

Derbyshire Times.

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Staveley - Colliery Dispute.

A little misunderstanding has arisen between the Springwell colliers and their employers, a meeting of the former was held on Monday, near the Colliery. It appears that the men are allowed to have two men to watch and check the companies weighman on the pit-bank, and as a difference had arisen between them and the bank "Gaffer" respecting a tub of bind which had been covered with slack and weighed as coal. The men, with the good sense which has hitherto been their characteristic at these works, agreed to send a deputation to Mr. Campbell, the viewer, who at once promised to ??? investigation, with this the deputation appeared to be satisfied. According to agreement, the deputation from the Springwell colliers met Mr. Campbell, on Wednesday. The matter in dispute was fairly and temperately discussed on both sides, and the result was completely amicable settlement of this question, and an arrangement made by which disputes may be avoided in future, by the appointment of a referee (to be chosen by the men themselves and paid by the Company) whose duty would be to decide as to the fraudulent tubs of coal, etc. The men appeared to be well satisfied with the arrangement.

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Glasshouse Common - Shocking and Fatal Accident.

On Saturday last a sad accident occurred at an ironstone pit, at Glasshouse Common, belonging to the Sheepbridge Iron Company, by which a man named Richard Storr. was fatally injured. The deceased, who was about 20 years of age, was engaged in removing the bricks from a disused ironstone pit, when one fell down the shaft (it is supposed out of an ascending corve) and struck him on the head. He was taken to the Chesterfield Hospital, but died a few hours after admission. The Inquest was subsequently held before Mr. Busby, and a respectable Jury, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned.

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The New Underground Engine at Hetton Colliery.

We are always glad to record anything that adds credit to the neighbourhood, and more especially to that of our townsmen. Messrs. Murray and Company, Engineers, of this town, have just completed a large, if not the largest, engine now in use for underground haulage in the world, for the well known Hetton Coal Company, whose mining works were for many years conducted with eminent success by the late Nicholas Wood Esq., and now by his son, Lindsay Wood Esq., who promises well to carry out his fathers ideas, assisted by Mr. Hepplewhite. The engine has two horizontal cylinders 28 inches in diameter with 5 ft. stroke, and fitted with Howe's Patent Equilibrium Slides, adapted by Mr. W. Moore, Engineer, for the Hetton Collieries, and which promises to be of great service in the handling of slide engines. There are four drums, three of 8ft. and one of 9ft. diameter, working separately with each spur gear 9ft. 6in. in diameter. All reversing, striking and braking gear were brought within reach of the engineman, and under his perfect control. The drums are laid out to work 12 miles of rope, are on the principal of the model engine shown at the Industrial Exhibition, Gateshead, by the Messrs. Murray. It is pleasing to find that the engine had so successful a start, no part being to adjust. The pitmen declared she went like an "old one". Last week a body of practical engineers inspected the whole arrangements, which had been carried out by Mr. Moore, and expressed themselves highly satisfied, after which they dined at the Hetton Inn. Messrs. Oliver and Company (Limited), of Chesterfield, are the manufacturers of the patent slide valve.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

Throughout the whole of Derbyshire the iron and coal trades are in a much more healthy state than almost every other part of the country. Free from the strikes, the workmen employed at the best works at Staveley find it to their advantage to act in concert with their employers; but how long this state of things will remain is questionable, as just now Derbyshire is become the great centre of agitation, and workmen are being made acquainted with alleged grievances which they have long suffered under, which they have never seen until brought under their notice by those whose business is the alienating of that good feeling which has hitherto existed between the employer and his workman. In the neighbourhood of Chesterfield, the Devonshire Silkstone Coal Company are pushing forward their top works with the greatest activity; and, under the experienced superintendence of Mr. Pease, the general manager and viewer, it is expected that by Christmas the colliery will be in full working operation. The colliery, so far, has been one of the most successful which has been opened in the district and promises to be highly profitable. In addition to the colliery, one hundred coke ovens are in course of construction, ten of which are all but finished. The balance sheet which has been prepared for the first annual meeting, to be held today (Saturday), at Bury (Lancashire), where the great body of the proprietors reside is of the most gratifying character, alike to the directors and the manager. The Company started with a capital of £30,000, the actual amount expended up to the present time is a little more than £16,000; and Mr. Pease, informs me, he confidently expects by December that the colliery and the coke ovens will be in full operation. The total cost of all the work in and about the colliery and coke ovens is not expected to exceed £20,000, exhibiting a marked contrast with an adjoining colliery, where £50,000 has been sunk, never to be recovered. The colliery alluded to - the Cobnor Wood - appears to be still in the market, the finance company, who are the mortgagees to the extent of some £10,000 or £11,000 are still in possession, and are unable to find customers. An attempt was made some time since by several of the largest shareholders to start a new company, but the late monetary crisis and the high rate of discount proved barriers that could not be got over. Still there is little doubt, notwithstanding the tide of water which has flowed into the pit for a long time, with capital and energy the concern may be made, in a commercial point of view, a really good one.

