

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 7th. Apr. 1866.

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Frightful Railway Accident - Injury to a Chesterfield Man.

On Tuesday a frightful collision took place near the Aberdare Station on the Vale of Neath Railway, between a goods train and the up passenger train due at 9.20 a.m. It appears that there were four trains awaiting the arrival of the other passenger train; three of these had been shunted to another rail, and the fourth was about to be shunted when the passenger train came along at full speed and (?) the goods train with great force. The drivers of the two trains, directly they saw a collision was inevitable, reversed the engines and jumped off, followed by the stokers, and thus saved their lives; The guard on the up train saving his life in like manner. The first parcel carriage next to the brake van was forced into a second class carriage, and Mr. Wales, Government Inspector of Mines for the South Wales District, the only occupant, was severely injured, that he had to be removed to the Red Lion Inn. About a dozen other passengers were injured, but by timely medical attention, several of them were enabled to proceed on their way during the day. Mr. Wales, resided at Chesterfield, prior to his acceptance of the Inspectorship of South Wales.

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Assaulting a Master.

William Payne, collier, late of Clay Cross (now of Hasland), was brought up on a warrant charged with assaulting Mr. A. Barnes, coalmaster, at Hasland, on the 31st. of March. The defendant denied the charge. Mr. Barnes said - On Saturday afternoon the defendant came into my private office in a very excited manner and asked for a half-crown which had been stopped from him for "lying out of work". I told him that at present I was engaged with Mr. James Martin, veterinary surgeon, and could not attend to him. Defendant threw down a pound of candles that he had and began to swear in a dreadful manner, said that he would not go until he got the half-crown, and laid hold of me by the collar. I called on Mr. Martin to assist me, and he took a pick from him. I called two men to come and put him out. He rushed in twice after and swore he would smash the windows. Mr. Martin corroborated the evidence. In defence, Payne said, - I worked twenty three days for Mr. Barnes last month. On Friday week I was taken bad with the dysentery and had to stop at home; and the butty knew of it. I went to ask for the half-crown, and I own I was in a passion, and used bad language, which I would not in a calm moment. I did not strike him nor did I intend to do. To Mr. Barnes - Have I not been attentive to my work? - Mr. Barnes said that he had and from enquiries that he made he believed that defendant was ill. The day he stopped out sixteen men stopped out on that day, and he (Mr. Barnes) was obliged to do something to stop it. The defendant was discharged on his paying the costs, 13s-0d. Mr. Barnes declined to take anything and Mr. Martin returned his expenses.

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Wages Case.

John Rickersby was summoned by Samuel Church for £1-6-8d. wages. The complainant was employed at Springwell Pit by defendant and left without notice. Complainant failed to prove an agreement for notice, the bench made an order for the amount.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

The holidays of Easter being over, the different works have assumed their wonted activity, and at all the large works there is prevalence of unabated activity. At Staveley there is the utmost activity prevailing in the foundry department, the company having several large contracts for pipes in hand, besides a quantity of heavy work. At Clay Cross they are very busy in the coal department, orders coming quite as rapidly as they can be executed. We are glad to hear that Mr. W. Jackson M.P., a principal partner in the firm, has been on a visit to the works, being his first appearance since his recent severe affliction. The Clay Cross Company are pushing forward every arrangement calculate to facilitate the completion of the works. Sinking of Mr. Houldsworth's pits, at Pilsley, is progressing satisfactorily, though a considerable time will elapse ere they touch the deep coal. The Shirland Colliery Company are rapidly progressing towards the Blackshale; as soon as the sinking is completed it will turn out a large supply, as they have a line of railway direct from the pit mouth to the main line of the Midland. This branch will be used by the neighbouring coal proprietors in the course of time, as it gives access to the Midland infinitely superior to the most economical mode of road transport. The Shirland have succeeded in obtaining a very large acreage of mineral ground, and on terms very favourable. Some additional minerals have been purchased, and fresh pits will be opened shortly. There was a great scarcity of dwellings for colliers in this neighbourhood, and this is a difficulty, as many men will not walk six or seven miles daily to their work without extra pay, especially when they can find plenty of employment in the vicinity of their residences. The coal trade is unusually brisk for the period of the year, and on the Erewash valley of the Midland additional trains are running to London and the South daily.

