

The Mining Journal.

Page 588 Col. 3, 7th. June 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Phoenix Peat Fire-Lighter Company (Limited).

Capital £6,000, in shares of £5. To carry on the business of fire-lighter manufacturers, using peat or charcoal mixed or combined. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W.R. Trevelyan, Hants.; R.T. Head, Alplington; A. Carr, Exeter; R.W. Head, Exeter; F. Thomas, Exeter; G.W. Couch, Exeter; J. Talford, Exeter.

The Uplees Brickfields Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £5, The immediate acquisition of the Uplees brickfields, belonging heretofore to J.S. Morgan, with the clay, chalk, sand, and other stone mines and minerals situate at Faversham, together with the plant, machinery, &c. Manufacturing and selling, bricks, pipes, tiles, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - T. Grover, Bridgemarsh; C.A. Wilkes, 100, Long Acre; J.S. Maughan, Turnham Green; S.H. Beckles, 43, Fish Street Hill; C. Griffin, Shepherd's Bush; P.J. Lowry, 28, Bridge Row; F. Philips, 16, Duke Street.

The Victoria Patent Fuel Company (Limited).

Capital £70,000, in shares of £20. The manufacture of patent fuels, pitch, and oils. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W. Jones, Western Moor; C.E. Peel, Swansea; M.P.H. Formby, Briton Ferry; W. Powell, Hirwain; C. Page, Briton Ferry; G.H. Davey, Briton Ferry; W.P. Powell, Hirwain.

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Page 603 Col. 3 to Page 604 Col. 1, 14th. June 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

June 12. Since the holidays business at the mines and ironworks has got into its ordinary course again, but trade is by no means brisk. The production of pig has been kept up to the average of the last month or two, but there are several furnaces out, and a marked change must take place before they are again in blast. Of late a little more has been done in pig and other iron for Sheffield and other places, but prices are still very low, without any appearance of a rise being likely to take place. makers of Bessemer rails keep busy, and a steady business continues to be done in light malleable castings. Several of the largest collieries have been doing an active trade with the Metropolis in house coal, but since the commencement of June there has been a gradual falling off, consequent to the pits in Durham being again in full operation. Partly from the same cause the price of coal in the metropolitan market has had a considerable drop, so that consumers can now have Silkstones put in their cellars at from 21-0d. to 22-0d. per ton, which is 3-0d. a ton less than was charged only a few weeks since. Yet low in price as coal is, and unremunerative as it is to colliery owners, there is every probability of its receding still lower. It will be evident, therefore, that there must be a revision of the present prices for getting coal. At one place a considerable number of men are on strike against a reduction of wages, whilst meetings are being held, at which the men state that they purpose demanding a 10 per cent. increase, and talk about setting the collieries down if it is not conceded. There will, however, be a change before long, for with the warm weather we may expect that many colliery owners will not be able to find more than three days a week for their hands. Steam coal is still only in moderate request, and not much is being done in slack and smudge.

In Sheffield several of the manufacturers are better off than they than they have been, and orders have come more freely of late from the United States, Australia, and South America. An order for armour-plates for our own Admiralty is just being completed, and a few days ago Lord Cranbrook whilst in the town saw one of these monster plates for the Inflexible rolled. His lordship, it may be said, is a Yorkshireman, and a partner in the firm of Hird, Dawson, and Hardy, of the well-known Lowmoor Works, near Bradford, where there are no less than seven ordinary rolling-mills. In ship and boiler plates a steady business is being done by the leading firms, but there is only a moderate output of sheets. makers of Bessemer rails are still well employed, but we hear of very little being done with respect to ordinary iron rails. A good deal of Bessemer is also being made of special qualities for cutlery and other purposes. In tyres, axles, and rods a steady trade is being done, whilst file makers are better off than they have been. Australia and South America are sending orders for edge tools, light agricultural implements, and sheep shears, whilst the former is also a good customer for engines and machinery, as well as for cutlery and hardware. Several of the old cutlery establishments are able to find their hands full employment, most being done in the finest qualities of table and pocket knives, inferior sorts not being in much request.

In South Yorkshire there is a good deal of speculation as to the course the colliery owners are likely to adopt in consequence of the extraordinary decision given by the umpire, who has admitted making a serious mistake by stating that the average wages of the miners was only about 23-6d. a week, whilst according to his own figures it was nearer 27-0d. Such is the state of the coal trade at the present time that most of the pits are being worked at a loss, and this is likely to increase more than otherwise. many of the owners have been losing as much as 6d. per ton in all coal brought to bank, and this they cannot continue to do longer. It is, therefore, plain that something will be done, and that before long, for the heavy losses of last year cannot be repeated this.

