

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 7th. October 1865.

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Colliery Explosion near Eckington.

On Tuesday morning the colliery of Messrs. J. and G. Wells, situated in the Renishaw Park, near Eckington, was the scene of an explosion of gas, though fortunately of a slight character. Two brothers named William Bird and George Bird, both residing at Mexborough, were working in No. 1 Pit and foolishly stuck up against a post supporting the roof a naked candle. No danger was apprehended but the constant passing and re-passing of corves and men appeared to have disturbed the gasses collected in the cavity behind the posts and they came in contact with the light. An explosion followed and the two men were burned. William Bird severely scorched on the hand, arms, chest and back. The injuries to his brother were not so serious. The men were conveyed home and were attended by Mr. Jones, surgeon. Bird has since died.

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Fatal Accident at Brampton.

On Thursday morning last a youth named Herbert Randall was running a loaded corve to the top of the pit and the cage not being ready to receive it, the corve fell to the bottom taking the lad with it. The lad was killed instantly.

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Caution to Colliers.

On Wednesday last at Chesterfield before G. Heathcote Esq. four colliers, named respectively Thomas Turton, Joshua Mellors, Edward Wass and Joseph Stocks, were each charged with having absented themselves from the employment of John Chambers and others at Wingfield. All the defendants pleaded guilty. The prosecutor, Mr. Shaw, informed the Bench that the conduct of the prisoners was only a loss to the proprietors of the colliery but to other men, especially those who went from Chesterfield, who were not able to work in consequence of the neglect of the prisoners. He would not press the case this time but hoped it would be a caution to the rest of the employed. Ordered to return to work and pay costs.

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Serious Boiler Explosion at Derby.

On Monday morning the flue of a large boiler erected on the premises of Messrs. Cox and Brothers Company, situated on the Normanton road, Derby where the process of manufacturing and rolling lead is carried on, on an extensive scale, exploded with great violence inflicting frightful injuries to the engine-man, named Stevenson, By the force of the explosion hot ashes and fire were driven into his flesh. He was at once conveyed to the Derbyshire Infirmary where his injuries were attended to, but at the time our parcel left, but faint hopes were entertained for his recovery. He is married man with a family. The scene of the explosion presented a complete wreck.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

Francis Rokeby Appleby Esq., coalmaster, of Renishaw, was summoned by Thomas Evans Esq., Government Inspector of Mines for the Midlands District, for the following breaches of the Colliery Mines Act, 23 and 24 Vic. cap. 151 - Having on the 8th. of August last at Whittington wilfully violated the tenth rule by using a single-linked chain for lowering and raising persons working in a pit. Also at the same time and place for not having established special rules at the said ironstone mine as required by 23 and 24 Vic. cap. 151. Also for having at the same time and place violated the seventh rule by not having provided the working pit or shaft with a proper means of communicating signals distinct and separate from the bottom of the shaft to the surface and also from the surface to the bottom of the shaft. And also for having on the same day at Walton violated the said 23 and 24 Vic. cap. 151 by not providing as required by the seventh general rule a proper means of communicating signals, distinct and separate, from the bottom of the shaft to the surface and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft. And having on the same day at Walton, contrary to the aforesaid Act, violated the tenth general rule by using a single-linked chain for lowering and raising persons working in the pit. Mr. Busby appeared on behalf of Mr. Evans and at the request of the defendant the case was adjourned to the 14th. inst.

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Stealing Brattice Cloth.

Robert Hayes, of Chesterfield, labourer, was charged by the same complainant, with stealing on the 2nd. inst. one and a quarter yards of brattice cloth, the property of Mr. George Senior, coalmaster, of Hasland. The prosecutor and the defendant having come to a satisfactory arrangement the case was dismissed.

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Caution to Colliers.

James Brookes, Aaron Ash, James Downes (all of Whittington) and Joseph Bradshaw (Littlemoor), colliers, were brought up on warrants charged Mr. Shemwell, underviewer at the Foxley Oaks Colliery, Whittington, with having absented themselves from their employment at the above colliery. Ordered to return to their work and pay the costs of 6-6d. each except Brooks who had to pay 13-6d. The prisoners said that they had only been working two days or so a week and they had no redress against the masters who had cause to have as many holidays as they thought proper. But if they were away a day they were fetched up and fined or liable to be sent to prison. Mr. Lucas said that he had taken that into consideration before giving his decision. The prisoner Downes was apprehended on the night of his wedding, being married on the 9th.

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Derbyshire Mining and Iron Trade.