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Wages without Stoppages - Important Miners' Case.

Cutts v. Ward.

This action, in the Queen's Bench, to put down stoppages from the miners wages of club money of 1-0d., stopped every fortnight, was tried at Derby Assizes, before Mr. Justice Mellor, and was referred for final decision thereon to the Court above, in the Michaelmas term next, which will be in November. The plaintiff, James Cutts, now lives at New Brinsley, Eastwood, nr. Nottingham, and was at work as a stallman at the defendants, the Wingerworth Colliery, near Chesterfield. The plaintiff, summarily dismissed on the 14th. of December last, without the 28 days (the month's) notice, and at that time £5-17-8d. was due to him for getting coal, which was refused to be paid to him; based on the need to pay the mens wages who were at work under him. Those wages came to £4-6-7d, leaving £1-11-1d., which they refused to pay him until he gave up the house he was renting under them at 4-0d. a fortnight. The plaintiff sought to recover £5-8-0d., a month's wages for dismissal without notice; but was defeated on that by the special jury giving a verdict against him for disobedience, the defendant and his underviewer and his witnesses setting forth that kind of defence as to the summary dismissal. The defendants put on the record ten pleas under their rules of the colliery, and pleaded a set off as to the stoppage of the wages. Thus - Rents stopped 4-0d. per fortnight, Timber stopped 8-6d. a fortnight, Club stopped 1-0d. per fortnight, for the plaintiff and each of the men under him. To these several stoppages the plaintiff objected to under the Truck Act, the most important being the Club money, which was kept from every man at the colliery, and where there are about 400 men the stoppage comes to £20 a fortnight or £500 a year in one colliery alone. The plaintiff was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, duly registered, under which 10½d. a fortnight he had great benefits, such as the club doctor, and an allowance in illness, and payments on death; whereas for this club 1-0d. stopped by the colliery employers, he got nothing but what they chose to give him, besides which it was not a club registered under Tidd Pratt's Act, and although the colliery owners kept a doctor at a small yearly stipend for all the colliery, the plaintiff did not want two doctors - his own club doctor and the colliery doctor as well. If every miner in the United Kingdom paid this 1-0d. to his own society, duly registered, it would be thousands of pounds a year to their good; which might form an immense and universal society for every miner to resort to, wherever he was, and not lose the benefit by removal from one colliery to another. The Judge gave it as his opinion that the stoppage of club, one shilling a fortnight, as illegal under the Truck Act; and gave leave for the plaintiff to move the Court above for a verdict on the stoppages. The Colliery Company made the case a special jury cause, for which they had to pay the Jury £12-12-0d. The miners (plaintiffs) attorney is Mr. Jeremiah Briggs, of 62, Chancery Lane, London, WC, and 2, Amen Alley, All Saints, Derby, to whom references may be made by any of our numerous readers requiring to know more of this case; and we trust the miners about this kingdom will take care of the cause of the plaintiff, for if the club stoppage is prohibited by law, they and their families and descendants will have the benefit of it.

Signed,
The Ilkeston Pioneer.

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New Coal Washing Machine.

A number of gentlemen interested in mining operations met by invitation at the offices of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company (Limited) on July the 27th., for the purpose of inspecting a new coal washing machine which has lately been erected at one of the collieries worked by the company. The party travelled from the works on the private line of the company to the Westfield Colliery, at which place the machine is at work, and carefully examined the process of washing the coal, which is as follows:

The coal, or slack, as it comes from the pit or through the screens is deposited by a wagon into a large hopper, which is fitted with a door in the front, which door is opened and shut by machinery, so constructed as to admit a quantity passing through. The coal, or slack, which passes through the door is taken up by a chain of endless buckets or elevator, delivered therefrom by a spout onto a revolving screen, which is constructed as follows:

