

Derbyshire Times.

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Advert - To Sinkers.

Wanted, a number of experienced Sinkers. - Apply to Mr. Thomas Emmerson, Kiveton Park Colliery, near Worksop.

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Wingerworth Coal Co. v. The Midland Railway Co.

This was claim against the Midland Railway Company for the loss caused by the damage done to certain waggons, and the loss of time for their being rendered useless. Mr. Busby for plaintiff, and Mr. Huish, barrister, for the Midland Railway Company. By agreement between the learned gentlemen the amount in dispute was reduced to £27-17-3d. Of this sum three items were claimed for loss of time whilst the waggons were being repaired, and to this claim Mr. Huish objected on the ground that a plaintiff could not recover for any profits he would have made but for the tort (wrong) sustained. In support of this argument he cited several cases. His Honour reserved the point, and the case proceeded. The plaintiffs have an incline communicating from the Williamthorpe Collieries with the Midland Railway their waggons being let down and drawn up by balancing the loaded ones against the empty ones, in a manner common in this district. This incline is worked by the Midland Railway Company's servants, the waggons being delivered into their charge at the head of the incline. On the 24th. of October several waggons whilst being let down escaped from the controlling power of the defendants servants and were smashed, the damage done amounted to £21 odd. It was further shown that the plaintiffs had previously cautioned the defendants that it was not safe to let down so many waggons as they were in the habit of doing, and that if any accident occurred they would be held responsible. On this point a reply was read from the defendants declining to accept the responsibility. Mr. John Ward was called and deposed - I am one of the partners in this colliery and manager. Have known the incline eighteen years. It is 600 yards long. We deliver our waggons about 100 yards from the top of the incline. I think four loaded waggons as many as ought to be sent down, but defendants have sent five, where formerly they only sent three or four. Since they increased the number (from increased traffic) we have had many accidents - Breaking of drawbars, etc. I remember the accident on the 24th. of October. Some charge, £21, is considerably less than the damage cost us. Cross-examined - We improved the waggons when they were repaired, but we have estimated this as the amount required to place them in as good a condition as before. There were many accidents previous to this from the increased number of waggons sent down. There might have been one or two accidents when a fewer number were sent down. There was another colliery - Grassmoor - which sends down waggons on this incline, and the Midland Company say they are compelled to send down the larger number of waggons at a time in consequence of the amount of traffic. I believe the waggon which first gave way at the drawbar was not well welded at the drawbar. It had made three journeys. I do not think that it would have broken if only three waggons had been sent down. - Mr. John Wilmot Fearn, Mining Engineer - I have twenty years experience of inclines of this description, and know this incline, which I superintended for several years before it came into the hands of the defendants. During our time the maximum number of waggons let down was three. The strain of a larger number was liable to break the drawbars in case of any sudden check. A sudden check to the last waggon of five would be sufficient to break the drawbar. I gauged the wheels of this waggon which ran off the rails, and found them true. The waggons run at this point sixteen and a half feet per second (about twelve miles an hour). The gradient is one in ten. The strain of a sudden check on the last waggon would be about seventy tons. The drawbar was one and a half inches and should break at forty four tons strain. Seventy tons was greatly too much. Cross-examined - I am not aware the waggons run down in this case were the smaller ones. One of them was and I have not seen the others. The drawbar produced is not a perfect weld. I think it would bear three waggons but it would not bear five. If it was perfect a bar of this kind would not be strong enough for a sudden jerk of five waggons. If the last waggon got off the road the strain would

break. William Daft, blacksmith to the plaintiffs, went to the place immediately after the accident. From the appearances he judged that the fifth waggon got off the line, and by the jerk the drawbar broke. In defence Mr. Huish urged that the imperfections of the plaintiffs drawbar was the sole cause of the accident, and consequently the defendants were not liable. William Boam, engineman employed by the Company, - By duty is to brake down the coal waggons. On the day of the accident I braked down the five waggons - one was a smaller one and there was one of least slack. I have been in the habit of braking down heavier weights than this. We send down thirty or forty times a day. If the machinery be in proper order we can send down this weight quite safely. The accident occurred about sixty yards from the top of the incline. The waggons had not got up to full speed. I saw the four waggons bound forward and then the fifth jumped and got off the line. I did not say that I saw the waggons off the line before the bar broke. I gave the last witness to understand that it was the breaking of the drawbar in my opinion. Cross-examined - There have been many accidents. The largest number we have sent down has been six loaded waggons. Richard Heaton, station-master, Clay Cross, went to the scene of the accident shortly after it had occurred. In his opinion it was owing to the breaking of the drawbar. There was nothing on the rails to cause the waggons to get off. Has only known this accident with five waggons - the others have been with four waggons. This incline is in witnesses charge. John Stapleford, Inspector of the Locomotive Department, Midland Railway, was called to prove that the drawbar produced was a very bad weld. It would only bear a very light strain. If it had been a good weld it would have taken them down. It was a bar along the waggon and was only one and a quarter inches instead of one and three quarter inch. It had been used fifteen years. Mr. Matthew Kirtley, engineer of rolling stock to the Midland Railway, also stated the weld to be imperfect. If the bar had been proper it would have sustained a tensile strain of 50,000 lbs. It only stood 9,000 lbs. The breaking strain should be 20 tons. Drawbar had a straining point 5 times less than it ought to have borne. Should, reject waggons as improper if the bars would not take 10 down if required. If that weld had been proper it would have borne the strain of 20 waggons. Cross-examined - the strain on the last waggon would be increased by a sudden jerk or check. It would not be increased twice. It would not be sixteen and a half times increased. The 9,000 lbs. strain would be increased by 5,500 lbs. It could never exceed 50,000 lbs. but as the weld was a bad one it probably it would be 15,000 lbs. It would simply be the additional force required to drag the waggon over the rough surface of the ballast. Mr. Huish and Mr. Busby having summed up their cases, his Honour reserved his judgement as to the waggons, but held that on the points reserved the defendants must pay the £1-13-0d. for loss of time.

