

The Mining Journal.

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LEAD MINING DUES IN DERBYSHIRE.

DEPUTATION TO THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.

Since publishing the letter of Mr. H. Bradwell on this subject on June 21, in which he promised a second letter giving the dates, places, names of lords, and extent of reduction in such cases where loss is made, such second letter has been found unnecessary, inasmuch as a correspondence sprang up between Mr. Bradwell and the Hon. Lord Geo. H. Cavendish, M.P., on the subject of the dues paid to the Duke of Devonshire in the High Peak district. After some debate an interview was brought about, and a deputation was arranged to wait upon his Grace at Chatsworth, on Friday, the 25th. The notice being a rather short one, the deputation was not so numerous as expected - Messrs. R.H. Ashton, J.P., Castleton; J.A. Shuttleworth, J.P., Hathersage; and E.M. Wass, J.P., Lea, Cromford, found it inconvenient to attend, and several other small owners and miners at a distance could not so speedily be brought together. However, the deputation was a fair representation of the district, and consisted of Mr. W.H. Walker, of Sheffield, who represented the Peak Forest Company; Mr. J.B. Wostinholm and Mr. Horatio Bradwell, of Sheffield, with Mr. W.A. Cook, of Manchester; Mr. Leonard Maltby, the manager, represented the Mill Dam Company; Ald. Fairburn and Mr. Wm. Rowland, with Mr. Anthony Brocklehurst, the manager, represented the Maypin Company; Mr. Chas. R. Gregory and Mr. Robt. Hall, represented the Edge Rake Mining Company and Tideswell district; Mr. Thomas Bradwell and Zachariah Walker Bradwell, Castleton district; Mr. Josh. Morton, Foolow, Wardlow, Ashford, and district; Mr. Redfern, the High Rake and Great Hucklow district, Mr. B. Bagshawe, solicitor, Sheffield, was prevented attending in consequence of the sad accident at the Black Eyam Mine (the property of that family), which place he could not leave until the imprisoned miner was rescued, which we are happy to say was satisfactorily accomplished on Sunday, at 11 a.m., after five days and five nights in darkness without food.

The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., was attended by the Hon. Lord G.W. Cavendish, M.P., Messrs. Josh Hall, solicitor, of Castleton; Philip Hubbersty, solicitor, Wirksworth; - Martin, the newly appointed steward and successor to the late Mr. Cottingham; - Eddy, agent to the Duke's mineral property at Grassington, and James Shimwell, chief barmaster of Longstone. Messrs. Thos. Brealey and Son, of Leek, who receive the tithe collected by the barmasters for the trustee of the late Mr. Philip Gell, were invited to attend, they being also asked to make the same proportionate concessions in the matter which the Duke may consider to make in the "lot" and "cope", and as these people pay no sums out of the tithes, whereas the Duke pays an annual charge as lessee of the minerals to the Duchy of Lancaster, they are in a far better position to make concession than his Grace. However, they declined to join the deputation, and intimated that if the miners could get employment, and no doubt at this season many of them could obtain other work than mining, it would be wise for all large companies to limit the output of ore.

These gentlemen must be aware that many of the mines are already closed, and both output and employment are at an end; and as to getting other work, they have tried from 30 to 40 miles round and failed. Mr. Bradwell, having written the letters in the newspapers and carried on the correspondence, was appointed to introduce the deputation by name, and to open the business, which he did by laying the whole subject before the Duke, who gave them a most cordial reception and patient hearing, and skilfully entered into the discussion of the subject in all its parts. The deputation soon became aware that the "senior wrangler of 1829" was still quite up to the mark in all details of business - whether finance, manufacture, commerce, or mining, and the condition of both capitalist and industrial classes, and might have been a merchant or

manufacturer of Sheffield or Manchester. Alderman Fairburn then took up with his Grace the cope groat of 4d. per load, and showed great inequalities of this charge upon low-priced ores unfit for a reverberatory furnace and only fit for blast, such ores containing from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent. of metallic lead in the assay; in some cases slime or sludge containing 5 per cent., and selling for 2-0d. per ton - taking seven mineral loads to the ton - was liable to pay a cope of 2-4d. per ton, let alone 1-20 lot and 1-40 tithe; and the barmaster had satisfied himself with a commuted charge of 6d. per ton, which was in that item alone 25 per cent. of the net value of such low ores. Of course, to an outside person this looks a strange state of things and a marvel, yet such are the facts, and call for immediate reform. Other members of the deputation joined in the discussion, and the whole matter was clearly laid before the Duke. The most touching case was from the Bradwell district, related by Mr. Z. Walker, who said the man at this place, having been thrown out of work by the closing of the large mines, are driven to work in poor exhausted mines on tribute. Their earnings are miserably small; after selling their ores at 36-0d. per load, paying dues of lot, cope and tithe, and cost of powder, canisters, tools and dressing expenses, their average earnings are not more than 6-0d. per week per man. Mr. W.H. Walker gave the result of four years' working at Peak Forest. Mr. Bradwell gave the results for the same period at Mill Dam, and completely answered the Chief Barmaster and Mr. Hubbersty at every point of their arguments. After suggesting a suspension for a time of the duties and tithes the interview ended, his Grace promising to give the question careful consideration. His Grace invited the deputation to luncheon, after which they returned, feeling satisfied that something would be done to relieve the present depression.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

July 31. Mining of every description in Derbyshire is in an unsettled state, and complaints are still nearly general as to its being unprofitable. In the lead districts business is quiet, and can only be made to pay by those who have plenty of capital and machinery. Some workmen who have opened out on their own account, as they can do by the mining laws, struggle along in the hope of something turning up that will repay them for past exertions, but this is not likely to be realised. The price of lead, too, is greatly against both the owners of mines and the miners as well. At the collieries business is also quiet in all directions, and many of the men are not working more than half time, and appearances are certainly against any improvement taking place for some time. At Ripley the pits are as bad as at most other places, and a large number of houses are now unoccupied. The trade with London in house coal is far below what it was even a short time ago, even for such well-known places as Clay Cross, Eckington, Tibshelf, Langley Mill, etc. Prices have also declined, so that whatever business is being done is without profit. The quantity of steam coal going away is also less than is usual at this period of the year. Several collieries, it may be said, are still closed. so that a considerable number of colliers are walking about, living on their own means and whatever they can obtain from others. At Unstone it was expected that the men would be at work in the early part of the week, but they would not submit to the reduction they were asked to concede. At two or three places the men have received intimation that if work is to be continued they will be obliged to submit to a reduction of wages. There are comparatively few ironstone workers in Derbyshire to what there were a few years ago, as our ironmasters find it profitable to purchase from a distance. There has been very little change with respect to the Iron Trade, which is still quiet, although no doubt Derbyshire pig sells as well as most others, for it has a fair reputation in most of the leading markets where it is sold. At the works of the Butterley Company, about the largest in the country (or, it may be, with the exception of Staveley), trade for some time has been anything but good at the mills or other departments, and the number of hands employed is far below what it formerly was. Bessemer rail makers continue to do well, and large quantities have been turned out at Dronfield, which has now a high reputation for its steel, whilst Mr. Wilson, one of the partners, has patented composite plates for vessels of war that are likely to meet with the approval of our Admiralty.

