

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 3rd. Feb. 1866.

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Advertisement.

To Carpenters and Engine Tenters.

Wanted a carpenter, accustomed to colliery work, also an engine-tenter. Apply to Addy and Ward, Coal Aston, Dronfield.

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The Potters Strike at Brampton.

As we anticipated the potters have unable to continue the struggle with the masters having no funds upon which to fall back. This being evident the men had the good sense not to prolong their useless contest which would only lead to bitter feelings without any good end being obtained. On Wednesday last they returned to their employment upon the terms on an increase of 1d. per score. The "twelves" for the present, at least, to the considered as heretofore. We hope the unpleasant feelings which this unfortunate dispute has engendered will be forgotten, and that in future should any difference arise the men will, rather than resort to a strike, meet the masters by deputation and by sound reasoning and argument, arrange such differences mutually and amicably.

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The Coal and Iron Trade of Chesterfield and District.

Although the high price of money operates judicially the (????) great extension of business, abundant proof is afforded that the iron trade is in a very healthy condition. Manufacturers of iron complain that the higher price of pig-iron precludes a reasonable margin of profit on iron casting but notwithstanding this grumbling the iron masters at the last quarterly meeting declined to make any alterations in the existing rates. The coal trade is very active and Staveley, Clay Cross, Whittington and, indeed, the little collieries where the mineral is carted away for private customers, great difficulty is experienced in getting a supply of the black diamonds. The Whittington Estate Colliery Company was a short time ago advertised for sale and we are glad to hear that terms have been arranged between the Company and the mortgagees and now the works will go on or there would have been a fair prospect of the concern being closed for a time.

The Staveley Company have a large order for pipes on hand, indeed they have a reputation for excellence in pipe castings.

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The Potters Strike in Derbyshire.

Mr. Pearson writes to say that the example of the potters on strike at Brampton has not been followed by the potters of Whittington Moor none of who has struck work.

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No Headline.

A man named Richard Chapman, working at the Speedwell Pit, Staveley, was so seriously injured on Thursday week as to raise doubts of his ultimate recovery.

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Seymour - Charged with stealing a pick.

Richard Short was charged with stealing a pick, value 2-0d., the property of John Varley at Staveley on the 26th. of January. The complainant said that he left his pick at the pit-bottom on returning to fetch it found that it had gone. He afterwards saw it with others in another part of the pit and watched it. Prisoner came and fetched it with some others. On being spoken to by complainant said that it was his and refused to give it up. Richard Hepplethwaite, overlooker, said that the parties came to him about the pick and after hearing both sides he was unable to say to which of them the pick belonged. Case dismissed, the defendant to pay expenses.

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Smoking in a Coal-Pit.

Joseph Davis, of Marsden Moor, and Joseph Walton, of Eckington, were charged with having committed the above offense on the 22nd. January. Mr. Samuel Hardwick, steward, said the defendants worked for Mr. Wells at the Park Pit. They were good steady men but the owners must put a stop to such proceedings. The Bench impressed upon the men the dangers of such proceedings and fined them £1 each including costs or fourteen days to Derby.

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Stealing a Wedge.

William Kent, collier, was charged by Mr. Hancock with stealing an iron wedge with which he worked in the pit. Joseph Hardwick, underground viewer, proved the case. Remanded until next Monday.

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Iron and Coal Trades of Chesterfield and District.

(Specially written for the Derbyshire Times).

Feb 8th.

There is no indication of any diminution in the activity which has characterised the iron trade for some time past. The ironworks on the Erewash Valley are exceedingly busy. The Butterley Company, in particular, having some very large orders to execute. At Staveley the greatest activity prevails not only in the collieries but also in the foundries and the same may be said of Clay Cross. A very considerable uneasiness has prevailed with regards to the health of the principle partner in the Clay Cross firm, Mr. W. Jackson, M.P. who has been suffering severely in London from Bronchitis but having seen and met the Hon. Member's son we are able to state that Mr. Jackson is out of danger but it is anticipated that some time must elapse before he will be fit for active business, Parliamentary or otherwise. Demand for railway springs which are now chiefly made at Sheffield is very brisk and orders both for home and the continent continue to increase largely.

