

The Mining Journal.

Page 340 Col. 1-2, 5th. April 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Apr. 3. It appears that we are likely to have a little more activity in one or two of the lead mining districts, where for a long time matters have been particularly quiet. Unlike many other localities, not much attention of late years has been paid to the metalliferous wealth of Derbyshire, and but a few capitalists have been induced to test its capabilities. Some of the Sheffield tradesmen have tried their hands, but as a rule only to suffer loss, for there is something more than capital required to make lead mining a profitable investment. Good management has a great deal to do with the success or otherwise of a mine, and there is every reason to believe that the Peak Forest can be made into a successful undertaking by a judicious outlay of money for plant, machinery, etc. At about the best mine now being worked in the county some thousands of pounds not so very long since were expended, and the result has been most satisfactory. Small mines worked in a comparatively primitive manner cannot be made to pay, more particularly with lead at the price it has been at. With respect to ironstone mining, not much is being done, the consumption having fallen off owing to the many furnaces that have been thrown out of blast. Still the ironmasters along the Erewash Valley and in other places as well, now largely patronise the Northamptonshire stone, which is brought from Desborough, Wellingborough, and some other places at a very moderate cost, the Midland Railway Company giving a moderate rate. The ore, too, is perhaps superior in quality to that obtained in connection with the coal measures. Pig-iron is still quiet, and the production but moderate, yet it is in excess of what is required by consumers, whilst the price is still below the paying point. The rolling mills have not been running at all well, so that puddlers and others have not been doing much. Some of the foundries have been favourably off for business, more especially in pipes, pillars, stoves, grates, and builders' castings generally. At Dronfield a steady business is being done at the malleable and other works. The return of something like fine weather has rather seriously interfered with the coal trade, the demand for household qualities having fallen off, so that just now not so much is being done with the metropolitan and other markets to the South of Derbyshire. As a consequence prices are such that the collieries are being worked without profit, and the trade appears more likely to get still worse than otherwise. Steam coal has undergone but little change, the demand being still quiet, but some improvement may shortly be expected, but whether it will result in raising the value is questionable.

In Sheffield the general trade has in no way improved, and many men are still standing altogether, and a large number on short time. The cutlery branches are quiet, and even the old established houses are scarcely able to find full employment for all hands. Finest qualities of knives are still in the best request, makers of inferior descriptions of table and pocket knives not having, as a rule, much to do. Surgical instruments and scissors, too, are in but moderate request, there being a good deal of foreign competition with respect to the latter. In Bessemer rails most of the works are engaged in working off old orders, few new ones coming to hand whilst prices, already very low, have every appearance of a still further drop, for the competition is becoming keener almost every day. What it will be when the Bessemer is made from Cleveland stone and rolled on the spot is a question of a very serious character for those in the trade who are obliged to pay a heavy railway freight to reach a seaport. There has been a steady output of ship and boiler plates, so that several of the mills have been running tolerably well. In crucible steel there has been no improvement, and the production is very far under what it could be were there a demand. In armour plates there does not appear to be much doing, but it is probable that before long we shall have an enquiry for the composite plates of iron and steel, which are likely to be used in the construction of our armour-clads.

The coal trade of South Yorkshire is in anything but a healthy state, work as a rule, so far as the colliery owners are concerned, being carried on at a loss, without any prospect of material improvement. It is expected that in the course of next week the umpire will deliver his award with respect to the proposed 12½ per cent. reduction of miners' wages, which will affect several thousand workmen. Should the award be in the favour of the employers it will not be sufficient to prevent a loss in working, seeing that good house coal can now be purchased at from 6-6d. to 7-0d. per ton, and steam at 6-0d. or a shade lower.

In the Barnsley district several collieries are now standing from different causes. North Gawber is idle because the men will not accept certain reductions, Stanhope Silkstone owing to the company being in liquidation, and the place in possession of the mortgagee, whilst the men at Havercroft Main have struck against a reduction in the rate of wages hitherto paid to the workmen engaged in coal getting.

The Mining Journal.

Page 334 Col. 1-2, 5th. Apr. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Connolly Mine (Limited).