The recent meeting of the miners delegates in North Derbyshire is producing its effect. Already at several works a feeling of dissatisfaction is being created amongst the miners as to the hours of labour, weighing of coals, and other details; and it would seem to be the desire of these union agents to induce the men to demand an alteration or to strike. Hopes are held out to them of pay from the union, and were it not that North Derbyshire has been comparatively free of strikes, they would have little trouble to introduce one.

The prospects of the Staveley Company are highly encouraging, and a large dividend than the last is more probable than otherwise. The stock is difficult to get hold off, and there is a desire to confine the shareholders within as limited a number as possible. The Sheepbridge Company, it is anticipated, will be in a position to pay a good dividend, probably at the rate of 10%.

Mining Journal.

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Sheepbridge v. Northfield Iron Co.

Before the Master of the Rolls, on Saturday, Mr. Swanston appeared on a petition of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company, praying the winding up of the above company. The Sheepbridge Company was the holder of a Bill of Exchange for £902 odd, excepted by the Northfield Company, which had been dishonoured. Mr. Markham Law was for the latter company. His Lordship made the order.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

There is no alteration to note in the state of the iron and coal trade in North Derbyshire, business for the season has been all that could be desired, the demand for all qualities of iron being brisk, whilst the orders in hand are sufficient to keep the works fully going for a considerable time to come. No better indication of the stability of the extensive works at Staveley are to be found than in the fact that the shares (of £60 paid) are at £20 premium, w at which price there are scarcely any holders of stock found willing to realise. The Peak mines appear healthier, and things are looking better for the shareholders, and there is some prospect of their being rewarded for their patience in holding under circumstances anything but encouraging. The collieries in the district are kept fully going, and it is expected that in the course of a month or two some of the new collieries now in the process of opening out will add considerably to the large tonnage now being sent by the Midland.

A new machine for making crucibles for melting steel, etc., has just been put down at the Norfolk Works, Sheffield; and so successful have the results turned out that several orders have been received for duplicates from some of the leading houses in the steel trade. The makers are Messrs. Piggott and Farrar, of Barnsley, and the machines turn out with ease, with the aid of seven men, as much as can be done by 30 men under the present system by hand. It is needless to say that the machines are anything but popular with the men, but there can be little doubt of their coming into general use. In South Yorkshire the various iron works are doing an average amount of business, with the exception of those at Elsecar, which for several weeks past have all but stopped. At the ironstone field on the Trent one or two of the furnaces have been put out of blast for repairs, but others are nearly ready for being opened, some of which will be the largest in the district. A large quantity of ore is being sent per rail to the various ironworks in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, where its superiority over that of most others is appreciated. There is a good demand for Silkstone and steam coal, the business doing in the former for the London and the South, being in excess of that of the first three months of the present year. For the north of Europe a large tonnage is being sent via Hull and Grimsby, whilst the home markets are sending in orders freely.

The Staveley Coal and Iron Company are raising about a thousand tons per day from their Seymour Pit, and if the production could be doubled or trebled they would find a ready market for all they could produce. The production of the Derbyshire Deep or Blackshale coal will be considerably increased during the present year by the opening of several new collieries, the principal one being that of Morton Colliery, belonging to the Clay Cross Company, which will be putting out a large quantity of coal during the present year, which, coupled with the output of Clay Cross, will make the united production of this Company amount to an enormous production annually. Mr. Houldsworth, of Clay Cross, is proceeding satisfactorily with his new colliery at Pilsley, but he has a great deal of depth to sink to get to the deep coal. He will have ?????? for the exit of his coal by railway, and as the Blackshale is known to be of a admirable quality in this neighbourhood, there will be a ready market for the same. There are other works in course of construction, but they cannot be expected to be in a productive position until the end of the year.

