

The Mining Journal.

Page 208 Col. 1, 1st. March. 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Feb. 27. Since last report there has been little or nothing to report that is new, but there is certainly a better feeling as to trade generally, and a disposition to believe that we have now seen the worst of it. Lead mining in Derbyshire appears to be an industry that is allowed to move along calmly with scarcely a ripple to disturb the uniform smoothness which has so long prevailed. There are several companies certainly at work, but the worst of it is one hears nothing about dividends in connection with them. Lead, no doubt, is very low in price, but under ordinary circumstances, and considering that labour in the county is very cheap, it appears somewhat singular that so few lead mines in Derbyshire are being worked at a profit. Private enterprise appears to be more successful than the efforts of public companies, if we are to judge by what has been accomplished by Mr. Wass, who evidently has the cream of what is being raised. He has found that mining, to be economically and profitably conducted, requires the best of machinery and appliances, and where these are not to be found then a loss is more likely to be the result than anything else. Hence it is that there have been so many failures in Derbyshire in connection with lead mines, for men have started with little or no capital at all, and as a matter of course, have broken down, but this cannot be said of some of the companies, who have drawn extensively from the shareholders, and are still struggling with difficulties that look as if they were of a chronic character. In ironstone and coal mining it has been very different, although neither of them are anything like so profitable as they were two or three years since. The severe weather which has prevailed, with a slight interruption, since the commencement of the year, has been of marked benefit to both colliery owners and colliers, for it has kept prices higher than they would otherwise have been, and at the same time found more employment for the workmen. In London there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of house coal, and this has been fully as much to the advantage of the colliery proprietors in Derbyshire as to those in any other part of the kingdom. Clay Cross alone has been sending something like 1,000 tons away on every working day, whilst Tibshelf, Grassmoor, and several other pits have also been sending large quantities to the Metropolis. But the competition with other districts has been so keen that prices have not improved, for Eckington Silkstones are still delivered to consumers inside the City boundary at from 23-0d. to 24-0d. per ton, and the ordinary thick coal at 21-0d. The Great Northern of late has been paying more attention to the traffic from the collieries, which it intersects on its new line between Nottingham and Derby, so that a larger tonnage than usual is now being to King's Cross from Pinxton and one or two other places. In other descriptions of coal there has been no improvement, for the depression in Lancashire has led to a falling off in the consumption of that required for steam purposes, although that description of fuel is offered at a price which cannot pay the owner. a fair amount of business is being done in coke with Sheffield and the neighbourhood.

In Sheffield some of the establishments engaged in the oldest branches of the trade have become busier, and a much better feeling prevails in the town as to the future. During last week and the early part of the present a good many hands who have been out of employment for a considerable time were set to work, and in all probability this will continue to go on. still there are many men idle, for in many departments there has been no improvement whatever. For fine cutlery several orders have come to hand, and America appears likely to be once more a good customer to us, whilst our transactions with the Continent have also improved. Sheep shears for Australia and South America are now becoming in more active request, whilst more is also being done on Russian account in general material, not excepting railway iron, of which that country is a very large consumer. Bessemer rails do not appear to have declined in any way, for the different makers appear to be as busy as ever, whilst it is said that contracts have been taken

as low as from £4-17-6d. to £5 per ton - a price that would leave a very small profit indeed. Some of the mills have been running tolerably well, as the late reduction in wages have allowed of orders being taken at a lower figure than formerly. At the engine works the men are slightly better off, but they have had a very long season of quietness, and the same remark applies to machinists. at the foundries there has been very little change of late, but it is now expected that some improvement will take place as soon as the weather will permit of building operations being resumed. In the Barnsley district the iron trade is still peculiarly quiet in almost every department, the foundries being barely able to keep the limited number of hands in full employment. the collieries in South Yorkshire have been working very well, owing to the demand there has been for house coal for the London and other markets, but the business doing in steam qualities is still of a limited character, so that stocks have to accumulate on the banks, which are greatly deteriorated by the weather, so that in selling them there will be a considerable loss. Shipments from Grimsby are still very moderate, whilst not much is being done in engine fuel with the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Cheshire, where large quantities were formerly sent.