(Continued).

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Wingerworth Coal Company v. Midland Railway.

In this case his Honour gave judgement for the full amount, on the ground that defendants had not exercised that care which it was their duty to have done. Costs followed the event.

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Selston Common - Miners Meeting.

During the past week, meetings of coal miners have been held at Swanwick, Somercotes, Morton, Hucknall and other places in Derbyshire and addresses given by Messrs. Brown, Ball, Green and others. Increase of members to the union is very large, varying from 20 to 180 per night. On Tuesday last a large meeting of 500 miners was held in the Market Place, Selston Common, for the purpose of promoting the eight hours per day movement. Mr. Daniel Green was called to the chair, and urged upon all to be truthful and honest to each other. Mr. Brown, of Hunslet, said that every miner that did his duty to himself and his duty to his country. At this time it was the duty of each to try and shorten the hours of labour, and so lengthen his life, which only averaged at present 27 years. Self love and care for his children should cause every miner to aid in the attainment of eight hours labour. The practice of going to work at four o'clock in the morning and returning home at 11 o'clock at night, ought to be given up. I had found out that short hours gave short pay, and short hours and decent pay went together. Black Diamond in the "Ilkeston Pioneer" said that the miners were satisfied. Was it not that they dared not groan out, or was it because you durst not trust each other. You are easily satisfied. There are hundreds who would sooner than pay 6d. per week to a fund and support a glorious society, and would rather go on toiling. Black Diamond wishes to know who is the Treasurer. Well, Mr. J. Hadfield is treasurer, and the money is paid regularly into a Sheffield Bank in the name of five trustees, one of whom being dead, there is a vacancy which could be filled up by Black Diamond if he can give a satisfactory character. The balance sheet was not published, it was neither reasonable nor expedient. They could and would account for every penny at the right time and place. The coal owner did not publish a balance sheet nor would they to the world at large. We are strong, it is not our duty to tell of our strength, nor if weak to expose suffice it to say that knowing the errors of the past, there is no occasion to repeat them. He felt very much grieved in reading the rules of the Hucknall Colliery. They appeared to be written to serve the masters purpose alone without consideration for the working man. Any unprincipled manager could construct anything into his conduct. A working man acting as chairman could be easily punished. He could order him from a good place in the pit to a harder one, and on their refusal, the mans wages are forfeited and he may be taken before the magistrates and sent to prison. Rules for the mutual well-being of master and men ought to be drawn up by both parties consulting with each other and should be binding upon both parties. The miners work is so laborious that he ought to be allowed to go home when he was tired. When his strength was spent and he had done a fair days work he ought not to have to ask the steward's permission to retire. Again according to the fifth rule a man must work where he is wished. It may be one day at heading, the next in an air course, the third in an engine house, and the fourth day in a ditch, and in case of refusal liable to instant dismissal and to fine and imprisonment. And yet Black Diamond says that you are satisfied. All those who are satisfied hold up your hands, (not one, whilst upwards of five hundred showed that they were not satisfied). These and other rules so obnoxious to right thinking men were signed by them, and could not be altered without giving 28 days notice. It was a pleasure to announce that the Miners Association was prospering, and the tyrannical whip was growing shorter, and soon it would be found that a man would do his work better without such rules. A system of working twelve hours was highly injurious both to masters and men. In eight hours a man would do as much work as he now does in twelve during a whole twelve month. In Yorkshire the men worked every day filling as many coals in one day as another, the men would soon find that there would be as much money for a smaller number filled, as they now get for large quantities. At Cinderhill the tubs average one and a half hundredweight more

than they did a month ago. They now get 21 cwt. for the ton, and when the system of working eight hours a day giving the masters 21 cwt. to the ton becomes universal, then there will be a less waste of coal in the pits. For at present there are tens of thousands of tons of coal thrown every year into the gob. This saving of material and the increase of wages that will follow will provide a vast fund for their protection from wrong and relief in sickness and old age as well provisions for wife and children. There for twelve hours labour a man got 4-0d., then for eight he will get 5-0d. To get this, they must, to a man, join the union and not say "I joined the union once 16 years ago and because a man ran off with 4-6d won't join any more". The folly of that is seen in the fact that the masters have been getting 2-0d. per day from each. They must unite and persevere until they get honest men to discharge to duties of the society and relief from their oppression. In Yorkshire they have proved that every figure put in the shop books for twelve hours labour, could be rubbed out with eight hours to keep down the price of labour. Coals ought to be kept in their own beds until they were wanted. Now if the factors profits can be saved there will be more for the miner. Labour makes Capital and not Capital Labour, which is dishonouring to God to throw away as at present, so much valuable coal.

"Contributed".

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Staveley Coal and Iron Company (Limited).