There is much dissatisfaction existing amongst the many colliers in Yorkshire and other counties owing to the interference of the miners national union. A meeting of the colliers employed by the Bowling Iron Company was held on Monday last where representations were made by the men that their wages had been gradually reduced 2-0d. to 3-0d. per week. The men agreed to make a representation to their employers with a view to having their wages increased.

Demand for coal continues unabated and rates remain exceedingly firm even at a late rise. Hard coal for steam purposes is in great request and the orders are quite large as can conveniently be executed. The London market still calls for undiminished supplies. As regards the provinces it continues to be an unusually brisk enquiry especially for export.

The colliers at the Shireoaks Pits near Worksop, the property of the Duke of Newcastle, are on strike for an advance of wages and it is thought that the strike would have been easily settled but the union discovered a hitch in the terms proposed and the men now remain out.

The Derbyshire lead mines continue to be unmoved as far as the share market is concerned. The difficulties in driving to the vein at Mill Dam and Eyam are great.

The Directors of each undertaking, however, are working earnestly to get into good work again and until they accomplish this end the share and stock will remain quiet. Most of the mines worked by private individuals are doing tolerably well but they are content with mostly eking out the ore left by the old miner.

The stock and share markets are quiet except for bank shares, which are enquired for. The Sheffield Banking Company is just declared a dividend of 20% on the year.

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Stealing an Iron Wedge.

A man named William Kemp, of Lightwood, collier, was also brought up on remand charged with stealing an iron wedge from the Park Collieries of Messrs. J. and G. Wells, Eckington, the property of a workman named Henry Stephenson. He was remanded at large.

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Staveley - Serious Fire at Springwell Pit.

Yesterday (Friday) an alarming rumour gained credit in Chesterfield and the neighbourhood of Staveley to the effect that the coal in the Springwell Pit at Staveley had taken fire and some lives had been sacrificed. On enquiry upon the spot we learned from the best authority that the rumour was very much exaggerated. Some inclines in the pit are worked by a stationary engine near the shaft bottom which is supplied with steam by the means of some pipes from boilers on the top. The coal around these pipes took fire about thirty yards from the shaft yesterday morning and at 8 a.m. it was necessary to get all the men out except those engaged in extinguishing the flames. Mr. Campbell, the viewer, who was absent, was telegraphed for although at the time of his arrival (3 p.m.) the fire was nearly out and all fear of danger was reported at an end.

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Staveley.

Staveley Coal and Iron Company.

The Staveley Coal and Iron Company declared a dividend for the half-year ending Dec. 30th. 1865 of £5 per share on the old shares and 16-8d. per share on the new shares which is rather more than 12½% on the paid up capital of the Company. Since the formation of the Company the business has been conducted with great skill and enterprise by Charles Markham Esq., the managing director. We congratulate the shareholders upon the satisfactory position of their ??????????.

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North Whittington.

Miners National Provident Association.