The decision with regard to the reduction of collier's wages in south Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, which it will be recollected were referred to arbitration, has not yet been given, although the time specified was up to March 1st. As might be expected the arbitrators could not agree, and they have appointed as umpire Mr. Ellisson, the County Court Judge at Sheffield, whose fiat is now looked forward to with a great deal of interest by the parties concerned, as well as others.

The Mining Journal.

Page 199 Col. 1-3, 1st. Mar. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Edmunds and Swaithe Collieries Company (Limited).

Capital, £125,000, in shares of £20. To work coal mines, ironstone, claystone, and other minerals, and sell and deal in the same, or the produce thereof. To construct and improve any waterworks, gasworks, reservoirs, railways, tramways, &c., and to carry on the business of colliery owners, coke manufacturers, ironmasters, miners, smelters, engineers, steel converters, and ironfounders in all their respective branches. The subscribers are - C. Bartholomew, Ealing, C.E., 4; Sarah H. Bartholomew, spinster, 1; C.F.C. West, Charlbury, clergyman, 1; C.W. Bartholomew, Blakesley, C.E., 1; J. Tyas, Upperwood Hall, Darfield, solicitor, 4; C.J. Tyas, Plowden Buildings, Temple, barrister, 1; A.R. Tyas, Upperwood Hall, gentleman, 1; Mary A. Tyas, Upperwood Hall, spinster, 1. All the duties which under the statutes ought from time to time to be performed by the company shall be performed by such persons as the company in general meeting shall direct to perform the same.

The Coppa Cannel Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £100. The carrying on the business of colliery proprietors, and in particular the business heretofore carried on at Coppa Colliery and elsewhere in the county of Flint, and the taking over the assets and liabilities of the said co-partnership upon the terms mentioned in a certain agreement made between John Mercer of the first part, E. Fidler of the second, and Henry Hedley of the third part. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring and working collieries, coal, and other mines, quarries of stone and slate, and beds of clay, and selling and disposing of all property and products belonging to the company. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - E. Fidler, Liverpool, colliery proprietor; John Mercer, Alston Hall, Preston, colliery proprietor; Henry Hedley

The Mining Journal.

Page 232 Col. 2, 8th. March. 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Mar. 6. The change in the weather has been more favourable for mining operations in the lead districts, and at several places a fair quantity of ore is being raised, but certainly not what might be expected in such an old and extensive area as that occupied by lead mines in Derbyshire. Like most others, there is a lack of capital for speculating in it, whilst it lacks the class of men who have so well worked up many of the old mines in North Wales. The companies that have opened out in several places it may be said have not been at all successful, whilst private enterprises has been far more fortunate. More to the north several ironstone mines that at one time were extensively worked are now doing but little, as it is found as cheap, if not cheaper, to bring the ore from a distance, so that the shires of Northampton and Lincoln are now well patronised by our ironmasters. But the iron trade itself is anything but brisk, for considerable stocks are held in several directions, whilst prices are such that no margin of profit is left to the sellers, although Derbyshire pig is superior to the Cleveland and others for both mill and foundry purposes. At the foundries business goes along steadily at most of them, but the number of hands employed is considerably less than formerly. The collieries have had a very fair time of it since the commencement of the New Year, owing to the marked severity of the weather. This of course applies to house coal, the demand for which is now becoming quieter. The London trade has been especially good, and large quantities of Silkstone and other coal has been forwarded from Clay Cross, Eckington, Blackwell, Tibshelf, Grassmoor, and several other places. but a drop of 1-6d. per ton on the Exchange on Friday shows clearly how the trade is moving. We have evidently had a much better time than we are likely to have for the next six months at least, whilst prices low as they now are in all probability will come down still lower. Steam coal does not sell at all well, seeing that very little is now being shipped, so that what is used principally for the furnaces and locomotives. Some few collieries have been doing a trade with the West of England as far as Bath and Bristol, and with the intermediate stations from Birmingham, whilst a tolerably fair tonnage has been put on the Great eastern. In ordinary engine coal there has not been any improvement of late, so that there is some difficulty in effecting sales, whilst the same is also the case with respect to small coal, although offered at a very low price indeed. Coke is in moderate request, but the requirements of the Sheffield manufacturers have not materially increased of late.