The directors of this Company have issued their balance sheet for the year ending June the 30th., preparatory to the annual meeting. The paid up capital of the Company amounts to £416,000, in addition to which there is still due to the executors of Mr. Barrow, over £99,000, increasing the capital to £515,262. The assets of the Company are stated at £640,754, leaving a balance of £125,492. From this balance there are deductions to be made, of which the following are the principal items: Railway Tolls, Royalties, and Rents due from the Company, £28,706; Sundry Accounts owing by the Company, £46,790; Suspense Account, £2,000; General Depreciation Fund, £13,000. These, with other smaller sums, amount to £94,148, leaving the balance of profit, £31,344. Out of this sum it is proposed to pay £19,550 in dividend, being at the rate of £3 per share (£60 paid-up) leaving £9,000 to go to the Depreciation Fund, £1,833 towards the payment of preliminary expenses. During the year interim dividends of £8 a share have been paid, making, with the £3 now proposed, a dividend for the year of £11 per share on £60 paid-up, or £18-6-8d. per cent. It is necessary to remark that the vendors shares are taken up at £80 paid-up, while the dividend on them is the same as on the ordinary shares with £60 paid-up. The total reserves after the payment of the dividend proposed will be £24,650.

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Alfreton - Coal Pit Accident.

On Wednesday, the 22nd. inst., an inquest was held at the Plough Inn, Alfreton, on the body of Joseph Bakewell, aged 13 years, who was killed in the Highfield coalpit, at Alfreton, on Monday, the 20th. inst., under the following circumstances. Richard Kirk, aged 15, said that on Monday, the 20th. inst., about half past three p.m., he was at the pit, about 12 yards from the deceased. Deceased had charge of the brake at the top of the incline, and witness the hanging on at the bottom. Deceased was on the incline plane, shaking the chain to start the full train at the top of the incline, and so pull up the empty ones from the bottom. Whilst deceased was shaking the chain the tubs started down. Deceased had a belt on and a hook in the belt, used for lifting trams onto the road when they got off the lines, and the hook caught in the links of the chain and drew deceased up and round the drum at the top of the incline, and killed him directly. He ought to have taken the belt off before he started the incline, and had been told to do so many times. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death" and said that they considered that boys of the age of deceased should not be entrusted with such responsible duties.

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Staveley - Man killed by Locomotive Engine.

On Tuesday, the 28th. inst., an inquest was held at the Barrow Hill Hotel, Staveley, on the body of Christopher Cresswell, coalminer, aged 59 years, who was knocked down by a locomotive engine on Thursday afternoon, the 23rd. inst., and who died on Sunday the 26th. On Thursday afternoon at about 3 p.m. an engine and tender was passing along the line from Springwell Pit, when the deceased crossed over the line, about 20 yards in front and walked beside the railway about 2 yards from the outer rail, until the tender (which was in front) got within a yard or two of him, when he stepped into the forefeet, and was struck by the tender and fell between the rails. The wheels did not go over him, but he sustained severe injuries. The engine which was travelling at about 8 miles an hour at the time, was stopped in about 8 yards. Deceased was sensible when the fireman went to him, and told the fireman that he was hard of hearing and he did not hear the engine. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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The Staveley Coal and Iron Company (Limited).

The Annual Meeting of this Company was held at Manchester, on Friday, when the following report of the Directors was presented and adopted: - "Your Directors submit herewith the Balance Sheet of the Company for the year ending the 30th. of June, 1866. Total net profit for the year is £82,713-11-9d., which, added to the balance of last years profits (£763-18-1d.), makes a total available profit of £83,477-9-10d., out of which your directors have paid dividends of £5 per old share, and 16-8d. per new share, on February 21st., and £3 per old share, and 10-0d. per new share, on June the 27th. leaving the balance of profit unappropriated of £31,344-3-2d. Your directors recommend that the balance of the preliminary expense account of £1,833-7-1d. be written off - and the sum of £9,000 be appropriated to the general depreciation fund, and that a further dividend of £3 per old share and 10-0d. per new share be now declared, the same to be payable of the 3rd. September, making a total of £11 per old share, and £1-16-8d. per new share for the year. These further dividends will require £19,550 and leave £960-16-1d. to come forward to next account. The directors have during the past year had every reason to be satisfied with the general course of the Company's business. Mr. Markham, managing director, and the whole of the other officers of the Company, have performed their respective duties in an efficient and satisfactory manner. Your directors have endeavoured as far as practical, and regardless of expense, to insure the utmost amount of safety for the workmen employed in these works, they have satisfaction in believing that if freedom from serious accidents at collieries will compare most favourably with the best conducted works in the kingdom. A portion of the sum of £1,000 set aside by resolution at the last ordinary general meeting for religious and educational purposes, have been expended, the whole amount will be appropriated in a way most likely to contribute to the educational improvement and wellbeing of the children of the work people in the employment of the Company."

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Riddings - Fall down a Pit Shaft.

