

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. February 1865.

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Supper to Workmen.

On Saturday evening last, about a hundred of the workmen employed by George Senior Esq., proprietor of the Hasland Lane and Dunston Collieries, Managing Director of the Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Company, partook of a most excellent supper given by that gentleman which was partaken of at the house of Mr. Enoch Goodwin, the Prince of Wales Inn, Chesterfield. The repast did great credit to Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin and was very well served up. After supper Mr. Edward Senior, manager of the works was called to the chair and Mr. Wilcockson, bookkeeper, occupied the vice-chair. The Loyal Toast having being duly honoured the Vice-Chairman proposed the health of the giver of the feast, George Senior Esq., whom he described as a most excellent master (Cheers). The Chairman returned thanks for his brother, stating that he had no doubt, if the workmen did their duty, they would always find him a good master to all the workmen. A glee was then sung "Fair Flora" by Messrs. Senior, Woodcock and Sidebottom. The Chairman then gave, in appropriate terms, the health of Mr. J.G. Senior who was then in London spending the honeymoon with his newly married bride. The toast was drunk with musical honours and most enthusiastically cheered. The Vice-Chairman proposed the health of the Chairman which was drunk with all the honours. They all knew him well and were satisfied with him as the manager of both the collieries. The Chairman responded saying he felt quite unable to express his thanks for the confidence which they appeared to repose in him. He was glad his conduct had given them satisfaction and he could assure them they would always find that where managers and workmen pull well together all parties would be benefited. (Cheers). The health of the Host and Hostess which were responded to by Mr. Goodwin and other toasts were given. The intervals between each being nicely filled up with songs.

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Joseph Storer, collier, of Killamarsh was brought up in custody of P.C. Hill, charged with being found concealed in a cabin on the Clay Cross Company's Ironworks at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 21st. instant. The prisoner, not giving a satisfactory account of himself, was committed to seven days hard labour.

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Breach of Contract.

James Bennett, carpenter, at Tupton, was charged by John Hopkinson, Manager to the Clay Cross Company, with leaving their employment without giving the proper notice of his intention to discontinue the said contract. Ordered to pay 18/6 costs and return to work.

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Advertisement.

Walton

To Miners and Others

To be sold by Auction, by Mr. Gibson, on the premises occupied by Mr. Edwin Marsden at Walton on Monday February 13th. 1865 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the undermentioned live and dead farming stock, comprising two useful ponies 12 to 14 hands high, brown mare and dark brown horse, two sets of gearing, two sets of sling chains, several collars, corn, chop and feeding tubs, two large swill tubs, large water cart, good hand chopper, hay knife, hedge shears, rakes and forks, three lots of manure, garden rakes, spades, etc. Three grained fork, small turn and dash, butter scales, butter basket, pit tools consisting of hand pit ropes and clives, two new water barrels, three trunks, one pair of smith's bellows, a large quantity of six and seven feet diced curbing, about 1,200 bricks, 2 pair of gin-ropes and benders, two gins in complete working order with landing planks and clappers to them, quantity of shovels, mandrills, hammers, crow-bars and blasting tools.

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Alfreton Hilltop Colliery.

The Workmen to this Colliery have just presented to Thomas Clarke, blacksmith, who is leaving the works, with a beautifully bound copy of Cassell's Illustrated Family Bible as a token of their esteem. This is certainly a most praiseworthy act of Clarke's fellow workmen and a more suitable memento of their respect it would be difficult to find or one which would be more highly valued by the recipient.

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Fatal Accident at Birley Vale Colliery.