In Sheffield trade is certainly no worse than it has been, but there are still many workmen entirely unemployed, whilst the relief fund may be said to be exhausted. A ladies' committee, however, is doing good work in providing clothing for the most destitute of the young and old. manufacturers still complain of the large quantity of goods that are being imported from Germany and America, the former sending a large quantity of pocket knives, well finished, at a very low price as compared with our own. The material is inferior to our own, but the appearance is taking. Some few of the cutlery houses are fairly off for work, especially in the finer descriptions of table knives, for the home and other markets. A considerable quantity of secondary pen, pocket, and other knives are now being made from Bessemer steel of a special quality, but made at a much less cost than from crucible steel. Bessemer rail makers have been fully employed, but just now they are in no way pushed, and are open to contracts for delivery at a comparatively short notice. at no time since steel rails were first manufactured have prices been so low as they are now, owing to the competition resulting from the many new firms that have commenced business when they found that iron rails were fast going down, and likely to become things of the past. At the mills there has been a fair output of ship and boiler plates, whilst there has also been a rather better inquiry for hoops. In foundry material there has not been much improvement, but it is expected that a demand will shortly arise for builder's castings

and other light work. The collieries throughout the greater part of South Yorkshire have been fairly employed of late, the demand for house coal having been good, but a decline is now being experienced, owing to the change in the weather. The London trade has kept up very well indeed, and a large tonnage has been sent from the Mitchell's Main and other collieries, which have a reputation in the Metropolitan market. Steam coal is still very quiet, and the shipments from Grimsby very moderate. For other descriptions of coal, such as slack and smudge, there is only a poor inquiry.

The Stephenson Memorial Hall at Chesterfield is now fast progressing towards completion, and it is expected will be ready for opening in June. It will be the home of the Derbyshire Engineers' Association.

The award with respect to the proposed 12½ per cent. reduction in miners' wages has not yet been made. The arbitrators appointed on behalf of the man spent several days at Barnsley last week collecting evidence. It is expected that the award of the umpire will be given in about three weeks from the present time.

The Mining Journal.

Page 226 Col. 1-2, 8th. Mar. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Foel Clynnog Slate Quarries (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £5. To carry on the business of slate and other quarries, generally in the United Kingdom, and particularly to acquire, work, and carry on the slate quarries known as the Foel Slate Quarries, in Clynnog, Carnarvon. To acquire any property suitable for the purposes of the company in the United Kingdom. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - E.J. Jackson, 4, York Terrace, coal and brick merchant; J.D. Jackson, 4, York Terrace, coal and brick merchant; W.C. Prescott, 152, Buckingham Palace Road, gentleman; F.V. Andrews, 8, Old Jewry, accountant; A. Horton, 8, Old Jewry, accountant; G.E. Newton, 8, Mecklenburg Street, gentleman; F.B. Doering, Victoria Street, E.C.

Coleshill Coal Company (Limited).

Capital £5,000, in shares of £50 each. To acquire by purchase or otherwise a lease between the Right Honourable Charles Crespigny, Baron Vivian, and Lady Vivian of the one part, and W.B. Turner, W. Burnyeat, junior, J. Moore and M. Kennedy on the other part; also an indenture of assignment between the Coleshill Colliery Company (Limited), and the said Messrs. Turner, Burnyeat, Moore, and Kennedy, demising certain estates, collieries, mines, etc., in Coleshill, Flintshire, and the inclines, plant levels, and other effects belonging thereto. To use work, develop, and extend the said collieries. To construct smelting furnaces, coke ovens, patent fuel works, brick manufactories, inclines, tramways, tenements and offices, and to carry on the business of miners, colliery proprietors, smelters, and fire-brick and coke manufacturers.

The Cornish Bank (Limited).

Capital £250,000, in shares of £50. To carry on at Truro, Falmouth, Redruth, and Penryn and elsewhere in England the business of banking in all its branches. The subscribers are - R. Clarke, Towerhirst, 80; J. Jose, Millingey, 60; William Treloar, Stilinan, 50; J. Henderson, Newham, 40; J.C. Dauburz, Killiow, 1000; W. Teague, Treliske, 500; T. Chirgwin, Truro, 100.

The Craven Herald

March 8th 1879

Page 5 Col. 2

Breakdown at Ingleton Colliery

On Friday week the shafting on which the fly wheel connected to the large pumping engine at Wilson Wood Colliery runs broke down. In consequence of this the water in the pit rose so high that the men were not able to resume work for several days.