Capital £60,000, in shares of £5. The acquiring by purchase or otherwise mines, lands, or mining rights in Nevada or elsewhere for the purpose of mining operations. To purchase or hire plant, machinery, and other effects and appurtenances belonging to any land or mining rights. Mining for silver and other minerals, smelting and treating ores, purchasing and selling silver and other metals, &c., and generally to carry on the business of a mining and smelting company. The subscribers are - Lieut. Colonel C.F. Evelyn, Ascot, 10; J.B.K. Johnson, Teddington, gentleman, 10; J.B. Fanshaw, 2, Halkin Street, gentleman, 10; R. Mills, 13, Gough Square, merchant, 10; H. Marshall, 27, Montague Street, gentleman, 10; E. Homan, Surbiton, gentleman, 1; J.B.M. Gossett, Sussex, gentleman, 1. Remuneration of directors at the rate of £500 per annum, to be divided amongst them as they may determine. Qualification not less than 10 shares.

The Cortonwood Collieries Company (Limited).

Capital £250,000, in shares of £20. To carry into effect an agreement made between Henry Davis Pochin and others of the one part, and Wm. George Smith for the company. To work and develop the collieries the subject of the said agreement. To acquire, work, and develop any other beds or mines of coals, ironstone, metal, stone, fossils, earths, &c., and generally to carry on the business of mine-owners, colliery, quarry, pit owners, and merchants. The subscribers (who take 100 shares each) are - H.D. Pochin, Bodnant Hall, Denbighshire, manufacturing chemist; B. Whitworth, 11, Holland Park, merchant; J.D. Ellis, Atlas Works, Sheffield, steel manufacturer; J. Holden, Wilmslow, merchant; W. Pochin, Sheffield, manufacturing chemist; T. Whitworth, Manchester, merchant; E.D. Pochin, Salford, manufacturing chemist. The qualification of a director shall be 50 shares of the nominal capital of the company. The first directors shall be appointed by the subscribers, their remuneration to be determined from time to time in general meetings of shareholders.

Kingswood and Parkfield Collieries Company (Limited).

Capital £100,000, in shares of £100. To purchase or otherwise acquire all or any of the lands, minerals, mining rights, and real and personal property of the Kingswood Coal and Iron Company (Limited), and to undertake all or any part of the liabilities of the said company. To purchase or otherwise acquire the lands, minerals, and hereditaments situated at Pucklechurch, Gloucester, known as the Parkfield Collieries, and the business carried on thereat, the goodwill of the same, and any other property belonging thereto. To carry on the business of colliery proprietors, coke manufacturers, miners, smelters, mechanical engineers, &c., in all their branches. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H. Cossham, Bath, colliery proprietor; J. Henshaw, Bristol, accountant; J. Sherbourne, Bristol, colliery manager; J. Burgess, Bristol, grocer; G.V. Preston, Bristol, accountant; R. Little, Slough, brick manufacturer; M.E. Little, Slough, spinster. The directors shall be Handell Cossham and Robert Little, who shall continue in office until the ordinary meeting in 1880; before then the board may and, so that the whole number shall not equal five, exclusive of the debenture holders' director. Besides the two named gentlemen the other directors must hold not less than five shares.

Glan-yr-Afon Lime Quarry Company (Limited).

Capital £12,000, in shares of £2. To purchase the interest of the present proprietors under an agreement. The carrying on of the business of quarrying limestone, crushing, burning, and otherwise rendering merchantable the products of the said quarry, and the selling of same. The subscribers are - G. Atkin, Liverpool, manufacturer, 10; H. Wilde, Liverpool, merchant, 100; S. Wylde, Ormskirk, gentleman, 20; T. Dawson, Newport, Baptist minister, 10; G.G. Blackwell, Liverpool, mineral merchant, 10; C. Lancaster, Liverpool, tea merchant, 10; J.P. Bibby, Liverpool, cornbroker, 10.

The Mining Journal.