The Whittington Colliery Company, with a capital of £35,000, in shares of £5 each, has issued its prospectus, the object of the undertaking being to take over the property of the freehold colliery company, now in course of voluntary liquidation. Of the 7,000 shares into which

the capital is divided, 4,226 will be allocated to the shareholders in the liquidated company; the remaining 2,774 shares to be allocated to the public, will have £3 called up, and will bear a preference dividend of 10% per annum. Practically those providing the funds now sought will be at a far more favourable position than the ordinary shareholders, and the undertaking itself presents unusual prospects. The property to be transferred consists of 170 acres of freehold surface land and houses now producing a rental of £600 per annum, and the estimated value of £17,000. A middle(?) estate of about 300 acres contain the well known Silkstone and other valuable coal seams and ironstone deposits of the best quality, the coal being valued £40,000, and the ironstone at £11,000 and the plant and machinery etc. It is considered that 75,000 tons per annum can be raised, and a carefully prepared estimate of profits and returns shows that there will be a surplus of nearly 10% per annum after a payment of 10% to the preference shareholders, and 5% to holders in respect of their interest in the old company. The property has been properly developed, for the scale of operations has been too small to admit for the realisation of satisfactory dividends. The new arrangement will enable the works and business of the undertaking to be carried on with the vigour, and as it is provided that the shareholders in the new company are to elect their own directors, the board of the old company can be selected from, or an entirely new management introduced. The valuation of the mineral, etc., being given upon the authority of Messrs. Woodhouse and Jeffcock, of Derby, greatest reliance may be placed upon them.

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Leaving Work.

Charles Wright, a collier, of Grassmoor, was charged by George Parker, agent, Clay Cross Company, with neglecting his work. To resume work and pay £1-9-3d. costs.

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Assault with a Boat-hook.

Joseph Hindley, boatman, charged William Cauldwell, with an assault. The parties are boatmen, and there had been some dispute respecting loading coals at Mr. Webster's pit, Killamarsh, at which defendant knocked complainant into the canal and struck him with a boat-hook. Defendant did not deny striking him but said complainant fell into the water. The Bench told the defendant that whatever provocation he might have received he had no right to use such unlawful weapons, and fined him £4-0-0d., including costs, or two months imprisonment.

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Disobedient Servants.

Robert Leeson and John Ashton were charged by Mr. H. Rangeley, of Dronfield, with having left his service of the 26th. of February last without giving proper notice. - John Cartlidge stated the case, and John Yates, the viewer, put in the rules. To pay 13-0d. each, and to go back and serve a month.

George Grundy, engine tender, Unstone, was charged with a similar offense by Mr. Rangeley. - Defendant did not appear. - Constable proved serving a summons upon Grundy, and since then he had got out of the district. - The Bench issued a warrant for his apprehension.

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Neglecting Work at Dronfield.

David Booker, John Mather, Sydney Godber, Henry Gill, William Wright, John Bennett, James Whittaker, William Hallam, Henry Taylor, John Marples, and George Godber were charged by Messrs. H.S. Johnson and Company, coalowners, of Dronfield, with neglecting their work on the 9th. and 10th. of April. - Mr. Fretson, who appeared for the complainants, said that the men could never be depended upon being at their work on any day; They would stay away drinking two, three, and four days in the week. Some of them have excuses that they were ill; others that they had sore eyes; others that there was a "damp" in the pit; and others that they had a cold and got drunk to cure themselves. - The cases against Bennett, Sydney Godber, H. Taylor and Mather were withdrawn. George Godber was fined 5-0d. for going drunk into the place, also with the rest fined 6-6d. each, and to go back to work. David Booker would not pay, and he was sent to Derby for one month.