The engine was repaired and again set to work on Tuesday morning, and the water so far cleared out that the men were able to return to their work on Tuesday night.

The Mining Journal.

Page 252 Col. 1, 15th. Mar. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Aqueous Works and Diamond Rock-boring Company (Limited).

Capital £300,000, in shares of £5. To acquire by purchase or otherwise the business, patent rights, inventions, and benefit of the contracts entered into the Diamond Rock-Boring Company (Limited), and to carry out all such contracts and agreements, and to identify(?) the said company against all liability in respect thereof. To acquire by purchase or otherwise all or any part of any interest in the patents and inventions of Messrs. Josiah L. Clark and J. Stansfield for shoring and supporting vessels on docks, cradles, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Hick, M.P., Whalley; J. Turay, 20, Southampton Buildings; C.D. Abel, 20, Southampton Buildings; F. Bolton, 19, Grosvenor Gardens; F. Beaumont, Westminster Palace Hotel; A. Brogden, M.P., Queen Anne's Gate; J.T. Jones, 5, Spencer Place.

Guernsey Quarries Tramway Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £5. The obtaining concessions of the States of the island for the construction and maintenance of railways or tramways between the town and harbour of St. Sampson's and Castel. The leasing, purchasing, or working of any other line, or quarries, or works in Guernsey. The subscribers (who take five shares each) are - W.L. Thompson, 11, Queen Victoria Street; Joseph Amy, Guernsey; H.R. Smith, Southsea; H. Brady, St. Martins, Guernsey; G.W. Appleby, Southsea; C.M. Cottam, Southsea; J. Lewin, Poole.

The Mining Journal.

Page 260 Col. 2, 15th. March. 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Mar. 13. Very little change has taken place in the state of trade since last notice, but the collieries are scarcely so active as they have been. Frost and snow led to more than usually brisk demand for house coal, but with a change in the weather less fuel is required, and marked quietness is likely to prevail. During February a larger tonnage of coal than usual was sent to the Metropolis, but there has since been a decline, and this is likely to continue to be the case. At Clay Cross the miners have been well employed, for from there more coal is sent to London than from any other place in the kingdom, so far as the railways are concerned. But with the increased consumption there has been no material improvement in prices, while during the whole of last year, and for the last two months as well, prices have been such as to leave profits out of the question. In steam coal there has not been much doing for a considerable time past, and an alteration for the better is not expected for the next five or six weeks, when the export season commences and the railway companies run more trains. For other qualities of coal, such as engine fuel, slack, and smudge, the demand continues quiet. The production of pig iron keeps up very well, and a fair quantity has been sent to some parts of Lancashire, but as is the case with coal, the trade is far from being remunerative, and there is a strong belief that prices cannot fall any lower. In manufactured iron the production is still moderate, and the number of hands employed below what it has been. Some of the foundries are tolerably well off for business, whilst the mills are still quiet.

Some few branches in Sheffield are beginning to stir a little, but there is no disguising the fact that a great deal of distress still exists amongst the ironworkers, many of whom have been participants of the Mayor's Fund, which on the point of collapsing has recently had several sums sent to it, seeing that it has done a vast amount of really good work. The heavy departments are those that at present appear to be the worst off, as they have been during the whole of the winter. Makers of Bessemer manage to keep their hands well employed, for they now make a variety suitable for most descriptions of work, as well as rails, the business in which is still good. Some very fair orders have been put in hand for the finer qualities of table cutlery, whilst there is also a little more doing in secondary sorts of pocket and penknives for exportation. Makers of sheep shears for our colonies, as well as for South America, are becoming more active, but in edged tools, saws, and files, there has been no change for the better. The production of ship and boiler plates is still moderate, but one firm appears to be fairly off for orders for hoop iron. The engine and machine works still continue quiet, whilst some of the foundries manage to keep their hands fairly going, and there is some prospect of an increased trade in stoves, grates, and similar household fittings. In pig iron business is still of a limited character, most being done in the best qualities suitable for steel making.