Page 364 Col. 1-2, 12th. April 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Apr. 10. There has been but little change of late with respect to lead mining, only a few works making anything in the shape of progress, whilst the production of ore is still limited in quantity, and far below what it was in former years, but there is some prospect of an increase during the present year. Some of the barytes establishments are turning out a fair quantity of material. In the Chesterfield district, and along the course of the Erewash Valley, the coal mines up to a week or two since have done a fair trade, as there has been a fair demand for household fuel for most of the southern markets. London, in particular, during the year, so far as it has gone, has taken a much larger quantity of fuel than in former years, owing to the severity of the weather, but a more genial season having set in there has been a gradual decline in the demand, and prices are by no means equal to what they were in the early part of the year, and are now anything but remunerative, and there is no likelihood of any advance taking place, unless the strike in the Durham district should continue for any length of time, for the stoppage of a large number of collieries will, doubtless, have the effect of disturbing the trade, and in all probability lead to an increase of prices, as the freight of coal carried by sea is about one-third less than that charged by the railway companies carrying large quantities of coal to the London depots. In steam coal there is now some prospect of an improvement, as the active season is fast approaching. In other descriptions of coal there has been no alteration for the better, the consumption of engine fuel in particular being still very moderate. At the ironworks between Chesterfield and Nottingham there are a considerable number of furnaces out of blast, whilst those that are in are more than amply sufficient to supply all the pig that is required. Mill material is not much enquired for, but some of the foundries are a little better off than they have been. At Dronfield business appears to be moving along steadily, and the place, now growing into a town, is perhaps, rather better off than most others, there being several branches of the iron and steel trades carried on there.

In Sheffield business remains in much the same state as reported last week, there being still a little more activity in some branches. Not much is being done in armour-plates, but at one establishment they are now making composite plates of iron and steel for Her Majesty's iron-clad, the Inflexible. These plates are likely to be in good request, for they have stood some severe tests, being patented by Mr. A. Wilson, of the Dronfield Bessemer Railworks, who has paid a great deal of attention to the production of steel for various purposes. Bessemer rail makers continue to be well employed, but orders are now taken at a price that was scarcely dreamt of a few years since, while they are likely to come down much lower now that Cleveland pig can be converted into Bessemer. Tyres, axles, and marine material are in fair request. In crucible steel business is still quiet, although for wheels and other articles it is being actively pushed. The engine works have not at all improved, and it is said that in one instance the men refused to submit to a reduction of wages such as would have allowed the employers to take a very large order, but the result is that the order has gone to Belgium, where the workmen are not so nice, and where they prefer moderate wages before total idleness. A few of the cutlery houses continue to keep their hands fairly going on the better class of goods, but there has been no improvement with respect to inferior table, pocket, and other knives. Sheepshears have improved in request, principally for shipment, and they are now produced by the introduction of machinery at a much lower cost than formerly, which allows of our manufacturers being able to compete with all foreign makers. A moderate business is being done in ship and other plates, as well as hoops and bars, but the mills are not so fully employed as could be wished. Some of the edge tool grinders have given their employers a month's notice to leave, but it is not expected now that it will be acted upon, as a change has taken place in the situation since the notices were

given. In the Britannia metal and silver-plate branches work is very scarce, most of the workmen being on short time. At the foundries in the town and district a steady business is being done in pipes and ordinary castings, but at many places the number of men employed is little more than half what it was formerly.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade is not by any means so brisk as it was, there having been a marked decline in the tonnage sent away of late to the London and southern markets, whilst many of the collieries are being worked at a loss, the only persons benefited being the workmen, and these grumble at the rate of wages they are receiving. The award of the umpire with respect to the 12½ per cent. reduction has not yet been made, but it is now looked forward to with some interest. Should it be conceded it will barely keep the pits in a position to prevent a loss, for as things are it cannot, as a rule, lead to a profit. The Thorp's Gawber Hall Company find it fully as profitable to keep their pits standing as to work them at the old rate, and the men have evidently agreed not to concede all that was asked of them by the company. For several months past the demand for steam coal has been very dull, so that large stocks have accumulated at most of the collieries. There is, however, now some prospect of improvement, as the Baltic promises to be open at an earlier date than usual, so that the trade from Grimsby will commence early, and it is to be hoped that prices will rise in consequence, for this description of coal has been selling as low as 6-0d. per ton, which is less than it could be raised for by the colliery owners.

