

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 12th. August 1865.

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Fearful Accident at the Glass-House Pits.

On Tuesday morning an accident of a most alarming character occurred at the Ironstone Pits, Glasshouse Common, belonging to Messrs. Renishaw and Co. Renishaw Park Iron Works. Before allowing work-people to descend the pits it is the practice each morning to test the ropes by sending down and up full corves. Attached to the engine are two drums, one vertical and one horizontal, working 17 pits and the incline (underground). These drums may be worked either separately or together. About a hundred men and boys were waiting this testing on the day mentioned about 7 o'clock, when two corves were brought to bank, and Daniel Cook, and two other boys got into one corve; James Clark with Wm. Booth got into the other, and were lowered into the pits, which are a considerable distance from each other. At the same time seven full corves in the other pits were drawn up. They had scarcely reached the top when a loud report was heard, and it was seen that the rope had broken and the "laggings" off the drums were flying in various directions. The Engineman at once applied the brakes and succeeded in stopping the horizontal drum. But it was soon found that the cog-wheel attached to the vertical drum was broken. The sudden descent of the seven laden corves caused the two corves to ascend so rapidly that neither Cook nor Booth had time to get out. The two boys with Cook succeeded in jumping into the roadway. Clark whilst jumping was caught by the leg and thrown down. Cook and Booth were carried up to the headgear and then dashed to the bottom of the pits. Cook's head was split open; he fell a depth of 56 yards; he was 16 years of age. Booth's head, it is thought, was caught by the head-stocks by a large pulley, and the top of the head was cut off, the brains being scattered for many yards round the top of the pit. His thumb was found nine yards and a half from a portion of his brains. The body was completely smashed and every bone broken. Booth was 15 years old. The pulley by coming in contact with his head, was thrown a distance of 21 yards. It weighs about 7 cwt. Had it gone a few yards further several persons would have been in danger. One boy had a very narrow escape, being engaged in greasing a pulley, when he heard a noise he jumped down the rope snapped and the tiles of the workshop were knocked in. The escape of so many is marvellous. The cause of the accident is a mystery. The engineer is a steady, experienced workman.

Inquest on the Bodies.

On Wednesday morning an inquest was opened before C.S.B. Busby Esq., at the house of Vincent Cook. on the bodies of Wm. Booth and Daniel Cook, who were killed at the ironstone shafts of Mr. Appleby, on Tuesday. The Jurymen, having been sworn, preceded to the scene of the accident, where there are sixteen ironstone shafts in work, part of which were described to be on Glasshouse Common, in the parish of Whittington, and the other part on Grasscroft, in the township of Unstone, in the parish of Dronfield. The two shafts where Booth and Cooke came to their deaths are in the parish of Whittington. The engine, which is made to do work of the whole of the shafts, is high pressure - eighteen horse power. The shafts are situate at various distances from the engine, the nearest being about forty and the farthest from three to four hundred yards, with depths varying from fifty to seventy yards. Nine of the shafts were connected with the engine by a vertical or upright cast-iron spindle fixed in a strong framework of wood, having a solid ashlar foundation. Upon the vertical spindle nine drums of different diameters were fixed, and the ropes of the various shafts were wound by the engine upon these drums. The pulley wheel over the shaft, where Booth was killed, was, by the violence of the re-acting wire rope, thrown some yards from the pit head, and the rope which appeared to be a very strong one was

snapped asunder. On the upper part of the brickwork of the shaft was to be seen a portion of Booth's brains, and the appearance of the place was that of great confusion, out of which several men were engaged in an endeavour to produce order. The Jury then proceeded to view the bodies, the sight of which was sickening. The upper part of the skulls of both youths had been carried away and their bodies otherwise mutilated. Vincent Cooke, father of the deceased Daniel Cooke, and Elizabeth Booth, mother of the deceased Wm. Booth, identified the bodies, and the requisite order for their internment having been given, the inquest was adjourned to the 31st. day of August, at noon, at the Fleur-de-Lis Inn, Unstone, when the Government Inspector will be in attendance.

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Serious Accident.

On Wednesday last an accident took place at the Walton Ironstone Works, Speighthill, by which a man names Wm. Shelton was very seriously injured. It appears that Shelton was caught in a winding chain and dragged over a drum, his legs being broken, and other parts of his body seriously injured.

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Mill Dam Mining Co.

The Directors of this mine met at Great Hucklow on Thursday last for the purpose of making the pay to the workmen and transacting the ordinary business of the Company. The ore, computed at 88 tons, was sold to the usual buyers at £12-7-6 per ton. The profit upon the sale will be over £500 and with a credit balance from the last sale, the directors were enabled to declare a second dividend of 5/- per share (£750), payable on the 5th. Sept. next.