The periphery of the screen is composed of plates perforated, one half the screen be perforated with holes finer than the other half, so that the screen divides the coal, or slack, into two different uniform sizes - the object aimed at in a screen of this construction. The screen is erected at an inclination of about 6 degrees in order that any coal or material that is too large to pass through the perforations in the screens is carried on to the end of the screen and conveyed from thence by an inclined spout to a set of revolving crushers of the peg form, where such coal or material is reduced to a smaller size, and then discharged into the receptacle at the bottom of the elevator, to be carried up as before (no coal or material has to pass through the crusher except what is too large to pass through the screen). The washing machines consist of two oblong vessels, 6 feet by 3 feet, fitted with conical bottoms, having a spout at one end of each vessel to convey the coal after being washed into wagons. The other end of each vessel is connected by pipes to a cylinder, which is fitted with a piston, its construction being such that it works in a similar manner to a double acting pump. The mechanical arrangement of the piston to give it motion is by an ordinary crankshaft fitted with a pulley, and driven by a strap from the main shaft of the engine. The effect of the piston referred to is that water, which is supplied to the vessel from a head, is forced through the false bottom of the vessels, which part of it is perforated and inclined from the front of the vessel next to the spout to the back at about one foot to the end of the vessel, which is fitted with a slide or shuttle, that can be lifted as required by the attendant. The perforated bottom of this part of the vessel is somewhat lower than the other, and is also fitted at one end with a removable slide, ??????? with one referred to. The operation is somewhat as follows: - the coal is delivered from the screen above the end machines by a spout to each, just in front of the diaphragm, or slide referred to, and the operation of the piston effects pulsations of the water and machines, by which the continued action of the coal in the machines is carried forward and deposited by the stream of water caused by each pulsation into the wagon, or the shale, pyrites, and other matters, which are heavier in specific gravity than the coal, deposit themselves on the bottom of the machines, and are allowed to pass from thence to the back part of the machines, by the raising of the diaphragm or shuttle, wherein they are subject to the same pulsation in operation as the raised part of the material, so that should any portion of coal pass under the shuttle with the dross into the hind part of the machines, it can easily be detected by the attendant and saved. When the coal is all separated from the dross, the shuttle in the back part of the machine is then lifted up, and the dross allowed to fall

into the conical or bottom part of the vessels, which are fitted with sluice valves, and can be let of at any time by the attendant into the wagon and conveyed to the spoil bank.

The above machinery is worked by a 7 h.p. engine. The whole arrangement, which is very simple, and requires but one man to superintend it, and was designed by Mr. Birkbeck, the engineer of the Sheepbridge Company, who has patented the machine, to whom the greatest praise is due. The coal produced, which is from the Silkstone or Blackshale, seam of coal is of a fine, clear quality, and scarcely a trace of shale or matter could be discovered. This coke will be admirably adapted for steel melting and other purposes requiring a pure material. The great advantages of this machine are washing the coal and separating the dirt and injurious material perfectly, and at the smallest possible cost, and effecting this without, practically, loss of any coal whatsoever; the economy in the latter is carried even to save the coal dust held in solution by the water: this is collected and used in the foundry involving the castings, for which purpose it is excellent.

Amongst the visitors present we noticed Messrs. W. Jackson, M.P. (North Derbyshire); Charles Binns, Clay Cross Collieries; James Holden, Manchester; Alderman Pochin, Manchester; J. Brown, Atlas Steelworks, Sheffield; William Fowler, Sheepbridge Ironworks, Chesterfield; Thomas Evans, Government Inspector of Mines; Edward Hedley, Mining Engineer, Derby; Thomas W. Jeffcock, Mining Engineer, Sheffield; Messrs. Oliver, Chesterfield, etc. The whole of the gentlemen expressed great satisfaction with their visit, and after returning to Sheepbridge, drove up to the Whittington Hall, the residence of Mr. William Fowler, where a most sumptuous dinner was provided. Messrs. Oliver and Company (Limited), purchased the patent right, and intend to manufacture the machine.

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Colliery Accident at Staveley.

On Friday, at Staveley, a man named William Fisher, was shockingly burnt. He was working in the pit, and was firing a shot, with about one and a quarter pounds of powder, in order to blast the coal, when the powder exploded before he could get away. His face, breast, arms, and hands were greatly burnt. He now lies in a dangerous state.

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Barlow - Assault in a Pit.