The Mining Journal.

Page 376 Col. 3, 12th. Apr. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Great Dyliffe Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £1. The working of lead, copper, zinc, and other mines and minerals. The Raising, dressing, and selling of lead, copper, and other ores and minerals, and the carrying on the business of miners and mineowners. The purchasing and acquiring upon the terms of an agreement intended to be made, of the mines and premises comprised in a lease; and any lands, premises, plant, buildings, machinery, goodwill, &c., connected with the business of a mineowner. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H.J. Alfred, Chiswick, captain; J. Browne, United University Club, reverend; H.E. Montgomerie, 17, Gracechurch Street, shipowner; E.J. Burgess, 32, Great St. Helen's, secretary; A. Field, 50, Leadenhall Street, wholesale stationer; W.S. Lampert, 1, Adelaide Place, clerk; B.M. Woollan, 119, Cheapside.

East Roman Gravels Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £1. To purchase the interest of the West Tankerville Mining Company (Limited) in the mines now or lately worked by them, and the plant, machinery, stores, tools, , and other effects connected therewith. To work, explore, develop, and maintain the mines, mineral properties, and works of the company, and to carry on the business of raising, working, mining, smelting, and selling lead and other ores, metals, and minerals in all its branches. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J.M. Pimville, Clifton Road, gentleman; F.R. Hales, 74, King William Street, solicitor; T.A. Goodall, Islington, law clerk; M. Marks, 58, Arnott Street, stock jobber; J.H.A. Smith, 8, Austinfriars, accountant; A.E. Cooke, 76, Old Broad Street, stock and share dealer; H. Verden, Kentish Town, secretary.

The Mining Journal.

Page 392 Col. 1-2, 19th. April 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Apr. 17. As usual, there has been some slight interruption to the business doing at the mines and ironworks owing to the holidays, but short work and low wages have tended to curtail the period usually devoted to enjoyment. This has led to no inconvenience, seeing that trade is not so pressing. In the lead districts matters have been going on quietly, for the miner engaged in raising lead ore is of a more contented nature, and not so luxurious in his tastes as the one employed at the collieries. There has been no change with respect to the lead mines, but the weather will now admit of operations being more satisfactorily carried out as to extensions, etc. The quantity of ironstone being raised in Derbyshire is not much more than half what it was at one time, more attention being paid to the ores of Northamptonshire than formerly, some of the firms working them on their own account instead of taking them second-hand. The Midland gives a moderate rate from Wellingborough, Market Harborough, Kettering, etc., and this evidently has done much in increasing the consumption of stone at the furnaces in Derbyshire. There has not been much alteration as regards the manufacturers of pig, a good many furnaces being still out, and whilst passing over the Midland in the early part of the week we were struck with the large quantity that was stacked at some places. But it may be said that the present prices are anything but remunerative, whilst as it is not likely that they will fall lower, holders are likely to be rather better off than sellers. Some of the foundries have been doing a fair business in pipes and other castings, but the production is far below what it was, seeing that there is not the same number of hands employed as there was formerly. There appears to be a tolerably fair enquiry for house coal, and to some extent at least this may be attributed to the great strike of coal miners in Durham, so that the stoppage of so many pits throws a large amount of trade into other districts, more particularly those inland; but the prices as yet have not advanced in consequence. The business doing with London has kept up very well from Clay Cross, and several others of the leading collieries connected directly with the Midland Railway. A good deal of house coal has also gone towards the West of England, where Silkstones hold their own against the local coal. No material improvement has taken place with respect to steam coal, but a better demand is now looked forward to as the usual active season is about opening.

In Sheffield the holidays have been kept, but not with that profuseness which characterised former years, for many men have been entirely out of employ, and others receiving only three or four days in the week, whilst some of the works are likely to be closed all the week. Makers of Bessemer rails are doing as well as ever, some large orders having been recently booked; but prices are certainly very low, but is evident they are such as to pay. Bessemer steel is also being used in the production of the plates for the British Navy, it being put on a backing of iron. Two or three of the leading cutlery houses are fairly off for trade in the best qualities of table, pocket, and penknives, but common goods appear to be quiet. Makers of malleable material are working steadily, and some of the mills engaged in ship and boiler plates are turning out more than they did.