The coal trade of South Yorkshire is by no means so brisk as it has been, but this does not appear to be of much consequence to colliery owners, who state that the business done during the last year in most instances resulted in a loss to them, and they now do not feel inclined to go on in the same way. The best Silkstone coal is being sold at from 8-6d. to 9-0d. per ton, and the smudge at about 1-3d., so that when all qualities are taken into consideration profit appears to be out of the question. Of course were all the coal raised large and marketable it would be very different, but in all seams there is a considerable percentage of small made that is an actual loss. The London trade it may be said has kept up very well, but the rate by the Great Northern is a great drawback, being 8-3d. per ton, while 1-0d. per ton less would not only prevent any loss, but give a small margin of profit, and at the same time largely increase the

traffic over the line to the Metropolis. Not much is being done in steam coal, but coke appears to be in a tolerably fair request.

The Swaithe and Edmund's Main Colliery has been formed into a limited company, with a capital of £125,000. On the decease of the managing partner, Mr. Joseph Mitchell in 1876, his third share was valued at £18,232.

A handsome stained window is about to be presented to Clay Cross church as a memorial of the late Mr. G. Howe, who was for many years the chief engineer of the Clay Cross Coal and Iron Company, and an old friend of the late George Stephenson.

Owing to the failure of the Stanhope Silkstone Colliery Company, about 300 men and boys have been thrown out of employment.

The Mining Journal.

Page 287 Col. 2-3, 22nd. March. 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Mar. 20. Although there has been no marked change of late with respect to pig iron, appearances are more favourable than they have been for a long time, a better feeling prevailing as to the future. The long and unprofitable time that our iron masters have had it is, therefore, to be hoped now passing away, to be followed by a brisk trade, with prices that will be remunerative. The home consumption has been very fair, and of late a little more has been done in some of the Lancashire and other districts, where the Derbyshire pig has a very good reputation, being in every way superior to the North of England. A large quantity of ironstone continues to be imported from Northamptonshire, and where this is selected and mixed with the local stone a very superior quality of iron is produced, alike suitable for mill and foundry purposes. Plates and girders have undergone very little change of late, the demand being very moderate indeed. At the foundries business has been tolerably good, but production of both heavy and light castings is considerably below what it was some time since, but the limiting of the number of hands at work has secured a fair amount of employment for those who have been kept on. The collieries in the Clay Cross, Eckington, and several other districts have had a very good time of it owing to the weather, but now at several places they are complaining of a falling off in the demand for house coal in particular. But this is only what might be expected now that a change has taken place, which has had the effect of allowing outdoor work to be resumed. The London trade has been very good, for during February there was sent from Clay Cross alone 7,000 tons a week, and from several others from 3,000 to 4,000 tons a week. From Alfreton and Tibshelf also business was active up to the close of last month, whilst a steady trade was done from Staveley, Blackwell, Pilsley, Hucknall, and some other collieries in the Midland Railway route. Prices, however, have been anything but good, and those have been fortunate indeed who have made even a very little profit, or have evaded any loss. In steam coal there has been no alteration, but the busy season is fast approaching, and this will have the effect of clearing stocks, and of slightly increasing the prices, which have been even lower than for house coal. Small coal does not go off at all well, there being a very poor demand for the works in Lancashire and other places. Coke seems to move off tolerably well, a fair tonnage being sent to Sheffield for the steel and other works.

Trade in Sheffield is in about the same state as last noticed, many workmen being still altogether idle or only partially employed. In some departments there is certainly a much better feeling as to the future. Some of the old cutlery houses have been able to keep their hands steadily going in the best qualities of table and other cutlery, but inferior goods are not much enquired for. Bessemer rails are in sufficient request to keep the mills fully going, but the prices at which it is said contracts are taken are cut remarkably fine indeed. Not much is being done in ordinary iron rails, a few small orders being in hand for collieries. Cast steel is still quiet, although trade is being pushed for the various brands for cutlery and other purposes, as well as for wheels, large numbers of which are now being made of steel, and are found to be the cheapest in the long run, lasting so much longer than those produced from iron. At the foundries a steady business is being done, but an improvement is now expected for goods usually required in the spring. The plate and sheet mills have been running tolerably well, whilst the engineering works are still very quiet. In the neighbourhood of Rotherham a fair amount of business is being done in boiler and ship-plates, but the brassfounders - a branch peculiar to the locality, and in which a large number of men are employed - are less busy than they have been in the gas and water meter departments, whilst they have been kept tolerably well going in ordinary fittings. In the South Yorkshire district the coal trade has become less active, and many of the collieries are now working less time. Scarcely so much is being done with the Metropolis as there was a week or