On Friday, the 31st. ult, an inquest was held before Mr. Coroner Busby, at Riddings, on the body of Thomas Gee, colliery labourer, aged 40, who fell down the shaft of Messrs. Oakes coalpit at Riddings, on Wednesday, the 29th. of August. John Brown, aged 12 years, machine boy, said - On Wednesday morning about 10 o'clock he was at the machine house against the pit top. It was deceased's duty to have the waggons on the cage when it was at the pit top. Witness heard the deceased ring the signal "one", for the engineman to start the engine to bring up loaded corves and send empty ones down. In two or three seconds witness heard a noise as if something had fallen down the shaft; he looked out of his window, and just saw deceased falling down the shaft. Jonah Massey, banksman, said he was on the top at the time of the accident, on the contrary side of the deceased. The onsetter at the bottom of the shaft rang "one", and shouted to the deceased that there was an empty tub on the chair when it came up. The last witness said he saw deceased getting the tub ready in order to run it on. He heard deceased strike the bottom. The tub fell between the chair and the shaft side when the chair was about 5 yards from the top. The shaft was 40 or 50 yards deep. There is no fencing at the top of the pit, except at the sides, when the pit is working, but it is fenced round when the pit is not working. William Butler, hanger on at the bottom of the shaft, said he saw deceased fall to the bottom. He went to him directly and found that he was dead. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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The Coal Trade.

The coal trade in this neighbourhood is rather hampered through the proceedings of colliers, who seek to better there already good position here, but who we trust will not forfeit the confidence of their employers.

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Great Miners Meetings at Chesterfield and Barnsley.

The Eight Hours Movement.

An account of a meeting held at Chesterfield by the eight hours movement. (Precis).

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The Tapton Colliery Coke and Iron Company Limited v. Oliver and Company Limited.

This action, which relates to the pumping engines at the Lockoford Colliery, was entered for trial at the last Derbyshire Assizes, and was referred to the arbitration of John Fernie Esq., of the Clarence Ironworks, Leeds. The arbiter sat for three days, and after hearing the evidence of about thirty witnesses, and inspecting the works at Lockoford, a large number of drawings, and two well executed models of the engine, he has made his award in favour of Messrs. Oliver and Company. He has also certified that the Special Jury obtained by the defendant, and directed plaintiffs to bear their own costs, to pay the defendants cost of the reference, and also the costs of the awards. The costs of the action above the order of reference to abide the event, and the Tapton Company have thus to pay all the costs on both sides of the action, reference, and award.

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Miners v. Masters.

The Eight Hours Movement.

Important Meeting between Masters and Men.

On Thursday the 6th. inst., Mr. Markham, the managing director of the Staveley Company, met in the Workmens hall, a large deputation of colliers from various pits belonging to the Company. He observed that he trusted that the object of requesting the men to meet him would not be misunderstood. He thought it was due to them as workmen that he should express his opinions upon the proceedings that had taken place on the previous Monday. He stated that he himself had been connected with the working classes all his life, and he had never been placed in antagonism with the working man, and if he was compelled to take such a course he would always look back at it with sorrow and regret. He did not wish to hold out any threat, and as he was anxious that no misunderstanding should exist between them, he had met them to enquire what was the cause of the grievance which had led them to adopt the course that they had pursued on the previous Monday. Since he had been connected with the Staveley Company, he believed, nobody could say that any workman had been treated harshly or unfairly, as it had always been his instruction to Mr. Campbell to treat the working man with the same consideration as if he was rich; and for the long acquaintance he had had with Mr. Campbell, he was sure that there was no man in the kingdom more desirous of dealing fairly and justly with every person under his charge. Staveley colliers were all of them now getting better wages than previous to the formation of the Company, and no one regretted their prosperity, and it was a source of pleasure to all that it was so. He had observed that at intervals there was a number of thoughtless men prepared to enter into combinations without sufficiently understanding the object they proposed to accomplish, and he warned them to pause, before joining any such movement, and reflect upon the loss and misery which might result, not only to themselves, but to their wives and families, as he could assure them that it was the desire of the Company he represented to see a continuation of the same union of confidence between the masters and men that had existed in the Staveley Works for so many years past which has resulted in a steady and constant employment for men. Mr. Markham then touched generally upon some of the supposed grievances of the men, amongst which was the question of weights, and he explained that any alteration in the present arrangement would result in no advantage to them, as a reduction in the quantity of coal for which they were at present paid, caused a equivalent reduction in the price paid. Mr. Markham then said that he would be glad to hear anything the men had to say and some of the older hands expressed their satisfaction with the present state of things. A complaint was made by one of the New Hollingwood men that too many tubs were taken off the stallmen for dirt, etc., when they came to bank, when Mr. Campbell stated that if men thought proper they should appoint a man on their own behalf, upon whom they could rely, whose duty would be to decide when tubs should be taken off, and the Company would willingly pay such man 24-Od. per week. The system had lately been adopted at Springwell to the satisfaction of both masters and men.

A desultory conversation then ensued with one of the men, who had only been employed by the Company for a limited period, stated plainly that what they wanted was money and less work.

Mr. Markham then observed that he would rather hear the opinions of the men who had been employed by the Company for a number of years, who were better acquainted with the different works, upon which the majority of the men left the room, and the meeting terminated.

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Miners Meeting.

Selston Common.

Two months ago, a lodge was formed at Selston, in connection with the Nottingham District of the Miners National Association.

A number of members at present is upwards of 200. On Monday last, these with their wives, and friends, to the number of between 600 and 700 sat down to tea in the market place, there being no less than 5 sittings down, such was the numbers present. The weather was very favourable indeed. A Brass Band was in attendance, which played with considerable energy and skill, at intervals.

Mr. Brown of Hunslet was chairman. He said that it gave him pleasure to tell them, that they were adding to their union 100 members a week, and that the masters were not so hostile as they were. He was very much pleased to find that the editor of the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph" gave them credit for being rational human beings, who were improving their manners: for he said in reference to the two great meetings held at Chesterfield and Barnsley that it would have been impossible twenty years ago to hold such meetings without a disturbance.