In Sheffield there is not quite so much activity in one or two branches, but taking the trade altogether it is, perhaps, better than during any previous part of the year. The mills have been running steadily, and rather more is being done in steel plates of various qualities, some being intended for steamers and others for boilers, and there appears to be a growing demand for steel for both purposes that promises in time to extinguish those made of iron. Bessemer rails too are in good request, and some orders have been received on account of some of the home lines that will take some time in completing. In some branches of the heavy iron trade a tolerably fair business continues to be done, as there is also in tyres, axles, and connecting rods. One or two firms are also turning out considerable quantities of telegraph and other wire, but in light implements the season so far has been anything but a good one. so far our colonies have been good customers for edge tools, sheepshears, cutlery, and other goods, Australia, as usual, taking the lead. File makers continue quiet, and not so much is being done in general cutlery as there was a few weeks since either on home or foreign account. Spade and shovel makers have been doing tolerably well, and some of the wagon builders have become busy; on the other hand, machinists and engineers are still doing comparatively little, and those two branches have been about as badly off as any others in the town or district.

The Coal Trade of South Yorkshire is still in anything but a healthy state, several hundreds of men being idle, with every prospect of a large addition to their number before long. What business is being done in most instances involves a loss, whilst the men are strongly opposed to submit to a reduction of wages under any circumstances. In one or two instances they have done so, and of course greatly to their own advantage. In steam coal a tolerably fair business has been done for exportation from Grimsby, but the prices are low, for companies are being supplied at less than 6-0d. per ton.

The horse nail trade at Belper at the present time is in a very depressed state, so that owing to the heavy stocks the workmen are not doing much, whilst the wages paid are very low.

At the Carlton Main Colliery, one of the largest in the Barnsley district, the men have been informed that the company decline to be guided by what wages are paid at other collieries in the district, and will require something like a 20 per cent. reduction.

On Monday the foundation stone of a hall in memory of the late Mr. J. Mitchell, the managing partner of the Swaithe and Edmunds Collieries, Worsborough Dale, near Barnsley, was laid with full masonic honours by M. Josse, of Grimsby and Paris, one of the largest shippers of Yorkshire coal. The late Mr. Mitchell may be said to have laid the foundation of the present populous and thriving hamlet of Worsborough Dale.

#### NEW PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTING BOILERS.

A number of engineers visited the Park View Steelworks, Owlerton, near Sheffield on Tuesday, for the purpose of witnessing the new process of producing weldless and seamless steel or iron boilers which has been patented by Mr. George Whitehead. Among the gentlemen present were - Mr. Buckworth (the representative of Messrs. Galloway, of Manchester); Mr. Lange (Messrs. Beyer and Peacock, of Manchester); Mr. Halson (Messrs. Sharp and Stewart, of Manchester); Messrs. Holt and Jackson (Midland Railway Company); Mr. Bagshaw (Messrs. Spencer and Sons, of Newcastle); Mr. Hill (Messrs. S. Fox and Company, Deepcar); Mr. Richardson (Messrs. Robeys, of Lincoln); Mr. Bentley, of Penistone; Mr. Hewitt (patentee agent); and Mr. M. Ehrenfeldt, of Sheffield, who is acting for the patentee. Mr. Whitehead is an engineer of considerable experience, he having been engaged to carry of a variety of experiments for Dr. Siemens at the Landore Steelworks, South Wales, Krupp's manufactory at Essen, and the Terrenoire Works, France. What the inventor claims for his process is that by it he can within the brief space of six hours construct the shell of a boiler of a more durable nature than those now used. The process as demonstrated (of course on a small scale) to the visitors yesterday is very simple indeed. A ring of steel is cast and whiteheated. It is then removed from the furnace by means of cranes and placed upon a large roller which is capable of performing 200 revolutions per minute, providing that sufficient steam is maintained. By the aid of this roller and sets of smaller rollers the ring is expanded to the required dimensions, and when removed is fit to use as the shell of a boiler. The ring, by this process, it must be understood, is run from one end of the roller to the other, and is returned by a revulsion of the machinery, which is certainly one of the most important features of the invention. The other portions necessary to make a complete boiler are subsequently put on with L and V bolts. It is asserted by Mr. Whitehead, who was present at and directed the trial, that by this process he can construct boilers which will stand twice as great a pressure to the square inch as welded and rivetted plate boilers. The general opinion of the gentlemen present, so far as could be gleaned, was that the invention was an important one and workable, the only question being whether the expensive nature of the ponderous machinery which would have to be erected in order to construct large boilers by this process would not render the cost of the article far greater than it is at the present time.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Cefn-y-Maes Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £1,000, in shares of £5. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring of the mines, situate in Denbigh, with the ores, metals, minerals, and products, and the purchasing or otherwise acquiring of any other lands, mines, mineral properties, and the searching for, quarrying, mining, working, digging, raising, getting, washing, dressing, smelting, reducing, manufacturing, or converting lead, lead ore, black jack, and other ores, metals, minerals, &c., and dealing in and disposing of the same. The subscribers are - J.T. Lewes, Cefn Mawr, mining engineer, 10; J.A. Ede, Nant Llanander, mine agent, 20; T.H. Mitchell, Wrexham, land agent, 15; E. Bythell, Plas-yu-Han, Mold, farmer, 20; R. Douglas, Coedpoeth, Wrexham, mine agent, 12; M. Roberts, Rhydytalog, shopkeeper, 6; G.H. Taylor, Bryn Celyn, Mold, accountant, 10.

The Llanbadarnfawr Lead Mine Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £4, of which 1125 are issued as fully paid up. The adoption and carrying into effect an agreement made between James George Green and Arthur James Chichester of the one part, and Wm. H. Chichester on the other part. The searching for, mining, working, winning, digging, raising, crushing, washing, reducing, manufacturing, and otherwise rendering merchantable lead, silver-lead, blende, copper, clay, chalk, metals, ores, minerals, and earths. Acquiring by the said agreement the lands, mines, hereditaments, situate at Llanbadarnfawr, Cardiganshire, and acquiring any other lands, mines, mineral properties, grants, and concessions in that county, or any other part of Great Britain. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W.H. Chichester, West Croyden, gentleman; J.T. Morgan, 78, Wells Street, clerk; J.P.F. Pocock, 13, Penton Place, gentleman; W.H. Heaton, 20, Heaton Road, gentleman; A. Sheffield, Peckham, gentleman; T. Hall, South Hackney, auctioneer; W. Diver, 8, Pelham Street, solicitor's clerk. (Registered without articles.)

The Isle of Herm Granite Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in shares of £10. To purchase or otherwise acquire the Herm granite quarries, and the copper mines, wharves, quays, and lands adjacent thereto, situate on the island of Herm, near Guernsey, and the works, buildings, machinery, plant, and effects connected therewith. To work, win, polish, and sell the granite stones and other ores, mines, and minerals which may be found in quarrying. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - R.G. Brown, 144, Brixton Hill, surgeon; J. Biller, 110, Fenchurch Street, merchant; L. Stevens, Clapham Common, engineer; G.H.E. Brown, Harlesden, accountant; J.P. Hickey, Brixton, secretary; G.W. Gray, 192, Sloane Street, accountant; R.P. Keys, 22, Clifton Street, secretary.