two since, whilst colliery owners state that they are losing money on all the coal they raise. At Thorp's Gawber Hall Collieries, near Barnsley, the men are now out, having refused to accept certain terms proposed by the company, which included a charge of 6d. per week to colliers and trammers for oil, 3d. each for new pick shafts, smudge for the boilers to be sent up at 3d. per corf, a disallowance of coal money, and men who had houses to pay 3-6d. per ton for it. The Stanhope Silkstone Colliery is still standing, the company being in liquidation. Possession has been taken by the mortgagee, who was the vendor to two companies, both of which failed.

In Sheffield the wool shear forges and vendors have been asked to submit to a reduction of wages to the extent of 15 per cent., at once offered to concede 10 per cent. on the best classes of work, the other prices to remain without alteration, and this has been accepted. In Bradford a number of men employed at the engine works in that town struck against an addition of the working hours from 54 and 56½ per week. A similar course on a smaller scale took place at Huddersfield by some of the engineers, but it is not likely to last, seeing that trade is such is such that a stoppage is no inconvenience.

The Mining Journal.

Page 312 Col. 1, 29th. March. 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Mar. 27. Trade in Derbyshire has undergone little change of late, and although scarcely as bad as it was some time since, yet there is plenty of room for improvement, for full work is anything but general. In the lead mining districts operations go on quietly as usual, there having of late been no new discoveries, or any attempt at launching out in the opening of the old mines that have long been standing, but which at one time were worked at a profit. Along the Erewash Valley, and in the northern part of the county, the collieries have been working very fairly, the severe weather having been of great advantage to them. House coal has been in better request of late, and a heavy tonnage has been passed onto the Midland Railway for the London market, more especially from Clay Cross, which has been sending at the rate of something like 6,000 tons per week, whilst a good deal has also been sent from several others of the leading collieries. Prices at the pits, however, are still low and unremunerative, and it is to be feared that this state of things is likely to continue, for prices of house coal are not likely to go up during fine weather. Steam coal does not move off at all well, the demand being principally confined to the furnaces and locomotives. In other descriptions, too, business is very dull. Transactions in pig-iron have been slightly better, and there is a better feeling in the trade as to the future, and that an improvement may with some confidence be looked forward to. In manufactured iron there has been very little change, but some of the works continue to be fairly employed, but there has been a decrease in the number of persons at work at the mills and foundries.

In Sheffield trade in some branches is rather better, but there are still many workmen walking about, whilst the close of the present week, in all probability, will see the exhaustion of the fund raised by the Mayor to relieve the distressed. That the distress has been much greater than was generally supposed is borne out by the fact that the funds amounted to about £12,700, whilst a ladies committee gave away a large quantity of clothing, blankets, and other necessities. Many, it is now to be feared, will have to apply to the guardians of the poor, a course which is most repugnant to the Sheffield working man. Amongst those who are best employed may be mentioned those connected with the Bessemer works, for there is still a demand for steel rails, although the price at which contracts are made is very low, and such as cannot leave much profit. makers of crucible steel are still quiet, some few firms pushing forward the construction of steel rails, which are now coming into more general use, for in every way they are not only better, but cheaper than those made of iron, seeing that their lasting powers are so much greater.

A few of the old cutlery houses are working steadily in the best makes of table and other knives, but there are a good many men only partially employed, more especially in connection with the inferior qualities. Files have improved in request, but a considerable number of men are now opposing a reduction of 5 per cent. proposed by some few of the masters, and are raising funds to maintain those who are likely to strike; but much appears to be doing in the heavy armour plates, attention being now directed to the new composite ones made of steel and iron, and there is some probability that a demand for these will spring up on account of our own Government. A moderate business is being done in ordinary plates and sheets, whilst the engineering branches are still very dull. At the foundries in the town and district business seems to be getting rather better, there being improved enquiry for stoves, grates, piping, and other descriptions of builders' castings.

