

The Craven Herald

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Shaft on Fire at Ingleton Colliery

An old shaft which was recently cleared out for the purpose of ventilation at the Wilson Wood Colliery, belonging to W. Bracewell Esq., was discovered to be on fire on Saturday morning last. It appears that a large furnace is fixed at the bottom of the shaft for the purpose of causing a stiff draught of air on the up side of the above colliery. A boy named Hodgson was attending to the furnace fire at the time (about three in the morning), when he heard a very loud and unusual noise, after which the draught increased to such a strength that he could hardly face it. He immediately went off to the Wilson Wood Shaft and gave an alarm. Mr James Metcalfe, an Underground Viewer, was quickly on the spot and found the flames issuing with fearful fury at the mouth of the pit.

It is supposed that an taken place in a old four feet up the shaft and which was fire. This seems very probable post upwards of four feet in out of the top of the shaft of burnt timber and coal which were driven out by the force of the fire to a considerable distance from the mouth of the pit. A number of men were working in the pit at the time but they were at once called out. A continual downpour of water was kept going into the shaft until about 8 o'clock when it was thought that the fire was got under. The top of the shaft was then closely made up as to prevent any escape of air, so that if any fire remained it would smoulder out. On Sunday morning the vent holes were opened, and the fire broke out again before noon. The workmen were again summoned to the place and water turned in as before, which was continued until about ?? o'clock and the vent holes were again blocked. No one has yet been able to get to the bottom of the shaft, so that the amount of damage cannot at present be estimated. The shaft is one of the best in the neighbourhood, it is about 130 yards deep and lined with timber upwards of 40 yards from the bottom, the remainder being walled with freestone. It is feared that it will be a considerable time before the top side of the pit will be in working order, although everything in engineering skill is being done.