A few days since a meeting of the Coalowners' Association of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire was held at Sheffield, but nothing definite was done with respect to the wages question. It is expected, however, that another meeting will shortly be held, and some decision come to with regard to the miners' wages.

Next month the Stephenson Memorial Hall in Chesterfield is to be opened by the Duke of Devonshire, and the ceremonial promises to be a most imposing one. There will be a large gathering of the most eminent civil, mining, and mechanical engineers in the country to do honour to the memory of the great locomotive inventor and railway pioneer, who died within sight of the new hall.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Crook Burn Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £6,400, in shares of £1. The searching for, winning, and working of lead ore, coal, calamine, sulphate and carbonate of barytes, blende, and other minerals in ground, situate at Crook Burn, at the junction of the counties of Durham and Cumberland. The making, smelting, and preparing, and selling of fire and other bricks, tiles, lime, lead, blende, iron, iron ore, and any other articles made of or composed of any mineral or other substance raised or belonging to the company, and to carry out an agreement whereby C.W. Harrison, on behalf of the company, to purchase from J.H. Robinson his interest in the above-mentioned property. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring any other lands, mines, mineral properties, &c. The subscribers are - T. Gray, Newcastle-on-Tyne, contractor, 200; T.B. Winster, Newcastle, optician, 200; T. Anderson, Newcastle, agent, 100; W. Scott, Newcastle, 200; A.L. Newton, Newcastle, agent, 200; T.B. Barker, South Shields, gentleman, 200; T. Sheldon, Jarrow, chemical manufacturer, 200. Messrs. Gray, Winter, Scott, and Robinson to be the first directors. Qualification stock to the nominal value of £100.

Yates, Haywood, and Company and the Rotherham Foundry Company (Limited).

Capital £100,000, in shares of £100, out of which 300 are 5 per cent. preference shares. The adoption of a contract made between George Haywood and others for the carrying on the business heretofore belonging to Yates, Haywood, and Company, as iron and brass founders, stove, grate, and marble manufacturers, and manufacturers of any articles made of iron. The subscribers are - R. Haywood, Rotherham, 10; G.H. Haywood, 8, Clarendon Road, 50; W.H. Haywood, Rotherham, 10; E. Drabble, Rotherham, 10; Mary Drabble, Rotherham, 10; Ann Oxley, Rotherham, 10; T. Magg, Rotherham, bank manager, 10.

The Mining Journal.

Page 628 Col. 1-2, 21st. June 1879.

#### REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

June 19. Trade in Derbyshire is not by any means so brisk as it has been so far as relates to coal and iron, and there are signs that in the former branch difficulties are brewing that are likely to interrupt the relations existing between employers and workmen. Of late there has been a falling off in the business doing in house coal, accompanied by a lowering of prices, and this has led several of the colliery companies and owners to give notice of a reduction of wages. In one or two instances the men have endeavoured to effect a compromise, but have been unsuccessful, so that just now a considerable number of men are unemployed, and in the course of the next week or ten days there will be a great many more in the same position. At Unstone, where the men about a fortnight ago held a meeting at which it was declared the pits would be set down if the employers did not give an advance instead of enforcing a reduction, things have taken a rather curious turn. The three firms having collieries there have given their workmen the usual 14 days notice to leave, and it is intended to close the collieries. This turning of the tables was more than was expected, and the men find themselves in a very awkward position, for whilst most of them belong to the Union, yet there is no fund to maintain them whilst idle, nor can they expect to find work at any of the other collieries. The decision come to will affect about 1000 men and boys. In the neighbourhood of Staveley two pits are all but standing, the men having gone out on strike, whilst in the Chesterfield district notices have also been given to a considerable number of miners, so that mining prospects are anything but cheerful. At the ironworks there has been very little change of late, there being the usual but limited output of pig, whilst the foundries are working steadily. There has been no decline with respect to Bessemer rails, the production being still large.

In Sheffield some of the trades are looking better than they did, and the prospects are brighter than they have been. In foundry and forge iron a steady business is being done, but not sufficiently so to clear off the stocks that have been accumulating for some time. It would appear that at several ports shipbuilding has become more active, for there has been a better enquiry for plates, whilst rather more has been done in those for boiler-makers as well. Builders' castings, as well as stoves, grates, and fittings, keep the foundries rather busier, but engineers and machinists are anything but fully employed. Bessemer makers continue to do well, as there are sufficient orders in hand to keep the rail-mills going, although the price at which contracts have to be taken is very low. Makers of tyres, axles, and rods have been fairly employed, as well as those engaged in edge-tools, sheep-shears, and colonial implements, Australia still taking largely from us, not only in railway material, but in a variety of our productions as well. More is also being done in steel-plates for ships and boilers, and it would almost appear that for those purposes the iron will have to give way more than it has done. In general cutlery the demand appears to have become quieter, and some of the first houses have as much as they can do to keep their hands fully going, although recently there has been a little better run for Germany, in anticipation of the new tariff coming into force. At some of the collieries near to the town notices have been given of a reduction of wages, and at one place a number of the men have left, their notices having expired.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade, so far as relates to households, has fallen off, so that a comparatively moderate tonnage is being forwarded to London and other markets. A steady business, however, is being done in steam qualities for shipment from the Humber to the Baltic. A movement is now being made throughout the district for a reduction of miners' wages, as the colliery owners state that they are working their pits not only without profit, but many of them at a loss, and that they cannot continue to do so any longer. It will be for the men to say whether