In the South Yorkshire district generally the coal trade has kept up very well, but owners complain that the business doing by them is at a loss, and if there is not a change they cannot go

on much longer as they are now doing. It is expected the umpire's award with respect to the proposed 12½ per cent. reduction will be made next week, but even should all that be conceded it will scarcely admit of the collieries being worked at a profit. As it is there are several collieries now standing altogether, one of them undergoing the process of liquidation that will leave nothing for the unfortunate shareholders, whilst another one is standing owing to the men refusing the terms offered to them. The collieries which were purchased during the "coal famine", as it was termed, are all likely to have a hard time of it, seeing that such very high prices were given for them. The best thing the directors could do would be to write off at least one-half of the capital as lost, and endeavour to realise a profit on the remainder.

The Oakwell Colliery, which has been frequently before one of the Vice-Chancellors during the last fortnight, is a very small concern, a short distance from Barnsley, and few practical men would give for it a tithe of what it has recently cost in litigation. At Hull on Tuesday a New York liner was launched from Earle's Ship- building yard. This is the fifty-second steamer built for the firm of S. Wilson and Sons by the same builders.

The Mining Journal.

Page 325 Col. 1-2, 29th. Mar. 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Parys Copper Corporation (Limited).

Capital £45,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire, wholly or in part, the undertaking, mines, property, business, rights, assets, and liabilities of Parys Mountain Mines Company (Limited), incorporated on August 2, 1870, or any other mineral property or mining rights. To work the mines now worked by the said Parys Mountain Mines Company (Limited), and any other mines which this company may acquire. To crush, reduce, smelt, and amalgamate the ore, and to render marketable the produce, and to develop the resources of the said or any other mines, whether belonging to the company or not. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J.Y. Watson, 1, St. Michael's Alley, mineowner; F.F. Wilcott, 30, Finsbury Circus, secretary to public companies; W. Allen, Camberwell, accountant; F. Braby, 360, Euston Road, metal manufacturer; Charles B. Pavoy, Gracechurch Buildings, mining agent; H.J. Dean, Forest Hill, stock and share dealer. The number of directors shall not exceed five, nor less than three. The subscribers to the Articles of Association shall appoint the first directors, and until such are appointed the subscribers shall be the directors, remuneration to commence at £250 per annum, but may be augmented as the shareholders in general meeting may determine. The qualifications for future directors shall be 200 shares.

Holywell Hydraulic Lime, White Stone, and Cement Quarries (Limited).

Capital £12,000, in shares of £5. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring lands, wharves, rights of mining, quarrying, searching for stone and other minerals in lands situated in Holywell, Flint, and also the purchasing, leasing, or acquiring lands, mining and quarrying rights, &c., in the lands adjoining, for the purpose of carrying on mining and quarrying operations. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H.R. Snelgrove, 7, Craven Street, C.E.; M.A. Purcell, Brighton, C.E.; R. Chandler, 66, Bishopsgate Within, solicitor; E.J. Bartlett, 30, Great St. Helen's, stock and share dealer; J.S. Eastes, 17, Water Lane, ship-broker; F.A. Purcell, 35, Welbeck Street, M.D.; J.H. Grinder, 46, Gresham Street, accountant.

Gold Association of French Guyana (Limited).

Capital £200,000, in shares of £10. To acquire by purchase or otherwise a concession granted by the Governor of the colony for mining rights over a tract of land situated on the left bank of the Mona, known as Placer Pas-trop-tot, with the mines, works, mills, factories, erections, and buildings, also the apparatus, machinery, tools, and instruments belonging to or connected with the same. To acquire any other mines, concessions, licenses, &c., in the colony of French Guyana, or elsewhere in South America, and to develop, open, and work any mines or other property belonging to the company. To carry on the business of mining, milling, smelting, washing, refining, and manufacturing of minerals and metals. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - A.K. MacKinnon, 22, Norfolk Terrace, M.Inst.C.E.; J. Alexander, 72, Adelaide Road, provision merchant; A. Preston, 88, Leadenhall Street, wholesale druggist; Edward Solbe, 10, East Cheap, merchant; J.V. Barber, 7, Elsworthy Terrace, gentleman; M.A. Walker, 4, Oakley Street, late captain 77th. Highlanders; W. Southall, Pinners' Hall, accountant. The first directors will be named by the subscribers; subsequent directors will have to qualify in 25 shares each.