

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. November 1865.

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The Strike at Thrybergh Hall Colliery.

After a protracted struggle the strike at the Thrybergh Hall Colliery near Kilnhurst has been terminated and the men resumed work on Tuesday morning. There was several points in dispute between the proprietors of the pit and their men but all have either been amicably settled or are in a fair way of being so. The men disputed the weight allowed for the corves of coal sent up and the proprietors met this difficulty by conceding the quarter of a cwt. An equally serious question was - At whose expense the propping of the pit should be done? The men have agreed to work for a fortnight and at the expiration of this time arbitrators will be appointed by both sides to settle the question. Although the men have during the struggle endured very great hardships they have borne them with patience and have conducted themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner.

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Springwell Colliery - Important Meeting of Miners.

On Monday the coal hewers working at the Springwell Colliery, in the employ of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited, refused to go to work as they considered that they had not sufficient weight accounted for at their pay on Saturday. Four men were appointed to wait upon Mr. Campbell, agent to the Company. In the afternoon the men met near to the pit. The chairman, Mr. Frederick Johnson, said he was for a bigger loaf honestly worked for. He was sure that they did not get paid for all the coal they sent out and if they did not get their wages they could not meet their just demands. Mr. Joseph Glazebrook said that as one of the deputation to Mr. Campbell he had much pleasure in stating that Mr. Campbell had met them in a very straight forward manner and he was quite agreeable that they should have a weighman of their own choosing. His wish was that the men should be paid for all the coal that they sent to bank but for some time he, Mr. Campbell, had been dissatisfied with the weight as well as the men and the sooner things were put right the better for all parties. Waggon, both small and crinoline, had been weighed, both empty and full, and they found to their surprise that both held the same quantity of coal. Small waggons weighed two hundredweight and the crinoline waggons three hundredweight. The machine was adjusted for the small waggons so when the crinolines weighed an extra one hundredweight was deducted from the gross. They were satisfied that now the men were paid by catchweight. Mr. Campbell was anxious that a number of banks should join in sending ironstone to weigh, the stone would then be properly cleaned and paid for as soon as a waggon load was ready. At present there was much sent out not half cleaned. In his opinion Mr. Campbell was a friend and a gentleman as he was always willing to put any matter right that was wrong and he hoped they would not play but would always send one or two men when they required any alteration.

A voice - "Are we to lose half a hundredweight?"

The Chairman said the big tubs took more filling than the small tubs.

A Delegate - "The big ones hold the same quantity of stuff."

A voice - "Let us tip a waggon and try whether there is not a difference."

The chairman said that he had always been paid for a quarter of a hundredweight and half a hundredweight until he came to this colliery and it used to take three tubs of slag and four of coal to weigh a ton but now it required often four and five waggons. A delegate who had been to Chesterfield reported that he had seen the Inspector of Weights who told them that he could do nothing for them as he could not go above 56 pounds and they recommended that weights be procured for the use of the men in the adjustment of the machine. After this the men adjourned to the works and tested a crinoline waggon by filling it with slack and emptying it into a small waggon, when both were found to hold the same quantity of slack. A further parley with Mr. Campbell resulted in that gentleman agreeing to pay for a quarter of a hundredweight, the men, on the other hand, agreeing to go to work next day. The machine to be tried for a month. The clerk, in whom the men had confidence, to replace another. The weighman, on behalf of the man, to start today weigh coals. A vote of thanks was heartily given to Mr. Campbell for his kind and honest treatment of the men and thus ended a strike in a most honest and satisfactory manner.

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Page 3 Column 2.

The Eckington Colliery Cases.

Mr. T. Evans, the Government Inspector v. Mr. F.R.R. Appleby, colliery owner. In these cases Mr. Busby appeared and applied for a further adjournment of three weeks in consequence of the absence of the Inspector.

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Page 2 Column 1.

Advertisement - In Chancery.

In the matter of the Companies Act 1862 and of the Chesterfield and Midland Silkstone Colliery Company Limited. The Creditors of the above named company are required on or before the first day of December 1865 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, the names and addresses of their solicitors, if any, to Mr. Arthur Cooper, No. 13 Jewry Street, Mansion House in the City of London, the Official Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice from the Official Liquidator and by their solicitors to come in and prove the said debts or claims at the chambers of the Master of the Rolls in the Rolls Yard, in Chancery Lane in the County of Middlesex at such time as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before any such debts are proved. Friday the 15th. day of December 1865, 12 o'clock at noon in the said chambers is appointed for hearing and adjudicating upon debts and claims. Dated this 30th. day of October 1865.

E.B. Church - Chief Clerk.

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Page 3 Column 1.

Springwell Colliery.

We notice in our last weeks impression on the workmen employed by the Staveley Coal and Iron Company at the Springwell Colliery had the impression that the machine upon which their coal was weighed on the pitbank was incorrect and an application was made by the workmen to have them examined by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

Although the Inspector has no authority to test any weighing machine that is not used for the purpose of sale to the public, yet the managers were anxious to satisfy the workmen as to the correctness, they requested Mr. Wheeldon to examine and test the machines which duty he kindly undertook on Tuesday last and found them to be in a perfect state of adjustment. We understand the Staveley Company contract with Messrs. Pooley and Sons, the eminent scale makers of Liverpool, to supply and keep in order the whole of the machines used by the Company which are from time to time inspected and adjusted by Messrs. Pooley and Sons' workmen.

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Page 2 Column 1.

Advertisement - Wanted.

Wanted - A Good Pit Carpenter as Foreman - Apply to Mr. Holford - Tapton Collieries.

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Page 2 Column 7.

No Headline.

We see by the Manchester Examiner that the shares of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company Limited have fallen suddenly to 10 and 12 discount, which on shares of £25 paid up is a very large decline. We are informed that the fall is due to a disagreement, the Company refusing to agree to the valuer's verdict. As, however, it is said £200,000 has been paid to the original company on account we cannot see how the Company can successfully repudiate the valuation.

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Saturday 25th. November 1865.

Page 2 Column 7.

Colliery Explosion at Eckington.

About 9 o'clock on Wednesday night week, an explosion occurred in the Park Colliery of Messrs. J. and G. Wells, Eckington, in a Pit known as No. 1, whereby two men named John Edge, of Mastin Moor, and Joseph Oldfield, of Eckington, colliers, were hurt. It is necessary to show that there are two shafts in connection with the pit but worked separately, being 700 yards apart. They have an underground communication but the part of the old No. 1 Pit to where the work so extended there is an air passage runs through the entire working both north and south and the main line of communication converging in works connected with the pit bottom. The two men being on the night shift had only just reached their workings, which is only a short distance from the general air-passage to the Pit No. 2 and close to the branch of the air current along the north side. As is usual and, in fact, necessary in this, as in other pits, the roof of the place where the workings are being carried on, was carried up higher than the ordinary roof by some three feet to admit the passage of corves etc. An air ??? had moreover been put up closer, applying the working space with air. When the men got to the place they found a blower, that is a fissure in the coal through which gas escaped. Oldfield stripped all his clothes off and went into the air passage out of the works. Edge took off his clothing with the exception of his ????? and singlet and having hung his lamp on a post supporting the roof, proceeded to rid the smaller space of gas. He got Oldfield's shirt and began wafting or driving the gas out. By some means the gas came into contact with the light in the lamp and the consequence was an explosion. Edge was burnt on the arms and legs. The flames appeared to have passed into the air passage in was Oldfield. Oldfield died on Wednesday and an inquest was opened on Thursday.