The Thorpe's Gawber Hall Collieries shareholders have received a circular, stating that a special general meeting will be held in London on the 29th. inst., to take into consideration the present position and prospects of the company, and the winding-up of the same if it be deemed expedient; also for the purpose of passing a special resolution to wind-up the company voluntarily. The dispute at the colliery, after lasting about two months, during which from 500 to 600 men and boys have been thrown out of employment, has at last been brought to a close. A deputation, headed by Mr. Firth, secretary of the Miners' Union, waited upon the directors, at the Queen's Hotel, Barnsley, on Tuesday, and the men held a meeting in the evening, and they

agreed to accept the directors' terms on condition that, in the event of trade reviving, the directors will place them in the same position as neighbouring collieries. The men have resumed work. We are informed on good authority that the company anticipate now no difficulty in completing financial arrangements to carry the concern on.

The Mining Journal.

Page 386 Col. 1-2, 19th. Apr. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Pateley Bridge Company (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £1. To acquire by purchase, or otherwise, the mines, minerals, farms, lands, cottages, smelting works, materials, rolling-stock, working plant, and other chattels, the property of the Pateley Bridge Lead Mines and Smelting Company (Limited), in liquidation, comprised in a certain agreement made between the debenture holders, trustees of the said Pateley Bridge Lea Mines and Smelting Company (Limited) of the first part, the Pateley Bridge Company of the second part, James H. Nicolls of the third part, and W.J. Lavington, on behalf of the Company, and the carrying out of the terms, payments, and satisfaction of the liabilities mentioned in such an agreement. The acquiring of any other lands, mines, mining property, machinery, plant, or other property appertaining to mining in Yorkshire or elsewhere. The working, raising, winning, and getting of lead ore, and other ores, metals, minerals, &c., and generally to carry on the business of a lead mining and smelting company. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W. Baxter, 27, Belsize Park Gardens, gentleman; J. Carr, 1, Warnford Court, stockbroker; F. Butler, 2, Angel Court, stockbroker; J. Carver, 17, Cambridge Street, civil servant; I. Carr, 1, Warnford Court, stockbroker; A.G. Kitching, 7, Draper's Gardens, member of the Stock Exchange; B. Capper, 5, Winchester Terrace, Tottenham, clerk. The directors shall be Messrs. Carr, Bayter, Hutchinson, and Kitching. Qualification 100 shares; remuneration £250, when 10 percent is earned, £375, to be further increased to £500 if the dividends equal or exceed 20 per cent.

The Colombian Hydraulic Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £75,000, in shares of £1 fully paid-up. To purchase the property and assets of the Malpaso Gold Washing Company (Limited), the Rica Gold Washing Company (Limited), and the Malabar Gold Washing Company (Limited), in the State of Tolima, United States of Columbia. To work, raise, purchase, dress, and prepare for market any ores, metals, precious stones, or minerals, and to sell, traffic, and deal in the same. To purchase and work any other mines or land in the United States of Columbia or elsewhere, also such plant and machinery as may be necessary to carry out the effective working of the mines. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W.W. Holmes, 35, Finsbury Circus, accountant; A. Cobbett, Mitcham, no occupation; C.O. Rogers, 1, Winchester House, merchant; C. Hopkinson, Paul's Wharf, merchant; J.A. Cobbett, 53a, Old Broad Street, accountant; F.R. Wilson, 30, Finsbury Circus, secretary; J.T.P. Pechey, 59, Mark Lane. The first directors shall be Messrs. A. Cobbett, Pechey, Rogers, and Hopkinson. Qualification, 200 shares. Remuneration, £300, and a percentage on all dividends paid.

The Bryn-yr-Afr Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £8,000, in shares of £10. The purchase and acquisition of mines of lead and other minerals in Cardiganshire and elsewhere, and acquiring, by lease, purchase, or otherwise, lands, buildings, &c., in England and Wales, and selling or disposing of same; also the working of the said mines and minerals, and the smelting and refining or otherwise dressing ores or minerals, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - T. Wilson, Liverpool, oil merchant; J.B. Smith, Seaforth, gentleman; J.B. Williams, Gateshead, coal agent; W.H. Wilson, Windbourne, oil merchant; J. Coltart, St. Michael's Hamlet, rope manufacturer; J.T. Bench, Liverpool, merchant;

T. Goffey, Liverpool, solicitor. The first directors (who shall not be less than three or more than five) shall be Messrs. Wilson, Ashton, Williams, and Goffey: qualification, 50 shares.