A hymn, "A Home in Heaven." "What a Joyful Thought." was then sung with much harmony.

The chairman then said that he wished to impress upon the wives this union was not so much to promote strikes as to keep poverty from their dwellings. That day no less than three cases had been brought before the Board of men who had gone down the pit well and hearty - but who would never be able to work again. He hoped soon that both in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, they would have rules fully carried out to meet all such cases. They soon would have men joining the union by scores every day. The union was not hostile to the masters - but it was to do right to both parties - many times the men had struck when there was not sufficient reason. He hoped all would join, and that they would have confidence in each other and not be afraid to pay their sixpence a week. It was a pity that there was so much jealousy, for if they wanted the benefit they must first pay in. Sixpence a week was only 26 shillings a year, and if they lost all it would not be so much - and he thought - that they were best off who had no occasion to draw anything out. He understood that the employers were agreeable to them to work ten hours a day.

After some words from Mr. Normansall, Mr. R. Bunting, Ilkeston, said that there was a constant struggle on the part of humanity to achieve for itself higher attainments and better conditions. The growth of intelligence and the increase of wealth had opened newer and high prospects for good. It had long been a reproach to this country, that two of the most important parts of its commercial enterprise, coal and iron, should have been treated with so much contempt. The great bulk of miners had been looked upon by their masters as the farmer looks upon his spade. He was glad that now there was a move in the right direction, and with a judicious policy, we shall be able to extricate ourselves from the position into which we have fallen. Only let us ask reasonably and make our request in a proper spirit, seeking only legitimate

terms. Then success will be ours. Working men, we want you to begin to respect yourselves, all trades are on the advance, and I want you as miners to advance in the same ratio.

The speaker then gave some figures showing that at Staveley - the miners that got a thousand tons of coal were only paid for 714 tons, or 24 tons at 21 cwt. per ton, were paid for 17 tons - 23 tons at 21 cwt., were paid for 16 tons. For 40 tons - they were paid for 28 tons. Supposing they raised 3,000 tons per 2 days, they would be paid 2,142 leaving a surplus of 858 tons for the masters.

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Meeting of Miners at New Whittington.

On Tuesday evening, a meeting of miners took place at the Angel Inn, New Whittington, when addresses were given by Messrs. Ball and Herring, of Handsworth Woodhouse, on behalf of the National Miners Association. Mr. Joseph Lee presided. The speakers, after pointing out the benefits to be derived by joining the Union, urged the necessity that existed for miners improving their position. The changes that had taken place in the trade were pointed out; and miners were urged not to be content until their time has been reduced to eight per day and their wages increased to 2 guineas per week. This he was sure they could get if they only combined. The masters had a union; why not the men? The miners present were advised to do nothing rashly, but act decently and in order. The singing of one of the Miners Hymn's terminated the proceedings.

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No Headline.

The quantity of gold raised in the whole of Wales during the year 1861 reached 2,886 oz.; In 1862, 5,299 oz.; In 1863, 552 oz.; In 1864, 2,333 oz.; In 1865, 1,664 oz.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

The works in the neighbourhood of Staveley and Chesterfield continue in the same state of activity which has characterised them for some months, notwithstanding the general depression of the iron-trade in nearly every other part of the country. The demand for coal in the same district is brisk, and the Midland are taking large quantities to London and the South. It is expected that the extensive coalfield of Lord Wharnccliffe, at Carlton, on the Midland Railway, will shortly be opened out, and an iron works in connection with the colliery will also be established. The estate is a large one, and the works will be among the largest in the district. The new shaft being sunk in Barnsley, to connect the one at the Warley Main Collieries, in Worsboro' Dale, is being proceeded with, the sinkers having got the water under. At Wenaby (sic), also, where a large colliery is being sunk under the Magnesian formations, the workings being rapidly proceeded with, and the shafts being sunk to a depth of about 160 feet.

"Mining Journal".

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Termination of the Colliers Strike in South Yorkshire.

The strike of the colliers belonging to the extensive pits of Messrs. Newton and Co. of Chapeltown and Thorncliffe, has terminated after lasting upwards of nine months. We recollect that shortly before Christmas the colliers in South Yorkshire demanded an advance of 5% on their wages, and weekly pays. Messrs. Newton and Company wished to make certain advances so as to equalise as far as possible the good and bad working places, which were refused, and the men have been laid out ever since. During the last week negotiations were entered into with a view to putting an end to the struggle, and on Saturday last Mr. Normansell and Mr. Casey on the part of the Miners Association, had an interview with Mr. Chambers and Mr. S. Plimsoll, at the Workmen's Hall, Chapeltown, when it was agreed that the men should resume work on Tuesday, the conditions being the same as accepted by the other proprietors in the district. One of the principal difficulties to be got over was with regard to the men who had taken the getting of coal by contract, but as many of these have recently joined the Association, the matter was arranged, and the men returned to the places they worked in previous to the strike. The cost to the Association of maintaining the men has been upwards of £6,000.

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Derbyshire Iron Trade and Mining.

