

The Mining Journal.

Page 440 Col. 1-2, 3rd. May 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

May 1. So far as regards the lead mines in Derbyshire there appears to be nothing to report, so routine in character are they and their belongings. There are no new works undertaken so far as one can hear, nor are there any of the old mines being reopened in addition to what has been previously noticed. A considerable tonnage of ironstone continues to be imported from Northamptonshire, and there is very little doubt but what the recently discovered process of making steel direct from ordinary ironstone will be adopted at several places, for few will care to make pig-iron as at present, and at the price it will have to be sold at in the future. There are still a good many furnaces out in different parts of the county, and these are not likely to be blown in just at present, seeing that the present production is more than is required, for considerable stocks are still held by makers. Prices, too, are still low and unremunerative, so there are no inducements whatever for increasing the production. In manufactured iron business goes on much as usual, the demand being still limited, more particularly for mill material, whilst the foundries are by no means busy. At Ripley trade is still depressed, so much so that it is thought likely the erection of a market hall and public offices recently agreed upon will be postponed till times improve. At the principal collieries the trade has been very fair for the time of year, and the Midland Railway Company has taken a very large tonnage of household coal to the South. This is accounted for by the strike in Durham, which has sent merchants into the inland districts who formerly obtained the larger portion of their supplies by sea. How long this will last depends upon the North Country colliers, and their means of resistance, and we may fairly assume the end cannot be so very far off, seeing it must take a large sum weekly to provide for the thousands who are now voluntarily idle. Be that as it may the strike benefits thousands of miners, and has been the means of some colliery owners withdrawing the notices they gave to their men for a reduction of wages. Some little improvement has taken place in the business doing in "hard" coal, but there has been no change with respect to other sorts, which are anything but easy to sell. Cokemakers in some instances have been doing rather more than they did for smelters.

Some of the manufacturers in Sheffield have been able to keep their hands more fully employed, although there are still many workmen unemployed in different branches. Bessemer rail makers are working very well, and, singular to say, a large order has come to the town from M. Vanderbilt, of the New York Central Railway, despite the drawback that there is a heavy carriage rate to the seaports of Liverpool or Hull. But it shows that our rail makers are still able to hold their own, even against those who have the great advantage of a shipping port close to their works. Very little is being done in ordinary iron rails, and it is evident that before very long they will be almost unknown. Ship and boiler plates are in fair request, and some large tyres are also being turned out, although this branch may be said to be still quiet. For Germany more has been done of late in general goods, but orders from other parts of the Continent have come in very slowly. Cutlery is still in but moderate demand, and few houses are anything like busy, the best off being those engaged in the better class of table and pocket knives. Makers of sheep shears are now working regularly, and a dispute in this branch has terminated by the men giving way. Foundry material is in comparatively limited request for stoves and grates, but at some places there is a considerable output of pipes and plain castings, whilst a dispute at one large establishment at Rotherham with respect to the working hours has, it is said, been arranged by an agreement to work 57 hours per week.

Several of the Sheffield manufacturers have sent off cases of their goods to the Exhibitions at Melbourne and Sydney during the week, so that the products of the town will be

well represented. Messrs. Spear and Jackson sent a most complete assortment, said to be one of the finest collections that has been got together. Messrs. Stevenson, Mawood, and Company send a variety of edge tools, axes, files, etc., and it is said that Sir J. Brown and Company will send an assortment of their well-known products to both Exhibitions.

The men employed at the Phoenix Bessemer Works of Messrs. Taylor and Hampton (Limited), numbering upwards of 800, have received notice to leave. It is believed that this a preliminary to asking the men to submit to a reduction of wages.

The cutlery exhibition, to be held in London, has been well supplied with a choice selection of Sheffield manufactures. Amongst the exhibitors are Messrs. Fenton and Sons, of the Sykes Works, well known for their steel patent wheels, who have just forwarded a choice assortment of cutlery, whilst Messrs. Gornell and Son have forwarded a case of scissors.

Proposed Amalgamation of Miners' Associations.

On Monday there was a meeting in Barnsley of representatives of the South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire and the West Yorkshire Miners' Associations, for the purpose of coming to terms as to amalgamation. The preliminaries were amicably arranged, and there is no doubt but what the two bodies will become one.

It has been stated in several papers that a conference is about to be held at some town in Yorkshire for the purpose of considering the desirability of restricting the output of coal by setting down the collieries for a month or six weeks. No authority is given for this statement, and it is questionable if there is any foundation for it.

Mr. Hollway has been making some further experiments at the Atlas Works, Sheffield, of his process for the utilisation of sulphides. At the last occasion his attention was directly principally to the procuring of a good regulus without the loss of much copper in the slag. Some further experiments, it is said, will be made at the same works.

The award with respect to the reduction of miners' wages in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire has not yet been given, but it is expected to be made known almost any day.