The Tadergount Copper Mine (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £10. To purchase or otherwise acquire from Colonel Bolton, 19, Grosvenor Gardens, R.W. Rickards, Putney, and C.H. Thompson, Putney, the Tadergount Mine, native commune of Takitount, Algeria, now held and worked under a permis from the French Government, the full concession of which has been duly applied for, and the property, rights, estates, &c., therein, together with the plant, works, buildings, constructions, machinery, stores, materials, &c., belonging to the said mine, and to hold and work the said property for all ores and minerals of every description. To acquire any additional lands, mines, minerals, and to work

any mines and quarries, smelt, treat, manufacture, and make merchantable, such minerals and products, selling and disposing of the same. To erect, construct, purchase, work, and use all smelting and other works. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - F. Bolton, 19, Grosvenor Gardens, colonel; C.H. Thompson, Putney, merchant; E. Woods, 45, Onslow Gardens, civil engineer; R.W. Richards, Putney, mining engineer; P.A. Scratchley, 4, Broad Sanctuary, barrister; E. Penman, Brixton, accountant; H. Richards, Wandsworth, accountant.

The Vale of Clwyd Brick and Pottery Company (Limited).

Capital £4,000, in shares of £1. To purchase and take over the Glas and Graig Wen Brick and Pottery Works, near Ruthin, Denbigh, belonging to J.B. Wilson, the goodwill thereof, contracts, and effects, and to carry on the business of brick and pottery manufacturers in all its branches. The subscribers are - B.L. Williams, Denbigh, 10; W. Pattinson, Corwen, 20; A. Potts, Pantymymor, 10; W. Williams, Rhyl, 10; W.O. Edwards, Haulfre, 10; J.B. Wilson, Ruthin, 100; R. Lloyd, Ruthin, 2.

The Colomendy Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £5. The acquisition and working of quarries of white clay, sand, and chirk, china, and other clay, situate at Colomendy and Glan Alyn, in Denbigh, and Tyddyn, in Flint; and also other quarries, selling the produce thereof. The subscribers are - James Ashworth, Southport, 10; John Ashworth, Manchester, 10; F. Green, Belfast, 90; C. Elcock, Belfast, 10; T. Emmott, Oldham, 50; B.A. Dobson, Bolton, 40; G.W. Taylor, Mold, 10.

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#### DEPRESSION OF TRADE.

A Committee of the House of Commons on Railway Amalgamation has reported that where competition in coal and goods traffic exists by sea it should be encouraged and amplified, and that the capacities of canals should be developed and utilised. In accordance with this recommendation, it is proposed in the interest of the coal proprietors and others that a tidal navigation should be constructed from the sea to the vicinity of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire coal fields, which large steamers could traverse and load and unload in. In order to fix upon the most central and convenient position, Bawtry has been selected as the terminus of the navigation. Bawtry is on the River Idle, and is distant 20 miles from Barnsley, 8 from Doncaster and Retford, 15 from Rotherham, 18 from Sheffield, 22 from Chesterfield, 20 from Mansfield, 21½ from Teversal and Pleasley coal pits, and 34 from Nottingham. It is proposed to provide two short lines of railway, extending from Shireoaks to Bawtry, 10 miles, and from Rotherham to Bawtry 14 miles, making a total length of 24 miles. The tidal navigation would be entirely free from the existence of any lock, and would consist of 15¼ miles of the River Trent from Whitton to Owston, which would have to be straightened, widened, and deepened, and 12¾ miles of our new tidal and navigable cut or channel from Owston to Bawtry. The district to be traversed by the proposed navigation is a low-lying fen, practically a dead level, and below the level of high water, and, therefore, only a minimum amount of excavation would be necessary.

The coal rates from South Yorkshire, etc., by the railways to London amount to about 8-6d. per ton, whereas by sea from the Northumberland and Durham ports the freight is only 4-6d. per ton. From Bawtry to London by the proposed navigation it is estimated the freight would be 4-0d. per ton. The establishment of a shipping place for larger steamers in a central position like Bawtry would certainly enhance the value of the coal and other properties situate on this portion of the Midland and South Yorkshire districts. It is alleged that an impetus would be given to the coal and other trades, that the amount of foreign, coasting, and London traffic by sea would be much increased, and that the coal trade from Bawtry alone would probably reach 1,500,000 tons per annum. The estimated cost of the undertaking as made by the engineer, Mr. Hamilton Fulton, Mem. Inst. C.E., amounts to, it is said, £750,000. The drainage also of the Fen district, through which the proposed navigation would pass, would be much facilitated. Altogether, it appears to be a proposal worthy of the serious consideration of the coal and iron proprietors and manufacturers of South Yorkshire and the other localities interested, and which might be the means of securing to the localities the same facilities of sea traffic as are now possessed by the Northumberland and Durham coal fields.

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OFFENCES AGAINST THE METALLIFEROUS MINES REGULATION ACT.

Mr. F.C. Arkwright, of Willersley Castle, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Derby, was summoned before the Wirksworth magistrates on Tuesday, by Mr. Evans, Inspector of Mines, for neglecting to cause the tops of two mines, situate in Ible Wood, to be securely fenced. Mr. Leech, of Derby, instructed by the Home Office, supported the charge, and Mr. Small, of Burton-on-Trent, defended. The case occupied nearly two hours, Mr. Leech contending that Mr. Arkwright, who held the mines under lease from the Duchy of Lancaster, was liable as owner, the Act classing lessees as owners with regard to liability as to fencing, and Mr. Small maintaining Mr. Arkwright not being beneficially interested in the mines, or receiving any pecuniary benefit therefrom was not liable. That the mines were not fenced at all was not disputed, the point raised being simply whose duty it was to fence them. After half-an-hour's deliberation the Bench said they had decided to convict, and the fine would be 1-0d. and costs. Benjamin Spencer, of Middleton, was also fined 1-0d. and costs for a similar offence on the same date which he admitted. A third charge against W. Tomlinson was withdrawn for want of conclusive evidence.

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#### LEAD MINING IN DERBYSHIRE.