they will submit to a reduction or not, for the option lies between doing so or becoming entirely idle. The Association hold that the decision of the umpire should be accepted as conclusive, and carried out by the employers. But the umpire, it may be said, at the close of his award, stated that his decision was not to affect the right of the colliery owners to close their pits if they thought proper to do so. The district is not in favour of setting down the collieries, as proposed at the Conference now sitting at Birmingham, for Mr. Chappell, one of the Association secretaries, at a meeting a few days ago, said the South Yorkshire miners had decided not to take any part in what he termed "the wild scheme" to set down all the pits.

One of the Butterley Company's pits, that has been standing for some time, it has been determined to re-open, and men have been engaged in widening the shaft from 9ft. to 15ft.; a few days ago, whilst so employed, a scaffolding some way down the shaft gave way, precipitating two men to the bottom, and killing them.

The late heavy rains have been the means of stopping work at one colliery at Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston. The water was several feet deep in the shaft, so that pumping had to be carried on, and the ordinary work stopped. In other parts of the Erewash Valley considerable damage was done by the water, and the live stock had to be removed from the fields.

Between 150 and 200 men belonging to the Monk Bretton Colliery, near Barnsley, one of the largest in the district, have received notice to leave their employment, the object, it is said, being a reduction of wages.

The directors of the Atlas Works, Sheffield (Sir J. Brown and Co., Limited), have issued their annual report to the shareholders, which shows a profit on the trading of £7,000, which will be brought forward.

Failure of a Colliery Company.

On Monday a petition in liquidation was filed in the Wakefield County Court on behalf of Messrs. Embleton and Bailey (the St. John's Colliery Company). The liabilities are put down at £67,000, including the claims of secured creditors.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Yatesine Patent Picking Band Company (Limited).

Capital £7,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire, manufacture, and deal in a patent for improvements in picking bands. The subscribers (who take 50 shares each) are - J. Fielding, Stockport; W. Parritt, Droylsden; W.E. Yates, Droylsden; F.L. Leech, Salford; F.W. Dawson, Broughton; J.H. Lee, Manchester; T. Horsfall, Walsden.

McLean and Company (Limited).

Capital £60,000, in shares of £10. To manufacture and sell Portland and other cements, lime, plaster, &c., and to purchase the business heretofore carried on by McLean and Company at Southwark, New Cross, and Glasgow. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - R. Charles, Highbury; J. Hill, Beckenham; E.B. Rickett, Chislehurst; A. Martin, Southwark; A. McLean, Southwark; A.H. Carley, 4, New Broad Street; F. Terrell, 70a, Aldermanbury.

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Page 652 Col. 2-3, 28th. June 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

June 26. The Coal Trade just now is in anything but a healthy state in Derbyshire, for prices have come down to a point which admits of no profit whatever, but in not a few cases actual loss. Under such circumstances the colliery owners have sought for a reduction of wages, so that the loss should be more equally borne, but this many of the men are averse to, and prefer standing out. In some few instances the men have agreed to the reduction required by their employers, and so far all has been right. But at others the men have struck, preferring total idleness to making some little sacrifice, and are content to go begging for money and provisions instead of working. At Unstone the owners have taken a more decided step, for they have given notice to their hands that after the end of the present week their collieries will be closed. There will, consequently, next week be some hundreds of workmen entirely idle, so that a great deal of distress is likely to be the result, for the Association is powerless to support those who will be out, whilst there is very little chance of their obtaining employment at other places, seeing that short time is becoming general. The business doing with London in house coal has sensibly decreased, as is usual at this time, whilst prices have come down to a very low point, but this does not induce large customers to fill their cellars for winter consumption, so that the railway drops and sidings are pretty full, whilst there are plenty of loaded wagons to be seen near the different railway stations, and this is likely to continue, for colliery owners are in a fix to find markets for what they are raising, whilst they are content to keep going on so long as they are not serious losers. To Birmingham and the West business has also become quieter, so the railway companies are beginning to feel the decline in the traffic. Steam coal, which should now be active, has not materially improved, and shipments from the few ports to which Derbyshire coal is sent have been particularly moderate. In other qualities of coal, such as nuts, slack, and smudge, there is not much doing, although they are offered at prices at which the sellers must be losers. The make of pig is considerably below what it was at one time, a good many furnaces being out, still it is more than sufficient to meet the demand for it and the consumption on the spot. There has been no increase in the production of mill material, whilst at the foundries the limited number of men employed as a rule are kept fairly going on gas and water pipes, pillars, stoves, and ordinary castings. In the neighbourhood of Dronfield there is now a large number of iron and steel workers, and the locality seems to be better off than most. In light malleable castings and those of an ornamental character, for which the place has a reputation a century old, a steady business has been done, whilst at Messrs. Wilson and Cammell's establishment - one of the largest there engaged in making Bessemer steel - there has been a large production of rails of that material.