The coal and iron trades of North Derbyshire are not undergone any material change since last noticed. Business generally is good, and in consequence of the new collieries now being opened, outbuilding operations are being actively pushed forward to meet the requirements of the large number of men who will shortly be brought into the district. At the Staveley works the output of iron is fully up to the average, and a large business is being done in pipes. In addition to the large requirements of the company for their own ironworks, the returns show that they exported to London last month no less than 6,740 tons. At the works at Clay Cross business has been very brisk, indeed, no less than 17,397 tons having been sent to the metropolis alone during the month of August. Several other collieries in the same district are about to be opened out, and the advent of the New Year will be a means of introducing several new and important works to add to the mineral wealth of Derbyshire, which may at present be said to be in its infancy. A number of persons in Sheffield and its neighbourhood are interested in the lead mines of Derbyshire, which for a considerable time past have been anything but promising. At one or two of them however, the works have been pushed forward with great activity, and a fair quantity of ore has been brought to surface, so that the shares have slightly advanced, and Peak Forest being quoted at fully £2 premium. The Eyam, the Milldam, and Peak United still remain at a discount, and as the work at these mines has been pushed forward for the purpose of more fully developing them, it is expected that in a short time satisfactory returns will be made; otherwise shareholders will not be so buoyant as they have continued to be under the most discouraging prospects. At the extensive works of Messrs. Dawes - at Milton and Elsecar, business is in something like the state previously noted. The strike of the puddlers against the introduction of the furnaces patented by Mr. Wilson has given way to a feeling of confidence in them, so that the prejudice against the aforementioned is in a fair way of being removed for those who looked upon them as likely to be an injury to the workmen. Mr. Wilson states that the trial made by the men has in every way been in his favour, although they entertained the strongest feelings against them. The advantages of the patent are now being recognised in the district, and the furnaces are being erected at the extensive works of Messrs. Naylor, Vickers and Company, S. Fox and Company, Messrs. Firth and Company, and others.

"Mining Journal".

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. Sept. 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

The Miners Eight Hours Movement - Meeting at Swanwick.

On Wednesday evening, a very enthusiastic meeting of miners from the Swanwick district was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Swanwick. Mr. Brown, of Hunslet, near Leeds, addressed the meeting. Speaking of the efforts made by miners to improve their position, he said that they had tried to do that twenty, thirty or perhaps forty years ago, in an isolated and individual manner, but had found themselves too weak to contend with those who use their despotic power to keep them down - (Hear, Hear). At Staveley, a few days ago, a colliery owner said that he met a deputation of men who expressed themselves satisfied on the whole with the present state of things. Now, if he has been rightly informed, that deputation was of that gentleman's own choosing, and consisted of a few who held the best positions. They were taken as a fair criterion or average. He wished to show that such was unfair and incorrect. They might say that 5-0d. per day was 30-0d. per week. So it was, supposing a miner to work six days a week, and no miner in existence did that long together; and if they wanted to strike a proper average, they must take into account the short days. Those who were doing the best were not very well off, but those who were doing the worse were very badly off indeed; and the only way to remedy the evil was to unite and combine. At Staveley they have worked very harmoniously together for some years, whilst the men were inclined to dance to the tune of their masters (Laughter) but wanted to go a little faster their masters objected. What had the Staveley men got for joining the Union? Why this - and he wanted the public to know it, because public opinion was a great power nowadays - 100 of them had received notices to leave their houses, though they had never asked one farthing advance. Was that right? - (No, No). They never interfered with the masters uniting, why should the miners be hindered, when the law of England said that working men might combine to protect their labour in a quiet and peaceful manner? By their labour they had to live, and if they were not adequately paid they could not pay for what they wanted to eat. When the working class did well, every one else shared in the benefits. because working men were just the people to spend their wages. There had been prophecies that the Union would not prosper but die out. The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire branches numbered 300 a short time ago, and last Monday there were 5,500 members, and a fortnightly income which was nearly £300 - (Cheers). That did not look like a failure. What the Union had done for South Yorkshire and other districts if would do for them, if they only used the same means.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. September 1866.

Page 3 Col. 6-7

Letter - The Late Meeting at Staveley.

Sir - Would you be so kind as to allow me a small space to reply to the article in your last impression, head "Important Meeting between the Miners and Masters of the Staveley Company". In the first place Mr. Editor, we beg to say that the deputation was of the masters or their agents own choosing not chosen by the men. But these crude deputations the Staveley miners will not agree to. Mr. Markham stated that he himself had been connected with the working classes all his life, and he had never been placed in an antagonism with the working man. Mr. Editor, may I be allowed to ask Mr. M. what have the Staveley miners done that he should now begin to take an antagonistic course to the men? Is it because they are joining the Miners National Association. If so, we beg to tell Mr. M. that he has no right to interfere with the men in joining the Association. What would Mr. M. think if the Staveley miners should dictate to the masters what associations they should join? We beg to tell Mr. M. that we live in the land of liberty. We have a right to unite and we shall unite. We beg to ask him if the Staveley miners have had fair weight? Have the Staveley miners had fair remuneration for their labour? Whatever answer he may give to this question we beg to say that they have not had just remuneration. We understand Mr. M. to say "Since he had been connected with the Staveley Company, he believed that no one could say that any workman had been treated harshly or unfairly." We ask him are the miners allowed to have weighmen to see their material fairly weighed. We beg to tell Mr. M. if they have not had this privilege they have not been fairly dealt with. I would further ask him are their ironstone contractors allowed to see their material weighed, if not, we say this is unjust. But to be brief on this point were he to meet the Staveley miners, and tell them and tell them that they have had nothing to complain of in these matters. Mr. M. boldly asserts that the Staveley colliers were all of them getting wages better than previous. Will Mr. M. have the kindness to point out when the Staveley Company ever gave a general advance of wages, and he boldly asserts that all the miners of the Staveley Company are now getting better wages than previous. Mr. M. also states that no-one regrets their prosperity. Well Mr. Editor, as to prosperity however much of this there might be amongst the masters there is not much to be found amongst the men. Mr. M. states that he has observed a number of thoughtless men prepared to enter into combinations without sufficiently understanding the object they propose to accomplish. Now we tell him that those who are entering into combinations are not thoughtless men but every way to the contrary, they are men who look before they leap, think before they speak. Those who are entering into combinations are doing so from the convictions that have been brought on by a lifetime of practical experience that they cannot have grievances redressed any way else than by combinations. In their weakness they have been assaulted, but in their strength they will secure respect. We beg to tell Mr. M. that we do understand the objects that we propose to accomplish and that we don't intend the kind logic he uses, to throw dust in our eyes, we beg to tell him that our eyes are open and our way is clear. But Mr. Markham warns all thoughtless miners to pause before joining any such movement and reflect upon the loss and misery which might result not only to themselves but to their wives and families. Now we beg to tell Mr. M. that if any loss or any misery comes to the miners it will not come from their union but from such as those who tell us that they do not wish to hold out any threat. All who read his remarks in last weeks impression cannot fail to see that they are nothing more or less than a threat to those who have joined the Association. Mr. M. will neither be able to blind the men to the objects which they have in view, nor fright them out of their intentions. Mr. Editor let me be brief on this point and tell Mr. Markham in plain words that the objects of the Miners Association are nothing short of bringing about the day when every miner in Derbyshire will be working no more than eight hours

