that price. Certainly it would seem from the dividend alluded to, there is something in them of great value. The late Mr. Barrow founded them and whose personal estate has been sworn at £500,000 obtained some advantageous leases of the minerals which are now telling immensely in favour of the new company. The late Mr. Seymour's positions at these works as the resident viewer has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Campbell, engineer, of Matlock. A most judicious selection has been made. Mr. Campbell was connected for many years with the late Mr. George Stephenson, the founder of railways, and it is reported of that eminent personage that, when he was examined before a committee of the House of Commons, he concurred that Mr. Campbell was the best engineer he ever had any connection with. So far as regards the management of large bodies of working men Mr. Campbell is unapproachable. He is the engineer of the new line of the Midland from Buxton to New Mills and in his connection with the Midland Company he has many times distinguished himself.