During the past seven or eight days several failures have taken place in Sheffield, and it is expected that others will follow, so that there is considerable uneasiness in mercantile and manufacturing circles, and which to some extent affects some branches of trade. In few departments has there been any improvement of late, whilst in some there has been a falling off. With respect to the new American tariff, it is said that one house doing a large business there in cutlery will transport their entire plant to the other side of the Atlantic along with the most skillful of the workmen, as the name in all probability would ensure the old trade. Several of the large establishments, it may be said, are scarcely so busy as they have been, and the demand for secondary qualities of general cutlery is still but moderate. The ordinary plate mills are running tolerably well, some fair orders being in hand for ship and boiler plates, whilst makers of Bessemer rails are still working well despite the cry out about the low prices at which contracts for home and foreign lines have been taken. In other descriptions of railway materials, including tyres and axles, a steady business is being done. Steel plates for boilers and shipbuilders are now

making their way, and more are being turned out than has previously been the case, as there is no doubt that they will be the most economical in the long run. engineers and machinists are still quiet, but railway wagon builders are favourably off for work. At the foundries in some cases a little more is being done, principally in cooking ranges, stoves, palisadings, and fittings. In pig-iron the demand is quiet for ordinary brands, and prices low, so much so that at the meeting of William Cooke and Company (Limited), of Tinsley, it was stated that there had been a loss on the year's working, which was put down to the furnaces solely. In South Yorkshire the coal trade is quiet, and at several places the men have received notice of reduction of wages consequent on the loss occasioned by keeping the collieries going. But this the men are slow to believe, and the leaders are endeavouring to obtain some consolation by calling attention to the carriage rates for coal going from the district by railway, and suggesting the formation of some new lines. But these are matters that have long since been well studied over by colliery owners, who know that they are powerless in the matter.

At Rotherham the large and well-known establishment of Messrs. Yates, Haywood, and Company, the Effingham Stove Grate Works, will in future be carried on by a limited company, the principal members of which are the family of Mr. Haywood, who retires, but so divides the concern.

The failure of Messrs. Aschheim Brothers, the Yorkshire Steel-works, Sheffield, with liabilities amounting to £18,000, has been announced. Mr. T. Barker, iron and steel merchant, of the same place, has also gone into liquidation, the liabilities being about £13,000.

The affairs of Messrs. Beaumont, Brown and Company, of the Wath and Milton Main Colliery, near Barnsley, are to be wound-up by voluntary liquidation.

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Registration of New Companies.

Ferrumite Company (Limited).

Capital, £10,000, in shares of £10. To acquire the business of W. Garnett, London and Portsmouth, and to manufacture and sell cement. The subscribers are - F.J.E. Whitehead, Ramsgate, 100; G. Blake, Southsea, 25; J.L. Livesay, Ventnor, 25; H. Garnett, Ryde, 400; G. Garnett, Ryde, 10; A.R. Holbrook, Portsea, 2; H. Lawrence, Southsea, 2.

The Warton and Silverdale Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £10. To purchase sundry mining royalties in Warton-upon-Lindeth, and Warton-in-Lonsdale, and in Silverdale, Lancashire, also in Beetham, Westmoreland, and to work same, dispose of produce, and to carry on the business of mine owners and manufacturers of and dealers in iron ore and other minerals. The subscribers are - H.J. Walduck, Silverdale, iron ore mines proprietor, 20; W.W. Hadfield, West Gorton, cashier, 1; E.H. Marshall, Manchester, accountant, 1; W.S. Boddington, Manchester, solicitor, 1; G.L. Scott, Chorlton-on-Medlock, engineer, 1; V. Walduck, 148, Gresham House, metal merchant, 1; J. Sproxton, 148, Gresham House, secretary, 1. (Registered without Articles of Association.)