It has been truly remarked that of our mineral industries none is so uncertain as lead mining, for whilst as regards most others the material is in regular layers or deposits, such is not the case with lead; therefore, as year after year we find our production of ironstone and some other metals increasing, the reverse has been the rule as to lead. Thus we find that even last year the output in the United Kingdom was only 74,771 tons, whilst 30 years ago (in 1848) it was 78,944 tons, and in 1856 it was 102,000 tons - the largest quantity recorded. This decline is not so much the result of the exhaustion of the ores as of low prices and certain circumstances connected with the working of mines, many of which during the last decade or two have been abandoned owing to water and other causes. But no county in which lead is raised appears to have been so liable to fluctuations as Derbyshire, where ore was worked by the Romans, traces of whose skill and handiwork are to be found in many parts of it. Still, what most strikingly forces one in looking at the past history of the lead districts in the county is the large number of mines which have been opened out, and the small quantity of ore they have produced. In 1872 there were no less than 194 mines from which ore was extracted, yet the total of the whole only amounted to 5165 tons, so the probability is that not one-fifth of them could have been worked at a profit. In some instances not more than from 5 to 10 tons of ore were raised during the year at one mine, whilst seven gave a yield of 3524 tons, or more than two-thirds of the entire tonnage; each of the others giving less than 60 tons. In 1877 also two mines gave more than all the others put together, which numbered at least 132, and the same appears to have been about the state of affairs in 1878. This in a great measure is due to the facility with which land can be broken into or mines transferred, as well as to the fact that there are more miners than can be employed by companies and firms having capital, so that the poor men are glad to work on their own account in any concern. They have also the option, as we have before pointed out, of opening fresh ground on their own account, seeing that by the peculiarity of the mining law they are empowered to search and dig for ore on other people's property. This privilege has been taken advantage of by many workmen, as we found during our recent visit, whilst others have been glad to delve in mines which were abandoned when lead was higher in prices than it has been during the last year or two. Such transfers appear to be most simple and inexpensive, all that is necessary being an entry of the change in the barmaster's book, and the payment of a fee of 1-0d. In some instances, too, the men are put on tribute, but no matter on what terms such miners work many of them do not make more than 10-0d. or 12-0d. a week, and some even less. At the same time companies and private firms working mines with plenty of capital have also felt the pinch for a long time, owing to the low price of ore, and the great disadvantage they labour under from a want of railway accommodation. But even where mines are connected with branch or other lines it is evident lead cannot be worked at anything a profit, otherwise Mr. Beaumont, M.P., would not have closed some of his mines, as he is the largest owner of lead mines in the world, for the royalties and freehold rights which belong to him in the county of Northumberland alone extend over more than 100 square miles, in addition to extensive leaseholds in the county of Durham.

It is under such circumstances as noticed in last week's Journal that a deputation of mineowners, holding under the Duke of Devonshire, waited upon his Grace at Chatsworth, for the purpose of obtaining a reduction of the existing royalties, and with respect to these we purpose giving some particulars, to make them clearer than they have been made. It should, however, be stated that the lead in Derbyshire varies a great deal in quality, some of it being the reverse of rich in metallic lead, without any silver whatever, one of the most favourable returns for the county giving the fifth of an ounce of silver to the ton of ore, whilst Shropshire gives 14

ozs., Cornwall 12 ozs., Cumberland 5 ozs., Westmoreland 9 ozs., Cardiganshire 8 ozs., and the Isle of Man upwards of 40 ozs.; yet the poor ores of Derbyshire pay a comparatively high royalty as compared with other districts where the ore is very much richer. The royalties or dues, too, known as lot and cope, appear to have undergone no revision whatever for many years, nor has the tithe charge (equal to 1-40th), although the price of lead has fallen so low that it cannot be raised and made to pay a profit. The QUEEN in right of her Duchy of Lancaster, is entitled to the minerals in what is known as the King's Field, and has leased the duties to several persons being the landowners or owners of manorial rights. The Duke of DEVONSHIRE is entitled to the duties in the manors or liberties of Ashford, Hartington, Peak Forest, and Tideswell, and with others as tenants in common to the mineral duties in the manor or liberty of Crich, Stony Middleton, and Eyam. The duties paid are what are known as "lot and cope" and are somewhat peculiar, and by no means uniform. Wirksworth, a fine old Roman town, is the capital of the lead trade, with a Mote Hall, in which all mining disputes are tried, there being a Grand Barmote Court and a small Barmote Court, with steward or judge, juries, &c.; and in the Hall is kept the dish presented by HENRY VIII for measuring the ore, and is now in excellent condition. Within the Soke and Wapentake of Wirksworth are a considerable number of lead mines, and within its boundaries, according to the mineral articles, the lot paid to the lessees is to be 1-13th part of all the ore raised; in the manor or liberty of Crich 1-9th part of all the ore raised; in the manors or liberties of Peak Forest, Tideswell, Ashford, Hartington, Stony Middleton, Eyam, Youlgrave, and Litton 1-13th of all ore raised. The duty called "lot" is to be set apart and taken by the barmaster when he measures any ore. The duty called "cope" in the Wapentake of Wirksworth, is 6d. for every load of ore measures; in Crich and Ashford 6d., and in the liberties of Hartington, Peak Forest, Tideswell, Eyam, Stony Middleton, Youlgrave, and Litton 4d. for every load of ore measured. As to the load, we are told that "every such load, as aforesaid, is to contain nine dishes". The dishes or measures for the Wapentake of Wirksworth and Crich is to be the standard brazen dish in the Moot Hall at Wirksworth. For the other manors the dishes or measures shall be adjusted so as to contain 15 pints of water. The barmaster or his deputy is also entitled to 3d. per load upon all ore measured in the Soke and Wapentake of Wirksworth, exclusive of lot and cope tithes.

In some instances it may be that the dues stated are not enforced or some reduction made, yet considering the quality of the Derbyshire lead ores, how inferior they are, and at many places giving such a poor percentage of lead, it will be evident that the royalties or dues are particularly high, and such as cannot admit of mines yielding even a small profit, even where the output is considerable. But it is a fact that there are not a dozen mines yielding each 100 tons and upwards yearly, whilst in 1877 there were 80 mines that only gave a total of 131 tons altogether. It is plain, then, that some of those persons who may be designated mineowners must be in a state of extreme poverty, and that their perseverance has been such as to entitle them to the thoughtful consideration of the lessees holding under the Duchy of Lancaster. Shareholders of the few companies there are have long been without dividends, whilst private capitalists who have embarked in lead mining we may feel assured have not had a return for the money they have invested. The only persons who have been benefited by the exertions of those who have been working hard in the expectation of prices improving are the lessees, and it is certainly not asking too much that they should make some concession. In some few instances a large amount of capital has been expended in putting down powerful engines and pumping machinery, and where this has been done there has been a marked increase in the production of ore. Mr. Wass has spent some thousands of pounds on the Millclose Stoop Mine and has been able to draw out upwards of 100 tons of good ore monthly. Indeed, the bulk of the output is in the hands of a few individuals and companies. Taking the latest detailed returns, we find that in 1877 the yield of all the lead mines in Derbyshire was 5066 tons. Of this quantity Mr. Wass obtained from the Millclose 1383 tons, Wakebridge 423 tons, Bright's Friendly 211 tons, Bage 161 tons, Elton Cross 19 tons, Bull Tor 23 tons, Hardbeat and Heyspots 20 tons, Moletrap 15 tons, or a total of 2255 tons. The Mill Dam Mining Company obtained from the Mill Dam pit 1301 tons, and from Silence 11 tons, altogether 1312 tons. The next largest scorer is the Eyam Company

with 263 tons, then Mr. Ashton, of Pindale Mine, with 159 tons, so that four firms or companies from some 11 or 12 pits obtain 3989 tons of ore, being more than three-fourths of the entire yield, leaving 1077 tons to be divided amongst about 100 other mines. Mr. Wass, we may say, is a most enterprising man, and has some mines that do not pay, but that is a strong reason why his spirit and enterprise should be seconded by those who benefit by it to the extent the lessees do. As to the poor unfortunate working mineowners, who struggle so hard to get a bare existence, we certainly think they are entitled to the sympathy of the Duke of Devonshire and the other personages who draw lot and cope upon every ton of lead that is raised in the county. At the present time the toll is by far too high, not only compared with the royalties paid in other districts, but when compared with the quality of the ore itself. Unless, then, a reduction is made the present production must decline considerably, and Derbyshire lead mining sink lower than it has yet done. We, therefore, do not consider the request at all unreasonable that the lot and cope, as well as the tithe, should for a specified time at least be suspended.