An inquest was held on Friday at the Old Harrow, White Lane, by Mr. Busby, coroner, touching the death of George Archer, who was killed by falling down the shaft at Birley Vale Colliery on Tuesday morning. It appears that the unfortunate man was employed as a banksman and it was part of his duty to receive full corves at the top of the shaft and having emptied them, return them to the chair. He was engaged in doing this at about a quarter to seven on Tuesday morning when, owing no doubt to the partial darkness which would be increased by the smoke issuing from the shaft, he thrust a empty corve to the side of the shaft when the chain was down. The consequence was that the corve was precipitated down the shaft and he was dragged after it. Joseph Hare said "I saw the deceased fall down the shaft, my attention being attracted in that direction by noise". He admitted that the pit was not barricaded on the side where Archer was pushing the corve. It was on the north and south sides. James Tricket, hanger-on at the bottom of the shaft, said that he was just hanging on a corve and he said to his mate "There is a corve coming down the shaft" and he got out of the way. When he returned he found the fragments of the corve and the deceased lying quite dead. One of his arms was lying some distance from his body. The other arm was found in the shaft between the conductors. There was scarcely a whole bone in his body. On the recommendation of the coroner Mr. Gainsford promised, on behalf of the company, that gates should be placed on the sides of the shaft which are presently unsecured. The Jury returned a verdict of "....." (illegible).

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Wages Case.

John Chambers (alias Cat Chambers), collier, was summoned by Thomas Handley of Chesterfield, collier, concerning payment of 6/6d wages, due to him as loader. His agreement being to have 8½d per ton. Defendant did not appear. An order was made for the amount claimed with costs 13/6d. or in default 14 days imprisonment.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

Joseph Oldfield, Thomas Higginbottom and James Hodgkin, all of Hasland, colliers, were brought upon warrants, charged by Mr. William Varley, colliery agent to Messrs. Barnes, coalmasters of the Grassmoor Collieries, with a breach of the eighth bylaw of the colliery. In consequence of there being but one magistrate present, the hearing of the case was adjourned to Thursday. Mr. Cutts appeared on behalf of the prisoners and at his request they were allowed to stand out on their own recognisances until that day. The defendants were brought before the magistrates on Thursday and committed for fourteen days.

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Inquests.

Before C.S.B. Busby Esq., Coroner.

Shocking Accident on the Railway - On Friday last an inquest at the Chesterfield Hospital on the body of Patrick Gibbons on Wheeldon Mill, Brimington, labourer, aged 17 years, who died on the 8th. instant, from injuries received on the 6th. at West Staveley Colliery, by being crushed between a railway waggon and a wall. William Madin of New Whittington, engine driver, said that he was on the brake of two waggons running together down an incline to the coal screens and he rode on the brakes as far as he dare for the wall where they load the coal at the screens is very close to the waggon side. When witness got off the deceased jumped onto the brake. Before witness could stop him and before he had got fairly on the wall caught him and he was rolled down between the wall and the waggon side. Deceased had no business whatsoever on the waggon and he had been several times warned about doing it. Edward Drummond, house surgeon at the Chesterfield Hospital, said that deceased had fractured both collar bones, the upper bone of each arm and some of his ribs were fractured and the left leg had been wounded by the rib and he was also injured about the abdomen. There did not appear to be any blame attached to anyone but the unfortunate deceased himself and the Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Highway Case.

Thomas Carrington, manager of the Wingerworth Iron Company, was charged with encroaching on the highway at Walton the 6th. instant. Mr. Busby appeared for the defendant. John Gratton, surveyor for the parish of Walton, deposed that the defendant had ordered that a ditch in Langer Lane should be made deeper and in consequence caused the water to run onto the highway and also by making it deeper it was dangerous the vehicles passing as if they got in the ditch they might be overturned. For the defendant it was submitted to the Bench that in consequence of the complainant not having properly cleaned out the ditch the water ran into one of the pits of the Company and stopped it for two or three days and they therefore cleared it out and made it six or seven inches deeper. The Bench gave their decision in favour of the complainant, but adjourned it for a fortnight to allow Mr. Busby time to decide whether he should appeal or not.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

William Nadin, collier, of Dronfield, was brought up and charged by John Carr, manager to Messrs. Addy and Ward, coalowners of Dronfield, with having removed a door in the pit to the danger of the working in the pit on the 25th. January last. It appeared that by removing the door an explosion might have taken place. Fined 5/- and 9/6 costs.

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Milldam Mining Company.