in the pit one day, and when the miners will have a reasonable remuneration for eight hours work. But this is not all we want to say. We want to ask him what reason there is in men being twelve, thirteen, fourteen, and in some cases fifteen hours in the pit in one day. Now we beg to tell Mr. M. that, if he does not rise to oppose this state of things we shall not believe him to be the miners friend, let him say what he will, actions speak louder than words. Mr. Markham would represent to the world that there has been a continuation of confidence and union between the miners and masters of Staveley for many years. Well Sir, this needs no comment at all. Everybody will see that it is not so. Is it possible for so many men to lose confidence in their employers in so short a time? All we wish to say on this point is just this, let the world judge. Mr. M. said that he would be glad to hear anything that we might have to say, and if.....

(The rest of the letter is lost).

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 22nd. Sept. 1866.

Page 4 Col. 2

Tupton - Alleged Assault in a Pit.

William Spetch was charged with assaulting Jon. Thorpe, in the Clay Cross Company's No. 4 Pit on the 22nd. of August. It appeared from complainants statement that he was one of the boys who fetch the loaded skips from the stall. Defendants skip was not full and he refused to wait, upon which defendant struck him, throttled him and knocked him down. He fell on a piece of bind and hurt his back. In defence Spetch said that when he asked the lad to wait for his skip he used very foul language. He shook him and in doing so he fell down the floor being wet and slippery. James Hadfield, stallman with defendant, corroborated. The lad used foul language if spoken to at all. When defendant threatened to shake him for swearing, he said that he would say what he liked, and if he touched him, he would fetch him up. The skip was not full owing to the roof being very "nesh". Mr. Maynard said that the lad deserved what he got for using such language, and that they should dismiss the case.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. Sept. 1866.

Page 2 Col. 5

Brampton - Fatal Colliery Accident.

A sad accident occurred on Saturday, in Mr. Ludlam's Pit at Walton, by which a man named Samuel Rogers, lost his life. Deceased was "holeing" when a piece of bind weighing half a ton fell on him, which took the united exertions of three men to remove. He was taken to the Chesterfield Hospital where Mr. Stamford attended him. It was found that he had four ribs broken besides other injuries. He died in a quarter of an hour after admission, from the shock to the system.

Derbyshire Times.

Saturday 29th. September 1866.

Page 3 Col. 5

Disputes between Colliers and Masters.

Staveley and Clay Cross.

We understand that the disputes between the masters and the men in this district is likely to come to the issue of a contest, unless something should be done to heal the rapidly widening breach. The rapid additions made to the miners union has cited the disapprobation of the masters, during the past few days both at Staveley and Clay Cross persons known to have joined the union have had notices given to them to leave their work and also the houses which they hold under the company. At Clay Cross the company have, we are informed, given these notices to all persons who are known to have joined the union, and at Staveley matters have proceeded further. The struggle, if commenced, will be one most important in its results, as it will pretty much settle the question, in this district at least, whether colliery proprietors should be compelled to employ unionists, or whether, notwithstanding the opposition of a powerful union, they should employ non-unionists. The settlement to such a question as this, it is agreed, could not have been undertaken with greater chances of success than by the Staveley Coal and Iron Company, as it is well known that the owners of the Staveley collieries are very wealthy, and it is equally well known in the district that in case of a strike they are prepared to make a decided stand to close the pits, even if the struggle should last six months. There are, we understand, about 4000 men engaged in the company's pits, and from time to time we have announced that large numbers of them have joined the South Yorkshire Miners Association. No demand has yet been made by the unionists for an increase of wages or shorter hours, the managers of the pits decided upon discharging those whom they considered the ring-leaders in the union movement, also a number of men who had joined the union. Several of them, upon receiving a months notice, at their own request were allowed to leave at once, whilst others decided upon serving out their notices. At the end of each week several of those who are known to be unionists are served with a months notice, on Saturday last we understand that about a hundred of the colliers at the Springwell Pit received notice to leave. Between seventy and a hundred of the colliers who reside in the company's houses on Barrow Hill, and who have joined the union, have received notices to quit their houses. About thirty of those notices expired on Monday, and the other expire on Monday next. At present, those whose notices have expired show no disposition to leave, and it seems unlikely that they will leave without a magistrates order being first obtained. The probability, however, is that they will leave in a short time, as a meeting, which was held in the village on the other evening, it was suggested, on the part of one of the principals of the union, that a number of tents should be hired and erected in the neighbourhood, for the accommodation of those who were compelled to leave their houses. Whether this somewhat novel idea will be carried out remains to be seen; but it may be said that it was met with the approbation of many of those who, it would be thought, would be most likely to object to it, namely the wives of the colliers; indeed so strongly do some of the women feel in the matter, we heard of one who was near her confinement expressing her perfect willingness to undergo the hardships of camp life for a time. At a meeting which was held at Staveley on Monday, it was resolved, on the part of the union, to support those who had been discharged, and to keep them in the district, so that by removing to other collieries they might not be the means of reducing the rates of wage. To fill up the vacancies of those who have been discharged, or those who have received notice, a few colliers have arrived from Staffordshire, but at present the supply is by no means equal to the demand. It is probable that the newcomers will have anything but a pleasant time of it, as even the old hands at the pit who have not yet joined the union, were