The coal trade is improving and the demand for the hard or steam coal increases. Indeed the present rate of production can scarcely keep pace with the demand. It is stated that the search for the coal at Thirkleby, near Thirsk, has proved successful and that measures will be taken to bring the material into working. Should the working prove profitable a remarkable change will come over that part of the North Riding. The firm of John Brown and Company Limited are doing good trade with the shares sought after at £4- 10-0d. to £4-15-0d. premium. Charles Cammell and Company Limited are still under a cloud and the shares are at £5-0-0d. discount. It is thought that the trade of this firm will improve shortly but that the revaluations and the matters originally in dispute with Mr. Cammell have had a prejudicial effect upon the concern. The Parkgate Coal and Iron Company Limited is looking up and the company are doing an improved trade. The shares have been for some time at a small discount but they have now got up to par. The plant of the Tapton Coal and Iron Company, the same colliery which was projected originally by the late George Stephenson, is fast progressing towards completion. The Company have put down two pairs of splendid engines for pumping and with this power they will be able to lift almost any quantity of water. They are watching their pumps and when they are in the work the clearing of the shafts of water will be proceeded with. A level is also being driven from the companies pits at Newbold in which a tramway will be laid and the trams conveyed to the bottom of the Lockoford Shaft and then raised to surface loaded and as the ?????????????????????? from the colliery will be sent all over the kingdom. This level will save the cartage of the whole of the produce of the Newbold pits. The Chesterfield and Midland Companies mines are still in the hands of the Official Liquidator and as large sections of the shareholders are at variance the cause of settlement will not be so easy as might have otherwise been. The Staveley Coal and Iron Company still stands proudly at the head of all the other limited liability concerns. The original shares (£60 Paid) are at £15- 10-0d. premium and the new shares (£10 Paid) are at £3-10-0d. and £3-15-0d premium. The company are doing an increasing trade in coals and the working of the concern is looked upon with the upmost satisfaction. The Mill Dam Mining Company are expecting another measure of ore shortly. They have now about 50 tons in store and as soon as that in the yard is dressed the measure will take place. It is the produce of 6 weeks work. The vein in Mill Dam Mine proper has been worked out but the Company are driving to other mineral ground which they hold on a lease. We visited the mine on Wednesday and the plant and everything belonging to it appear to be good and substantial. They are in a good locality for ore and little doubt is felt that they will be in good work again.

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Breach of Colliery Rules.

Francis Rokeby Appleby Esq., coalmaster, of Renishaw, was summoned by Thomas Evans, Government Inspector of Mines for the Midland District, for the following breaches of the Colliery Act 23 and 24 Vic. cap. 151, for having on the 8th. of August last at Whittington broken the tenth rule by using a single-link chain for raising and lowering persons working in the pit and also at the same time and place not having established special rules at the said ironstone mine as required by 23 and 24 Vic. cap. 151. Also for having at the same time and place violated the seventh rule by not having provided the working pit or shaft with a proper means of communicating signals, distinct and separate, from the bottom of the shaft to the surface and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft and also for having on the same day at Walton violated the 23 and 24 Vic. cap 151 by not provided as required by the seventh general rule a proper means of communicating signals, distinct and separate, from the bottom of the shaft to the surface and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft. And also having on the same day at Walton contrary to the aforesaid Act violated the tenth general rule by using a single-link chain for lowering and raising persons working in the pit. Mr. Busby appeared for Mr. Evans and asked for an adjournment to enable them to settle the matter if possible. The defendant contended that the pits did not come in the limits of the Act while they held contrary and were supported by the Home Office. Adjourned.

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Inquest.

On Monday an inquest was held at the Miner's Arms Inn, New Whittington, on the body of Michael Caine, aged 15 years. James Kelly deposed that the deceased lodged at his house and he died on Friday October the 20th. at half past two o'clock in the afternoon. Ryan Gavan of New Whittington, a trammer, in the Springwell Pit belonging to the Staveley Coal Company Limited, said the deceased was leaving work at about half past five o'clock on Tuesday October the 15th.(?) and he was following five or six men across the incline. The man in charge of the waggons took away the "scoat" from the wheel and the waggons caught deceased between them and the post and crushed him. When he (Witness) and some others took him out and conveyed him to the top. James Young, overman, said the deceased had left his work before the proper time and consequently the waggon had not left the bottom. Mr. Busby considered it very dangerous for the men to travel on and across the incline. The proprietors ought to make another road for the men to come in and out. Witness said that the accident would not have happened if the men had stayed until the proper time to give over. Mr. Lowe then suggested that if it was not practical to make an independent road, the Company might put a sentry on the crossing and anyone crossing contrary to his orders to fine him 5-0d. for each offense. The verdict was - "The deceased came to his death by being crushed between the waggons and a post".