This would have the effect of causing a good deal more ore to be raised, and new ground broken, so that ultimately the lessees would be more than recouped for the little sacrifice they have been asked to make during a season of more than usual depression, when lead is at so low a price that even those who have had to pay no royalties for it have been obliged to close their mines so as to save themselves from loss.

The Mining Journal.

Page 794 Col. 2-3, 9th. August 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Sumburgh Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £60,000, in shares of £10 - 3,500 preferred, and 2,500 deferred. To carry on the business of mining in Scotland. To purchase, take over, and continue the working of copper and other minerals in the parish of Sandwich, Shetland, on the estate of Mr. J. Bruce, held under lease by Mr. J. Walker, or any interest therein, according to an agreement by which the said J. Walker shall and will henceforth stand possessed of the said leasehold properties and his rights and interests therein as trustee for the company, and will convey all the property to the said company in accordance with the law of Scotland, subject to the terms and conditions of lease, for the consideration of £2,500 in deferred shares and £25,000 in cash. To lease, feu, sell, or exchange the mines, mineral grounds, lands, property, and effects of the company. To work and develop any mines or mineral ground belonging to the company. The subscribers are - G. Hamilton, Aberdeen, sheriff's clerk, 100; A. Walker, Aberdeen, merchant, 100; H.C. Smith, 75, Gresham Street, merchant, 50; J.C. Mackinlay, 27, Walbrook, merchant, 10; G. Davies, Hendon, solicitor, 10; J. Tomlin, East Moulsey, gentleman, 10; W.B. Smith, 8, Old Jewry, manufacturer, 10. Until the general meeting, occurring 12 months after the incorporation of the company, the following shareholders shall be the directors: - Sir Thomas Dakin, G. Hopkins, J. Dale, George Hamilton, and A. Walker, with power to appoint other directors. Remuneration to be determined by the company in general meeting.

The Sheffield Brick Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in shares of £10. The acquiring by purchase the business carried on by the Sheffield Patent Brick Company (Limited), now in liquidation, and to continue such business. The digging, opening, working, and raising beds of coal, lime, and other stones, clay, and earth. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Aizlewood, Sheffield; A. Sellers, Sheffield; J.B. Wostinholm, Sheffield; J. Wilson, Sheffield; T.H. Jenkinson, Sheffield; W. Storm, Sheffield; J. Yeardley, Sheffield.

The Mining Journal.

Page 830 Col. 1-2, 16th. August 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Rhydalun Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £10. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring for such considerations as the directors shall think fit the business, mines, property, and assets of the Rhydalun Mining Company, or any of them. The searching for, opening, mining, working, winning, digging, raising, getting, purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, crushing, washing, dressing, smelting, reducing, refining, burning, and manufacturing of lead, lead ore, black jack, calamine, and other ores, metals, fossils, limestones, and other minerals, &c. The carrying on the business of mine and coal owners, brickmakers, potters, quarry owners, and farmers, or any business incidental thereto. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - M. Francis, Old Hall, Halkyn, mining engineer; H. Humphrey, Hendregaerog, Carnarvon, printer and publisher; T. Smith, 14, East Gate Row, Chester, draper; G.S. Boucher, 43, Bridge Street Row, Chester, music seller; R. Jackson, 21, Hough Green, Chester, tea dealer; H. Goodwin, Manchester, tea agent; P. Jones, 2, Crescent Terrace, Rhyl, colliery agent. Number of directors not to be less than four or more than less. Messrs. Humphreys, Francis, Boucher, and Jackson shall be the first directors; qualification 25 shares, but not to apply to the first directors. Remuneration to be fixed from time to time by the company in general meeting.

The Midland Molton Ironstone Paving Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £5. To utilise the slag from blast-furnaces, and to work a patent in connection therewith. The subscribers are - J. Woodward, Milverton, 250; E. Pritchard, 27, Great George Street, 150; E.J. Purnell, Coventry, 50; W. Dawson, Tipton, 80; S.A. Dawson, Milverton, 5; B. Gallear, Tipton, 2; T. Smith, Tipton, 2.

The Mining Journal.

Page 829 Col. 2-3, 16th. August 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Aug. 14. No information has yet been made known as to the course the Duke of Devonshire is likely to adopt with respect to the mineral dues he receives from several lead mines; but which he was recently asked not to enforce for a time, seeing that the present low price of lead did not admit of ore being raised at a profit, whilst many of those engaged in raising it were not able to realise anything like ordinary labourer's wages. There is, however, every reason to believe his Grace will make some material alteration, seeing that he is well acquainted with the state of the trade, and a short time since intimated to the miners employed at his Grassington Lead Mine, in Yorkshire, that he purposed closing it for a time until there was a change for the better, as it could not be worked unless at a loss. Some few mines are raising a fair quantity of lead; but the great majority are doing comparatively little, and the wonder is that many of them are worked at all, for the ore raised is so comparatively trifling that it cannot give even a bare subsistence to the hands. Very little zinc ore is now obtained in connection with the lead, but calc appears to be extensively used for the making of paint. The raising of ironstone for the local works has fallen off very much of late years, and makers of pig-iron are satisfied with taking the greater part of what they require from a distance, as it can be obtained at a low figure, in all probability rather lower than what it could be raised at home. A slight improvement has taken place at some of the collieries doing largely with London and the South; but the trade is still in anything but a healthy state, for what business is done in many instances leaves no profit whatever. A considerable number of colliers are still out of work, and many have come to terms with the employers, and so have been able to get something like four days a week. Coke has been in rather better request, and a fair tonnage is being sent to Sheffield and the district around for smelting purposes. The iron trade remains in much about the same state as previously reported; but the signs, it may be said, are more cheerful as regards the demand; but prices do not seem to get up, so that if there are profits they must be small indeed. At one place it is said that there has been a better enquiry for pig-iron on the part of Sheffield manufacturers, and this is likely to be the case, seeing that of late more has been done in the hardware town. At the foundries in some cases there has been a little more activity in pipes and some other castings; but the number of hands employed is below what it was not so very long since. Derbyshire boasts of one Bessemer Steelworks; but it is about the largest in the kingdom, and for some time has been busily engaged in converting and rolling into rails, turning out something like 2,000 tons a week, and there seems to be no likelihood of there being any falling off in the production.