frequently hooted, and on Saturday night it was feared that a disturbance would have been caused. Those who have joined the union, although at present they have advanced no demand whatever, make it no secret that they intend urging the eight hours movement.

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Page 3 Col. 5-6

Moonlight Meeting at Woodthorpe.

On Monday night, about 400 miners, with their wives, assembled in a field at Woodthorpe, and held a meeting by moonlight. Previous to the arrival of Messrs. Ackroyd and Brown, the meeting was addressed by Mr. Slinn, a miner.

Mr. Ackroyd, an agent for the union, said that the union commended itself to every person, because it did good without doing harm. The time would soon come when the masters would be glad of this movement. So many injurious gases were thrown off the coal that eight hours a day was enough for any man to be in the pit, even supposing he did no work. He hoped that the employers would adopt the eight hour system without being driven to it by the universal voice of the miners of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The men were their own legislators in this matter. The over production of coal was the reason they were not getting sufficient remuneration for their labour, and they would soon find that for less work they would get more wages.

Mr. William Brown, of Hunslet, said that he had just returned from a meeting at Leeds, where they had been waited upon by a deputation, soliciting the attendance of the miners at the Reform demonstration. They used to be called asses (Laughter) - but now they were treated as men. This was because they were beginning to cultivate their minds to improve their morals. There was need for progress still and their presence in that field showed that they were not satisfied, as was presented. They had grievances to remedy - now that the miners of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were doing so much, the men of Seymour Colliery had been aroused, and determined to better their position. Nine months ago, Mr. Chambers said that he would rather part with his right hand than give his colliers that which they asked for. Nevertheless, Mr. Chambers had to yield, and that without the loss of any limb - (Laughter and Cheers). Let all the men ask, they might depend their employers would have to yield. If the Seymour men were to unite and be true to each other, then the National Association would be honest and true to them. At a colliery in Yorkshire, where the men had been out for eight months, the dispute had been amicably settled, and the owner of the colliery (a lady) had conceded their wishes, the result was that the manager had to leave. He hoped that the grievances of the Staveley men would be settled in less than eight months, if not weeks. Had they left their houses yet? - ("No, No"). Had they had any more notices? - ("Yes, Yes"). Well, all the paper in the world would not get them out if they were true to each other. Only three years ago he was dragged to prison as a common felon, but he had his liberty yet. Why? Because the doctrine he spoke was true. In Lancashire the masters agreed to give the men 10 percent advance from the 1st. of January 1867. At the same time they were going to advance the price of coal 1-0d. per ton to the public. 12 months ago men asked for and got an advance of 10 percent: In February last year they asked for and got another advance. Could any miner have gotten that advance by singly asking for it? - (No, No). The union did it. Was the union, the men, any detriment to the masters, when they raised their prices so much? One master said, a few weeks ago, "We do not care how much we raise the wages of our men, only make all alike; For we have to go to one common market to sell. The men deserve all the wages they get." - (Cheers). Some of the Staveley masters have said that their men were constantly employed whilst their neighbours were often idle. How was that? Simply that, on the over production of the men, the company were enabled to undersell others. Equalise their labour, they would benefit themselves and their brothers also. This work required ten thousand more miners, and that

would make the Cornish miners, who were represented to be starving. He hoped the men of Staveley would not be troubled about their notices to quit their houses and their work. If they had to leave either they must either stay at Staveley, and not go and drive other men away from their work, or reduce their wages by overcrowding. They would be seen whether the Miners Association would stick with them or not. He did those who did not get notice would be put about. If they were taken before the magistrate they would be unable to meet their employers proper legal help; and no doubt the magistrates would treat them kindly - (Cheers). He wished to know how many were willing to join that night. About two hundred held up their hands. Pledges not to take each others houses or work were then given, and the meeting was brought to a conclusion by the singing of a hymn.

Derbyshire Times.

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Page 3 Col. 7

Letter - The Staveley Dispute.

Letter Concerning the meeting between the colliers and Mr. Markham referred to recently. Written in dialect. Covers the older miners case. These were the men who were invited to the meeting by Mr. Markham, and supported the non-union stance. (Precis).