The annual meeting of this company was held on Tuesday the 14th. inst. at the Albion Hotel, Sheffield, where there was about 30 shareholders present. Mr. Hawksley was called to the chair who called upon the Secretary to read a statement of the Accounts for the last year which after some little discussion were unanimously passed. The Secretary then read the report of the managing committee of which the following is an extract - "The long pending lawsuit between this Company and the Hucklow Mining Company has at length terminated and although the results have not been quite equal to the Committee's expectations yet weighing one thing against another there is no cause for complaint. During the last year 343 tons 1 cwt 2 qts. of ore has been raised and sold realising £4,311-11-8d. The committee have received on account a call due 1st. December last £648-5-0d. These sums, together with £35-5-4d. received for sundries, make the total receipts £4,995-2-0d. The committee have expended the sum of £5,209-17-0d which gives a balance against the company of £214-15-0. The quantity of ore raised in the year would have been greater had it not been for the impediments consequent upon the sinking operations which have been carried on during the past year and now that sinking the shaft has been completed it may fairly be expected that returns of ore for this year will be considerably in advance on the last. It will be remembered that the liabilities at the last annual statement after deducting assets amounted to £961-1-3d. The committee have expended during the year in sinking the shaft 16 fathoms deeper and in putting in the necessary pitwork a little over £800. They have also paid as ???????? charged £798-12-0d making a total of £2,455-13-8d as extraordinary charges which cannot possibly occur again. If the amount of the call which has just been made be taken off this sum, it will be seen that the mine has earned £11,055-13-8d. The adoption of this report was moved by Mr. Holdsworth, seconded by Mr. Richardson and unanimously passed. The following gentlemen were appointed as directors for the ensuing year, viz. Mr. Hawksley, Mr. Marples, Mr. Slack, Mr. J.S. Taylor, Mr. George Carreer, Mr. Robert Cook, Mr. Michael Walker and Mr. Robert How. A vote of thanks concluded the meeting and the shareholders afterwards dined together when upwards of thirty sat down.

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Fatal Accident.

Three persons drowned in a mine.

On Friday evening an accident occurred at the Racecourse, Dudley, the property of the Earl of Dudley by which three persons lost their lives. On Friday evening at about 6 o'clock a watchman on the pit-bank heard some men shouting from the bottom of the pit. He at once signalled to the engineer to draw them out. They were three of the men and they stated when they reached the surface they had heard the water from the canal breaking into the pit and made for the bottom whence they signalled to be drawn to the surface. They stated that two men and a boy were at work in a remoter part of the pit, and that they had endeavoured in vain to alarm them when they had made their own escapes. In the five minutes after the men had reached the surface the water was from seven to eight feet deep in the shaft. The water soon drawn off by the water-engine but it was about 2 o'clock on Saturday morning before the place where the two men and boy were at work when the water rushed in could be reached. The bodies of the men were found on the spot where they were known to be at work. The body of the lad was some yards away. The names of the deceased were John Norton, David Norton and Joseph Norton. The former two were brothers and both were married men with large families. The boy, Joseph Norton, who was 14 years of age, was the son of John Norton.

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Stealing Horse Corn

James Hancock was charged with stealing half a quartern of horse corn, value 4d, the property of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company Ltd. at Hasland on the 13th. instant. John Turton deposed that he was overman at the Hady Pit, the property of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company. He had suspected the prisoner of stealing the corn and had watched him for some days. On the day in question he missed the prisoners dinner-can from its accustomed place and searched the corn bin and found it covered over with corn. It was full of beans and oats. When he came out of the pit witness told him that he wanted to look in his dinner-can which the prisoner had under his arm. The prisoner told him to go with him to one side as there were several men standing near. They were against the boilers and he opened the can and found it full of corn. He told the prisoner that he had no business to take the corn out of the pit and the prisoner asked him to say nothing about it as it was the first time. Aaron Gascoigne, deputy overman, corroborated. The prisoner, who said that he had brought it out to give to a man's donkey, was committed to stand trial at the ensuing assizes.