George Redford and Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £10. To acquire by purchase the property until lately belonging to G. Redford at Tycoch, Carmarthen, including the cement works thereon, with all plant, machinery, &c., also a certain patent called "Conniff's Patent". To carry on the said works as manufacturers of bricks, cement, stone, &c., and to sell the same. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H. Imart, Kidwelly; R.H. Davids, Kidwelly; E. Threlfall, Ferryside; R. Morna, Kidwelly; D. Anthony, Kidwelly; E. Lewis, Kidwelly; and D. Griffiths, Kidwelly.

The Mining Journal.

Page 416 Col. 1-2, 26th. April 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Apr. 25. Lead mining appears to have undergone no material change since last notice, and, indeed, it may be said to be in the same state for a long time, for investors seem very chary in being connected with Derbyshire mines, whilst, with two or three local exceptions, residents keep aloof. It may be that past experience has had something to do with this, for most ventures have turned out the reverse of good, as many Sheffield tradesmen know to their cost. For a different reason the working of ironstone mines has fallen off of late years, as it can be purchased from places at a distance as low as it can be produced at home, even after paying the carriage rate by railway. But the coal mines are altogether different, for there appears even now no lack of capital for opening out coal fields, so that Derbyshire has made greater progress in the development of its fuel resources than any other county in England. But of late there was a falling off in the demand, whilst prices were exceptionally low, but the action taken by the Durham miners has been the means of greatly improving the trade during the last ten days, so that a large tonnage has been forwarded from Clay Cross and other places to the Metropolis, which even when the dispute is over will have the effect of causing a larger consumption of inland coal than was the case before. To other parts of the kingdom as well there has been more doing, and this has resulted in the notices given to the men for a reduction of wages being withdrawn. But somehow or another the demand has not been followed by any material advance in the prices at the pits. In London the scarcity of the so-called Wallsend has led to their rising to 30-0d., whilst the best inland coal is but 25-0d. per ton, although the differences between the two, if there is any real difference at all as regards real value, cannot be more than 1-0d. to 2-0d. at most. But people appear to have become so wedded to the North Country coal that they think it has qualities peculiar to itself of a valuable character, although practical men know to the contrary, for the Silkstone coal pure for household purposes cannot be excelled. Steam coal is still quiet, but there is no doubt that before long there will be an improvement, although it is to be feared that the very low price it has been at during the winter and up to the present time will not be materially increased. The make of Derbyshire pig has not materially increased, nor is it likely to do, seeing that the present production, limited as it is, is more than sufficient for all requirements, for at several of the works there are heavy stocks to be seen. In finished iron there is the same quietness in almost every branch, and there are certainly no signs whatever of improvement. Several of the foundries manage to keep their hands fairly employed in ordinary castings, and that is about as much as can be said up to the present time.

Business is looking rather better in Sheffield, and at several of the works the men are doing more than since the commencement of the year. There has been a fair output of pig, but it does not go off very well, as large stocks are seen on nearly all sides, whilst prices are very low, haematites being offered as low as 42-0d., delivered in the West Riding. Still the consumption of haematite is large, for the demand for Bessemer rails is brisk, and quite lately some heavy contracts have been booked, the price, no doubt, having something to do with their coming to Sheffield. It would appear as if ship-building on the Clyde was becoming brisker, for orders for plates are coming from there, whilst there is also a moderate trade being done in those for boiler making. For some descriptions of steel plates there has been a rather better enquiry, more especially for certain and special qualities. Sheep shears have also been in fair request for the colonies and South America, and some orders have also been received from Australia and other places for large knives, as well as general steel goods. makers of malleable material have been working steadily, for castings of malleable iron are now being turned out so fine as to be equal in every way to articles made of steel. Some of the cutlery houses manage to keep their men well

going, the home markets being the best customers for the best qualities of table cutlery in particular.