A change for the better has taken place at several of the principal works in Sheffield engaged in the production of heavy iron and steel material, and this is confidently expected will last for some time, from the branches most affected are those that have been about the worst off of any. The armour-plate mills have become active, and a few days ago the Crown Prince of Sweden visited the vast establishment of Sir J. Brown and Co. (Limited), and there saw the entire operation of rolling a plate 14 in. thick, and at Firth witnessed the casting of a 5 ton ingot intended for a 24 centimetre gun. Indeed, just now defensive and offensive material, in the shape of armour-plates for our vessels of war and home defences and a powerful ordnance, are in better request than usual. Ordinary plates for ships and boilers are in fair demand, and from America some good orders have been received for steel in sheets and strips for clock manufacturing purposes. One or two houses are slightly better off for orders for superior cutlery from America, but this old and important branch, taken altogether, is still dull. Not much is being done in springs at the present time, but there is a steady output of tires, axles, rods, and telegraphic and other wire. In sheepshears scarcely so much is being done, and the same may be said with respect to light implements. However Australia and some other of our colonies have so

far been good customers to us. Makers of Bessemer rails have been working well, although it is frequently stated that prices are too low to pay, but this evidently is not the case, and our Sheffield manufacturers, as the first that made them, seem determined to have their full share of the trade. Cast steel has slightly improved, and this is likely to continue. The make of pig has held up very well in the district, but it is said that one furnace is likely to be blow out. Ordinary brands of pig still sell quietly at late rates, but there appears to be a rather improved inquiry for haematite qualities for conversion into steel.

In South Yorkshire the coal trade has undergone but little change, but it may be said that there has been a little improvement in the business done with London, especially in Silkstones and in the best qualities supplied from the Mitchell's Main, Darfield Main, the Oaks, and Manver's Main. Steam coal has not been so brisk as might be expected for the season, and the shipments from the Humber contrast unfavourably with those for the corresponding period of last year so far. Some hundreds of miners are still walking about, and a good many are under notice to leave unless they submit to a reduction of wages.

A scheme has been brought out for making a tidal navigation from the sea to a point that will embrace by means of short railways the coal fields of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Notts, so that coal can be taken from those districts to London at a much less cost than that now charged by railway companies. Bawtry, a few miles from Doncaster, has been fixed upon as the terminus and port, the navigation would consist of about 15 miles of the River Trent, which would be free of locks. At present it would be premature to give a decided opinion as to the practicability of the scheme or otherwise.

The annual report of Henry Briggs, Son, and Co. (Limited) shows that, notwithstanding the generally disastrous conditions under which the iron and coal trades have been carried on during the last twelve months, a gross profit of £12,385- 19-9d. has been realised by the company during that period, subject only to a deduction of £4067-4-9d. for secured and paid interest on debentures and prepaid calls to June 30 last. The valuation of plant and dead work have been subjected to a deduction of over £9000. to cover depreciation, and the general stores have been entered at the low market values of the day. A dividend of 2½ per cent. will be declared, and £11,550-13-8d. will be carried forward.

The Mining Journal.

Page 853 Col. 2, 23rd. August 1879.

#### EARLY COAL PITS IN YORKSHIRE.

It has been generally understood that coal was not worked in Yorkshire until towards the close of the 15th century, but it has just been discovered that it was known and used at a much earlier date. Recently, in looking over the records of the Coroners' Rolls for certain purposes, it was found that in the 40th of Edward III., or 1367, the jurors from Ossett, Thornhill, Shitlington, and Flockton presented that on the Wednesday next before the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord at Ossett, one Adam Adamson of Gawthorpe accidentally fell into a coal pit and broke his neck, whereby he instantly died. From the same roll it appears that Sharlstone, Crofton, Snydale, and Warmfield presented that on the Monday next before the Nativity of our Lord, in the same year, Margaret, the wife of William de Folby, fell into a sea-coal pit, and by accident was drowned. In the year following, on the Wednesday next before the Feast of St, Martin, Thomas Fyting, digging coal in a coal pit at Flanshaw, was accidentally crushed and killed by a large quantity of roof falling upon him. In the 13th year of the reign of King Richard II., which would be 1390, there is a sum charged as the profits and expenses of the lordship of Wakefield of 6-0d. for a coal pit at Outwood, which belonged to one John Kirby. In the same year 7-0d. was paid for a coal pit let to John Collier for the same period. Leland, in his Itinerary, written about 350 years ago says - "There be plenty of veins of sea coal in the quarters about Wakefield;" and when going from Wakefield to Pontefract remarked "Almost in the middle way I left coal pits a little off on the right hand, not far from the principal head of the River Went." Outwood, it may be said, at the period named was covered with timber which must have been used for fuel, for it appears to have been afterwards denuded of timber. The term sea coal appears to have been applied to seams similar to those known in the North of England, and shows also that an inferior quality, in all probability largely composed of shale, was better known. Verily, these old coroners rolls must contain a vast amount of information which our written history has not recorded, and we are glad to find that the researches of the Mayor of Wakefield, who is the coroner for the honour of Pontefract, has called attention to them, as it is not unlikely that some of our antiquaries and literary students may find in them a rich material of interest to those who desire to be acquainted with the past history of what has grown to be the most important of all the industries of Great Britain.

The Mining Journal.

Page 853 Col. 2-3 23rd. August 1879.

PROPOSED LOTTERY FOR A COLLIERY.

An extraordinary prospectus has been issued by Messrs. Eaton and Partner, of Chesterfield, for the purpose of "taking in one or more partners" to complete the development of a "proposed colliery at Hady, near Chesterfield", but as the hotel keeper, whose name was given as receiver of the subscriptions repudiated, through his solicitor, any knowledge of the lottery previously to receiving one of the prospectuses issued, and as Mr. W.F. Howard, the secretary of the Chesterfield and Derbyshire Institute of Mining Engineers (the name of which was also mentioned in the prospectus), was equally prompt in announcing that "neither the council nor any meeting of the institute has to my certain knowledge ever been communicated with on the subject", and that, therefore, the mention of its name was unwarrantable, it is probable that fewer have been taken in than was intended. The most charitable conclusion to draw is that Eaton and Partner are a pair of ignorant labourers, who think that with a 12-horse power engine and the promise of a lease of 20 acres of land supposed to have coal under it, they can make their fortune, and that their ingenuity in framing a lottery prospectus exceeded their knowledge of the law of the matter.

The Mining Journal.

Page 854 Col. 2-3, 23rd. August 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Aug. 21. The decision come to by the Duke of Devonshire with respect to the mineral dues on lead ores raised in the districts in which he is the lessee has not yet transpired, but there is no doubt but what it will be favourable, if not to the extent asked. Some few mines appear to be doing tolerably well, but the majority must be having a hard time of it, for with lead at the price it is it is not easy to see how mining can be profitably carried on. The falling off in our imports, however, lead many persons to believe that we are on the eve of a marked change for the better, but it appears premature at present to come to such a conclusion. Ironstone mining is not carried on to the extent it was a few years ago either in the Chesterfield or Erewash Valley districts, in consequence of the rate at which it can be obtained in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Recently there has been a better demand for Derbyshire pig, and there is now some prospect of a general improvement with rather better prices. At Dronfield there has been a steady output of Bessemer rails, and one of the partners in the firm, Mr. Wilson, has succeeded in producing a composite plate of steel fused in iron that is likely to be adopted by the Admiralty. In some experiments made a few days ago at Portsmouth the plate was not penetrated by the heavy projectile with which it was attacked, the deepest crack made being only about 1-18th. of an inch. It is, therefore, likely that Sheffield, where the plate was made, will still maintain the position it has long held as the great producer of armour-plates for the British as well as other navies. Of late coal for household purposes has gone off tolerably well, and several of the principal collieries in Derbyshire have sent a large tonnage for the time of the year over the Midland Railway to London and the South. Still there are a good many colliers totally unemployed, and at a few places the wages question is still in an undecided state. The price of coal is certainly at a point at which profits cannot be made, and there is no likelihood of an advance, just at present at least. The consumption of coke appears to be increasing in Sheffield and the districts, so that there has been an increase in the production.