Mr. William Brown, miners agent of Yorkshire, and Mr. J. Edwards, miners agent of the Nottingham and Derby District, of Woodhouse Junction, attended as a deputation for the Miners National Provident Association, at a meeting of pit-men at the Dusty Miller on Monday last, Mr. John Catchpole in the chair. The objects of the meeting were to seek an advance of wages and a shortening of the hours of labour. The chairman stated that the hours of labour were so protracted, and the work so laborious, that few men could work for six continuous days. Hence, although they got a good wage for one week day, they could not for a week, nor were they paid equal rates with those of other counties. Mr. Edwards said that he had for some time seen a great necessity for a movement of this kind. Their object was to get the miners of this district up to the level of other counties. They were often told that the miners union was antagonistic to the interests of masters and men but he thought it would promote the welfare of both. Both employers and employed had equally a right to get as much percentage as possible for their capital. Employers say that if you unite we shall have to unite as well. Now they usually make the miner do as they like. They could not if they were united. The reason why they were not paid as good wages as other shires is because they do not ask for an advance. The masters never lose a chance in the markets so the men ought to seek to be paid equal to those of other shires. The weight of tons in this county vary from 21 cwts. to 27 cwts. or as many as you like for each ton. He knew instances where 27 cwt. was reckoned to the ton and each hundredweight contained 120 lbs. so that the draughts thrown in each ton of coal weighted 34 cwt. In some places men get coal by measure but the quantity varies as by weight. In other districts miners ??????? 5 to 6s. per day whilst those in this district are getting 3-6d. to 4-6d. for 12, 14 or 16 hours a day. By the help of the national union there was not doubt but that they would succeed in getting their wages raised and their hours of labour reduced as at Shireoaks where they were asked to submit to a reduction of 3d. per day but succeeded in getting an advance of 6d. being a difference of 9d. per day. Mr. Brown said that the rules of the miners association demanded that the miners shall not work more than 8 hours per day and out of that to have 1 for refreshment. Now miners generally were so fatigued with excessive labour they generally fell asleep as soon as they had had their dinner and ??????? that they could be roused. The work was too laborious to permit of such long hours without entailing disease and early death. They wished the miners children to be educated and to have an opportunity of going to the day-school for all the day or at least, at any rate, half the day just as the factory children do now. If the masters now deprive them of their just rights as to weights etc. it was the miners own fault for living apart instead of being united. The union would support the men in a just cause but did not like them to subsist on bread and water whilst fighting for their own rights ??????????. Hence they allowed sufficient weekly sums to maintain themselves and families. The men of Yorkshire and Derbyshire were like the spokes of a cartwheel. Yorkshire men at the top and Derbyshire men at the bottom. They wished to turn the spokes around that both might be on the level. In July last the Horn of Liberty was sounded on Drightlington Common and clearly answered in the form of the union which had grown gradually and would pay better wages for less hours of labour than is the case in Derbyshire. There were 3,320 men in the union in West Yorkshire. They were receiving £1000 per week more wages, £52,000 a year serious item to be divided amongst 3,320 men. They would ??????? many comforts. He did not know of any reason why the men in Derbyshire should not enjoy higher

wages and less labour. He hoped that they would not think of having strikes but if anything was wrong to let them send for the agent to go with a deputation to the masters.

A Correspondent.

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The State of Brampton Churchyard.

For some times past complaints have appeared in our columns of the disgraceful state of Brampton Churchyard. A recent correspondent asserted good ground for his statement that the soil was so flooded with water that to keep a grave open it was necessary to continually pumped to prevent it filling with water before the corpse was interred. It appeared that some time ago the churchyard was drained into a level communicating with some workings in Ashgate. The outlet of the level became choked up and in consequence instead of the water flowing into the level, the level flowed water into the churchyard. Accordingly a movement was set on foot to initiate a system of drainage for the churchyard and a meeting was held at the St. Thomas's schoolroom, Brampton for the purpose. Amongst those who attended were the Rev. J.M. Mello, M.A., incumbent, the Rev. S. Greatbed, curate of St. Thomas's, Messrs. A. Barnes, Walton Wright, T. Elliott, T. Shipton, M. Knowles, S. Gregory, J. Gratton, A. Cupit, G. Hewitt, Messrs. Hewitt and Cawton, churchwardens etc. The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the best steps for draining the churchyard and therefor had not the power to grant rate no notice having been given on the church door. The worthy incumbent explained that the only question before them was as to the method would be done as there could be no two opinions as to the advisability of it. The great question for the meeting to consider was to whether they were to have a church or voluntary rate. Mr. M. Knowles and some other gentlemen appeared to consider that they might levy a rate for the work without calling it a church rate but Mr. T. Shipton and the incumbent said that the ??????????????????. The chairman said that whilst calling it a church rate they could state for what purpose it was levied. Mr. Cupit and another gentleman considered the work unnecessary and on it being proposed by Mr. Elliott and seconded by Mr. Gratton that the churchyard be drained the proposition was immediately carried. A second proposition to the effect that a vestry meeting be called for the purpose of levying a church rate was also put and carried and the meeting came to a close.

Subsequently, however, it was found that there was a strong feeling in the parish against the church rate for any purposes and it was decided to abandon the proposal for a compulsory rate and either raise the money by subscriptions or by a voluntary state. It is proposed to drain the churchyard into a neighbouring brook and it is estimated that it will take above 500 yards of piping to effect the work at a total cost of something under £100. The churchwardens being averse to church rates have since determined to raise the fund by soliciting voluntary contributions and with the assistance of other gentlemen will make a house to house visit in the course of the next weeks for the purposes. The work which has already been commenced will be carried on under the able superintendence of Mr. Gratton of Walton Hall and Mr. Hewitt, mining engineer, who have kindly offered to give their services.