Some beautiful specimens of Sheffield high-class goods have during the week been forwarded to London for the exhibition of cutlery that commences there in May. Amongst them has been some exquisitely wrought scissors, with designs that will be found sufficient to stamp the superiority of our Sheffield manufacturers over all others. In the Rotherham district the brassworks are very quiet, whilst makers of Bessemer rails are still in full activity, but the engine and mechanics' shops are still dull. At several of the collieries in South Yorkshire a steady trade continues to be done, and there is no doubt but what the strike in the North will be the means of finding more work for our miners than would otherwise be the case; but there is not much likelihood of it lasting long, but the longer the better for the men engaged at the inland collieries. A full average tonnage of house coal has been forwarded to London during the week so far, as well as to other places en route. No material change has taken place with regard to steam coal, but the tide appears to be turning, as the busy season will soon commence.

It is expected that the umpire's award with respect to the 12½ per cent. reduction of wages will be made known in the course of a few days. It will affect several thousand miners in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

On Tuesday, at Manchester, the Stanhope Silkstone colliery, which three or four years ago was sold for £50,000, was put up for sale by auction and withdrawn after £17,000 had been bid for it.

The absurd notion of adjusting the relations between the coal-masters and their men by a "national holiday" for the miners is revived by a circular which has been addressed to the Trade Unions. A month or six weeks is the suggested period of idleness. the impossibility of getting all the colliers of the kingdom into the same way of thinking will, no doubt, be sufficiently evident at the Conference which is to be held next month to discuss the proposal. But, to assume unanimity arrived at, how would the strikers be maintained during their holiday? Their Union officials will readily admit that their funds would not bear such a strain, and they could hardly expect assistance from other classes of workmen whose means of earning a livelihood might be imperilled by the carrying out of the holiday whim. It might also be well to remind the projectors of the scheme that England is not the only country which produces coal and colliers.

The Mining Journal.

Page 410 Col. 1-2, 26th. Apr. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Glamorgan Consolidated Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire the right to work the Llan Gan Lead Mine, near Cowbridge, Glamorgan, with the machinery and all other appurtenances. To acquire any other lands, mines, mining property, ore, machinery, plant, &c. To dress, smelt, crush, or refine the ores and minerals of the company, and to realise and deal with the products of the property of the company. The subscribers are - N.L.H. Clark, Teignmouth, retired lieutenant R.N., 50; F. Nesbitt, 218, Cornwall Road, J.P., 50; J.W. Duncan, 1, Circus Place, secretary, 50; H. Wright, Birmingham, gentleman, 50; W.A. Barron, Richmond Hill, C.E., 50; Sir H. Elphinstone, 11, Waterloo Place, Bart., 50; S. Ford, 125, Amhurst Road, accountant, 1. The first directors shall be Sir Howard Elphinstone, Bart, Messrs. Wright, Duncan, Nesbitt, and Barron. Remuneration one guinea for each attendance, one guinea extra exclusively for the Chairman at each meeting, also director's travelling expenses, and such additional amount as may be voted by the shareholders.

Missouri Lead Mining and Smelting Company (Limited).

Capital £90,000, in shares of £10, of which 4,500 shall be preference 10 per cent shares. To carry into effect an agreement made between the Virginia Lead Mining Company, N. Sands, T.A. Sands, G. Hopkins, and A.W. Marriott for the company. To purchase or otherwise acquire and work any mines, minerals, mining rights, lands, hereditaments, and chattels in the State of Missouri, in the United States of America. To work the Virginia, St. Clair, and Puivy Mines, and any others. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - G. Hopkins, 30, Parliament Street, C.E.; S. Pope, 38, Parliament Street, Q.C.; D. Panish, 13, Albermarle Street, gentleman; G. Seymour, jun., 6, Great George Street, mining engineer; G. Salmon, 30, Great George Street, solicitor; F.A. Sands, 21, Langham Street, gentleman; A. Sims, 12, Wilkinson Street, gentleman. Director's qualification 30 shares. Until directors are appointed the subscribers shall be deemed the directors.