In several of the Sheffield branches of trade more is now being done than for several weeks past, both on home account and for exportation. The old staple industries, such as cutlery, saws, files, edge tools, and scissors, are not particularly active, but several of the heavy branches are much better off. More is being done in armour-plates, as well as in lighter ones for boilers and ships, whilst there has also been an improvement with respect to tyres and axles. Of late there has been a falling off at one or two establishments in Bessemer rails, but fresh orders are coming to hand that are likely to keep the mills fully going. Iron rails are not much enquired for, and are now principally made for collieries. Some of our colonies, however, continue to be good customers for steel rails and general goods, and we are now looking forward to an active season for sheep shears, although some little opposition has been shown on the part of continental makers, who produce a cheaper but an inferior article. Railway and other springs are quiet, but a steady business is still being done in telegraph wire. The foundries are still comparatively quiet, even for light and ornamental castings for builders, the demand for which is usually brisk at this time of year.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade is much as it has been for the last two or three weeks, but as colliery owners state that they are working without profit, and in some instances at a loss, a change at several places must inevitably take place. The present rate of wages cannot be maintained unless there is a change for the better, and there is no appearance of this taking place. The London trade keeps up very well for the season, and a steady business is being done in steam coal for shipment from Grimsby to the Baltic. A considerable number of miners are now walking about, as several collieries are still standing, whilst others are under notice to leave

unless they submit to a reduction of wages. At Carlton Main, one of the largest collieries in the district, a number of the men refused to submit to a reduction of wages, and refusing to give up the houses held by them from the company, have been ordered to be ejected if they refuse to give up peaceful possession.

On Monday a petition in bankruptcy was filed in the Barnsley County Court on behalf of Mr. Joseph Carnelley, coal merchant, of Barnsley and Bradford, and late a director of the Stanhope Silkstone Colliery, now in liquidation. The liabilities are estimated at £15,000, and the assets are not likely to be large.

American Orders for Bessemer Rails.

It is understood that a house in Sheffield has just secured an order from America for 15,000 tons of Bessemer rails and that another order is likely to be secured by another firm in the same place.

At Ilkeston the men employed at the collieries of Messrs. Barber and Walker have received notice of a reduction of wages. The men have been working nine hours a day, and it is expected the proposed reduction will be accepted.

The Oaks Explosion.

A committee having been formed some time since to collect subscriptions for the erection of a monument in Ardsley Churchyard to the memory of the men who were killed by the explosion of 1866, upwards of £80 has been received, and as more subscriptions are expected an order has been given for the execution of the work to Mr. Oxley, who erected the memorial in Darfield Churchyard to the men who were killed by the explosion at Lund Hill in 1857.

A cheque for £100 has been received from Mr. C. Markham, the managing director of the Staveley Iron and Coal Company, towards the Library Fund in connection with the Stephenson Memorial Hall at Chesterfield.

The Mining Journal.

Page 848 Col. 1-2, 23rd. August 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Jara Creek Gold Works (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £1, with power to increase. To purchase the right to work a certain gold property situate in Surinam, South America, granted to T.N. Eckhardt de Mesquita under contract from the local Government. To purchase or otherwise acquire any mines, land, mineral properties or rights or other interests in Surinam, also mills, buildings, plant, machinery, stores, tools, and other effects which may be deemed necessary. To work, explore, develop, and maintain the mines, properties, and works of the company. To deal in, sell, and dispose of metals, ores, and minerals generally, and to carry into effect an agreement made between H.L. Phillips of the one part and J. Romanes as trustee for the company, of the other, to purchase the interests of T.N. Eckhardt de Mesquita and others in fully paid up shares. The subscribers are - T. Kent, 51, Lee Park, gentleman, 5; A. Kerly, 14, Great Winchester Street, solicitor, 5; H.L. Phillips, 184, Palmerston Buildings, gentleman, 5; F.B. Powell, 223, Hampstead Road, law clerk, 1; T.R. Strangeman, 127, Leadenhall Street, manager in a public company, 5; E. Lane, 6, Palmerston Road, out of business, 5; Charles Smith, Stoke Newington, clerk, 1. The first directors shall be Messrs. G. Palmer, T. Kent, and J. Romanes, the number not to exceed seven or less than two. Qualification 10 shares until £500 is allotted, thereafter the holding of not less than 100 shares.

The Hanley and Bucknall Coal Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in £5 shares. To carry into effect a certain contract already made (not registered) with the New Hanley and Bucknall Colliery Company (Limited) for the purchasing or otherwise acquiring of coal mines, collieries, railway plant, machinery, implements, wagons, houses, appliances, and effects, belonging to that company, situated in Staffordshire, and to search for and bring to the surface all coal, cannel, ironstone, and other minerals, and to make merchantable, sell, and dispose, and make profits thereof. To acquire any other mines, beds, seams, or quarries of coal, ironstone, fire-clay, &c., and to carry on the business of coal and iron masters, founders, brick and tile makers, &c., in all branches of such business. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Dugdale, Burnley, merchant; J.F. Buckley, Greenfield, near Manchester, coal proprietor; A. Buckley, Greenfield, near Manchester, coal proprietor; J. Wood, Glossop, manufacturer; A. Winstanley, Manchester, mining engineer; Josiah Radcliffe, Bryn Dinarth, merchant; W. Sidebottom, Broadbottom, cotton manufacturer; Josiah Radcliffe, Rochdale, cottonspinner. Registered without Articles of Association.

The Mining Journal.

Page 877 Col. 1, 30th. August 1879.

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT - GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION.

Joseph Bennett, was killed by a fall of roof at Aspinshaw Colliery. The deceased had been allowed to work in his "shop" after the props had been drawn; and the assistant deputy fireman admitted, in cross-examination by Mr. Stokes, that he had neglected to place a danger signal at the entrance of the "shop", or to fence it off, contrary to the 14th. section of the Mines Regulation Act. The jury decided not to return a verdict of Manslaughter against Daniel Bradbury, the assistant deputy fireman, the Coroner and the Inspector having previously intimated that the owners and management would be prosecuted for incompetent management and gross negligence.

The Mining Journal.