William Booth was charged by Herbert Gilberthorpe with an assault at Hasland on the 3rd. inst. There was no doubt of the assault, the defence being that the lad had, whilst in the pit (Monkswood), uncovered his safety lamp, and the defendant struck him with a strap as a punishment for thus risking an explosion. The defendant, however, did not see the lads uncover their lamps, but was told so and found a small wooden key on him by which the lamp was unlocked. Defendant denied striking the lad with the buckle end of the strap but Mr. Maynard said that from the marks he saw on the lad he could have no doubt whatever that the buckle end had been used. The Bench much preferred that lads should be corrected for such offenses at the time than for them to be brought up, but this correction must not be a cruel one. They should fine defendant 5-0d. and 16-0d. costs.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

There is no alteration whatever in the state of trade in Derbyshire since the last notice, the demand in coal in particular being fully equal to the means of supply. This will be more apparent from the fact that the returns for the month of July, just issued, show that the quantity of coal sent direct from Clay Cross alone to the London market exceeded 18,700 tons. At Staveley, also, the enquiry for iron has been such as to show a marked contrast with any other ironmaking district in the county, the men being fully employed, and the shares of the firm (Barrow and Co. Ltd.) being in a very healthy state, being at 7 prem.

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Wages Case.

There were three summonses against the Householders Colliery Company Limited, for £1-6-8d. each, the complaints being John Hansell, William Peas, and Jonathan Bann, colliers, the amount claimed being for wages in lieu of notice, - Mr. Busby defended, and stopped the cases on a legal objection, which explained to the general reader is as follows. The men agreed to do certain work at 2-8d. per ton for coal, and 1-0s. per ton for slack, but urged that they were dismissed without notice, or rather five days before the expiration of their notice and that therefor they had a right to claim the money they would have earned had they continued to work. Mr. Busby however contended that this was a claim for damages and not wages, as the men were paid by contract, and cited several cases to show that the Bench were not competent to deal with questions of damages. - Mr. Maynard said that the summonses must be dismissed, and the men must go to the County Court, but he thought it was a hard case for the men and there was too much advantage taken by colliery owners over the men on the question of legal points. Mr. Busby said that there was a good defence of this action on the merits, and his experiences of cases between masters and workmen was dissimilar to Mr. Maynards. - The magistrates clerk kindly remitted the men a portion of their costs.

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Painful Calamity in a Coal Pit.

Merthyr, Wednesday Evening.

Another of those frightful calamities which are so frequently caused by an explosion of gas in coal pits, occurred this morning at the Talacoch Colliery, situate about ten miles down the Rhondda Valley. On the particulars gleaned it would appear that this colliery was, about eight or nine years ago, in the hands of a firm known as that of Messrs. Carr and Morrison, but failing success in business the pits have since been closed. During the last few weeks a new company has been formed with the intention of reopening the pit, and previous to doing so Mr. William Bedlington, mining engineer, and Mr. Enock Francis, a contractor, were engaged in examining the condition of the colliery. Whilst investigating its most dangerous parts an explosion of firedamp took place, and both gentlemen were killed. Full particulars are at present not known, but information of the fact was at once communicated to Mr. G. Overton, coroner, who at once proceeded to the spot to open an enquiry into the cause of death. After some formal proceedings the inquest was adjourned for eight days to enable Mr. Wales, the Government Inspector of Mines, to investigate the affair.

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Eckington - Serious Coalpit Accident at Renishaw Park.

On Saturday morning at about 8 o'clock, an explosion occurred at the No. 2 coal pit of Messrs. J. and G. Wells, by which two of their workmen, Thomas Edwards, of Eckington, and Samuel Sissons, of Mosbro', were seriously injured. At the time specified Edwards had been engaged in drilling for a blast, and had stooped down with a 2 lb. canister of blasting powder in his hand and a naked candle by his side, when, by some cause or other, the powder exploded, burning Edwards severely about the chest, arms and face. One party says that the man was careless in putting the powder into its place, and held the light too near: the men say that the naked candle exploded some gas, which in its turn, exploded the powder. However it is, the man Edwards is most seriously burnt, and could not see. Sissons is not so bad. Edwards has just recovered from a serious accident, by burning in the same pit.

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Page 3 Col. 3

Staveley - Serious Accident.

On Thursday, as a collier named Christopher Cresswell, was returning from work at Springwell Colliery, walking in the forefoot of the auxiliary line, he was overtaken by a locomotive, when owing, it is supposed, by the noise made by the adjacent washing machine, he failed to hear its whistle, he was knocked down, engine and tender passing over him. He was taken home, and attended by Dr. Hall. His right leg and several ribs have been fractured, and his right arm completely smashed at the shoulder. He is sixty years of age, and has been injured on several previous occasions. His state is very precarious. - On the same day, a youth named John Stephens, was seriously burned at the Old Works. He was assisting to carry a ladle of molten iron for a casting, when, catching his foot against something, he fell, and the vessel was overturned. The boiling fluid ran over him filling his boots and burning him in a shocking manner. He was taken to the Chesterfield Hospital.