Page 878 Col. 1-2, 30th. August 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Aug. 28. - No change of any consequence has taken place in trade generally in Derbyshire, but, as is the case in nearly all parts of the kingdom, there is a strong feeling that the season of depression is gradually passing away, and that the worst has been surmounted. In the lead district there has been nothing new to report, and lead mining appears to be about the last of our industries that is likely to be affected by the improvement which has set in. The price of lead for some time past has been unremunerative, but with the marked decline in our imports prices must inevitably rise, so that we may expect to see many of the mines now standing again in full operation; but to ensure this there will have to be some abatement made in the royalties paid, as well as in the rates and in the mode of assessment at many places. There are some few ironstone mines kept going, but the quantity of ore raised is probably not much more than half of what it was a few years ago, as the Northamptonshire field is looked to more than the one at home. Of late there has been a better enquiry for Derbyshire pig for Staffordshire and other districts, but as yet there has been no quotable advance in prices although in some instances no doubt a slight rise has taken place. Bars and other descriptions of manufactured iron have also been more enquired for of late, more especially for Sheffield and the district around it. Bessemer rails have in no way fallen off at the one place in the county where they are made. Considering that we are still inside the month of August, the business doing in house coal is fully equal to what could be expected under the most favourable circumstances, but unfortunately prices do not go up, so that those who are making a little profit may be considered well off. The London trade has kept up very well for the time of year, and large quantities of Silkstone and other qualities continue to be sent over the Midland to St. Pancras and the depots. Steam coal has not been at all brisk during the summer, when the consumption is the heaviest, and the exports the largest, and the consequence is that it has been sold at a less price than previously. There are still a good many men walking about, but before long it is expected that all will be at work.

On all hands it has been admitted that trade in Sheffield is in a much healthier state than it has been for a very long time, and there is every prospect that this state of things will continue up to the close of the year at least. The fact of an order for 15,000 tons of Bessemer rails having been given to one firm in the town on Canadian account has been published far and near, and this it is understood will shortly be supplemented by further orders of something like the same magnitude. Our Bessemer mills are, therefore, likely to have a brisk season, which, of course, will be shared in by ironmasters engaged in the production of hematite pig. Steel for other purposes, it may also be said, is in better request, and considerable quantities of plates made from it are now being absorbed by boiler-makers and shipbuilders. Ordinary plates and sheets, however, are in tolerably fair request, and there is a fair output of hoop iron. Some little improvement has taken place in the demand for the best qualities of cutlery; but there are still a good many persons in the different branches connected with its production anything but fully employed, edge tools, sheep-shears, and other products for the Australian and other colonial markets have been in better request, whilst two or three of the file establishments have recently had some good orders, giving more employment to their hands. At one of the principal collieries in the district there has been some interruption to work owing to the wages question, but in the present state of trade disputes are not likely to be of long duration.

The Stanhope Silkstone Colliery, near Barnsley, after being closed for several months, owing to the company having gone into liquidation, is about to be worked again by the mortgagee and original proprietor, Mr. Howarth. The colliery has been in the hands of two companies, both of which have failed.

In the South Yorkshire district the Coal Trade is decidedly better, and the men more fully employed than for some time past, in some few instances there being six days a week, and in others five days. But this does not in any way affect the price of coal, which is such that owners say they are unable to make any profit whatever. There are still, however, a considerable number of men out of work, but for which they are not responsible. This should be about the busiest time of the year for the shipment of steam coal from the Humber to the North of Europe, but of late there has been a falling of in the quantity sent to Grimsby, which is the principal outlet for coal of that description from the South Yorkshire district, while it is not likely that the Baltic will be open for more than six or seven weeks from this time, so the season is not likely to be so good as some previous ones. A superior quality of coke suitable for smelting is now being produced, and meets with a rather ready sale, and is, probably, about the only thing that pays in connection with coal.

The leaders of the Miners' Association are obtaining signatures to a memorial to be presented to Parliament, praying for a Royal Commission to enquire into the charges made by certain railway companies for the conveyance of coal from the West Riding to Hull and London, and as to how far they act inimically to the interests of the working miners and others. The railways alluded to appear to be the Great Northern and the North Eastern.

On Friday last a large party of members and associates of the British Association visited the Phoenix Bessemer Works, Sheffield, belonging to Messrs. Steel, Tozer, and Hampton, when they had the opportunity of seeing the Bessemer process under the most favourable circumstances. There was a twilight exhibition of the system, together with a complete view of the splendid blowing engine. The visitors were much gratified at what they saw, which was handsomely expressed by the Marquis of Blandford. The compliment was responded to on the part of the firm by Mr. Tozer, who expressed that he and his colleagues felt honoured in receiving so large and distinguished a party at their works.

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Registration of New Companies.

Metallic Sulphides Reduction Company - Hollway's Patents (Limited).

Capital £100,000, in shares of £10. Acquiring Hollway's patents, and carrying on the business of smelters, manufacturers, and workers of copper, gold, silver, nickel, other metals and ores, sulphur and sulphuric acid compounds, &c. The subscribers (who take one shares each) are - F. Arding, 5, Jeffrey's Square; P. Pate, 7, Union Court; T.S. Whitehead, 146, Leadenhall Street; A. Edwards, 102, King Henry's Road; F. Edwards, 127, Leadenhall Street; W. Nicolson, Lee; W.J. Hollway, Woodsidings, Pinner.

Coosheen Copper Company (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £5. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring of any mines or mineral properties, or leases, licenses, agreements for leases, of any mines or mineral properties situate in the parish of Schull. The exploring, working, and carrying on of mining operations, more particularly for working the Coosheen Mines, in the parish of Schull, County Cork, and any other mines in the United Kingdom. To purchase, build, or erect houses, buildings, warehouses, wharves, roads, railways, tramways, engines, wagons, or cars, and any machinery, plant, or other property deemed necessary by the company. The subscribers are - D. Horn, Liverpool. brickmaker and tile manufacturer, 5; E.R. Rigby, Halton, no business, 5; W. Pearse, Liverpool, surveyor, 5; J. Hodges, Liverpool, law stationer, 5; E. Langsdale, Liverpool, builder, 5; T.H. Pearse, Liverpool, broker, 1; J.F. Fort, Liverpool, coal tar pitch merchant, 1. Number of directors not to exceed five or be less than three. The first directors shall be W. Pearse, E.B. Rigby, E. Langsdale, and J. Hodges. The qualification for other directors to be 20 shares, to be held at least three months before nomination.

The "Nueva Palentina" Copper Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in shares of £5. to purchase or otherwise acquire certain lands containing beds of copper or other ores, and mines and mining rights, with all necessary appliances, situate in the village of Redondo, district of Corvera de Rio Pisuerga, in the province of Palencia, Spain. To purchase or otherwise acquire any lands, mines, mining rights, ores, or minerals, or other mining works in that district or elsewhere. To carry on the business of miners by working said mines, and for treating the ores obtained therefrom, also the business of smelters and purchasers of ores of any kind. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - A. Lyon, accountant, 77, Mortimer Road; R.H. Elisha, clerk, Dalston; T. Christie, clerk, Stoke Newington; T.H. Ashdown, clerk, 348, City Road; J.E. Leyland, actuary, 30, Upper Phillimore Place; G.H. Howe, merchant, City Chambers, Fenchurch Street; B. Torrens, merchant, 16, Bishopsgate Street Without. The first board shall be elected by the subscribers. Qualification of directors other than subscribers 20 shares, £300 to be divided amongst them as remuneration.