The Mining Journal.

Page 434 Col. 1-2, 3rd. May 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Burley Hill Colliery Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £5. The carrying on at Mold, Flint, the business of colliery proprietors carried on by the Bedford Pits Colliery Company (Limited). The acquiring the property and effects of the latter company, and the searching for, working, winning, raising, purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, washing, crushing, smelting, reducing, manufacturing, and otherwise rendering saleable coal, cannel coal, shale, ironstone, , and all other mineral substances; the purchasing or otherwise acquiring any other lands, miners, minerals, properties, &c., to carry on an import and export trade. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Woolright, Liverpool, silk mercer; J.B. Williams, Gateshead, colliery agent; J.S. Blease, Waterloo, accountant; J. Bradburn, Liverpool, book keeper; T. Jones, Liverpool. coal merchant; E.W. Wynne, Liverpool, merchant; J. Starkey, Liverpool, coal merchant.

he Mining Journal.

Page 467 Col. 3 to Page 468 Col. 1, 10th. May 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

May 8. There is nothing new to report as to lead mining in Derbyshire, which goes on much as usual, the output being kept up to the average. The production of pig has undergone no change, there being still several furnaces out of blast, and are likely to remain so until there is a considerable improvement in the trade, both as regards demand and price, for makers have had an unprofitable time. A good deal of ironstone continues to be imported from Northamptonshire, although there is plenty in different parts of the county; but it is evident that it is considered best to have a mixture of the local as well as the foreign stone. At the collieries business has been very fair for the time of year, the strike in Durham being the means of greatly improving the demand for inland coal for the London and other markets. From Clay Cross, and several other places, a large tonnage has been sent southwards over the Midland, whilst a fair quantity has been forwarded to the West. In steam coal there has been a slight improvement, but there has been no increase as regards the local consumption. A good deal, however, is being taken by some of the railway companies, for it appears that little or no coke is now used for the locomotives. Small coal does not move off any better than it did, although it is offered at a very low and unremunerative price. A little more is being done in Sheffield in coke for manufacturing purpose, but not to the extent of keeping all the ovens in full operation.

In Sheffield trade is still quiet as a rule, but some few firms are tolerably well off, there being still a fair enquiry for Bessemer rails, whilst very little is being done in those made of iron, seeing that there is not so much difference in the price of the two. Armour plates is quiet, but something is being done in those of a composite character, or steel-faced. A fair amount of business is being done in ship-plates for the North and Glasgow, but the requirements for boilers is still moderate. At the engine and machine works things are dull, and the men, as a rule, not fully employed. At some of the cutlery establishments, where the best goods are manufactured, the men have been kept going, but at the major part of them matters are quite the reverse. Several of the leading manufacturers have sent off large cases of their goods to the Exhibitions of Melbourne and Sydney, where Sheffield will show to advantage. There will be goods of almost every description in steel and iron, plain and ornamental. In one case there is a fine selection of files, from one less than a quarter of an ounce in weight, used by watchmakers, to a hand-cut rubber, measuring 4ft. 6in. long by more than 4 inches square, and weighing about 2½ cwts.

It was expected that by the time Mr. Ellison, the Sheffield County Court judge, who had been appointed the umpire with respect to the proposed reduction of miners' wages, would have made his award. But it appears that there is a hitch, owing to some of those acting on behalf of the men wishing to reopen the case, so as to get some fresh evidence in. If this is not conceded it is said that the men will not be bound to agree the award. It is, however, not at all likely that the colliery owners will agree to what is asked, for it would lead to more evidence of a rebutting nature being given on their part, and so postponing the settlement of the matter for a considerable time.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade has been fairly maintained, being improved by the state of affairs in Durham, and no doubt so long as the strike lasts will our collieries be able to keep the men fairly employed. Prices, however, remain without any alteration, and even now are such as to leave little or no profit whatever to masters. All the disputes at the collieries have been arranged, and were the wages question settled the district would be in a better state than it has been for a long time past.

On Tuesday next a conference will commence at Barnsley, which it is expected will be attended by delegates from nearly all our coal mining districts, for the purpose of considering the advisability of closing all collieries for a month or six weeks. It is said that representatives of the Press will not be allowed to be present.

On Tuesday last a petition was filed in the Sheffield Bankruptcy Court for the liquidation of the affairs of William Atkins, of the Reliance Steelworks, Attercliffe, steel file and saw manufacturer. The liabilities are set down at £13,000.

Advices received on Tuesday from New York state that the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, have nearly completed 20 large locomotives for Australian railways.

The Mining Journal.

Page 481 Col. 2-3, 10th. May 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Pen-yr-Orsedd Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £12,000, in shares of £1. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring lands and hereditaments, rights of mining, quarrying, and searching for lead and other minerals in lands at Northop, Flint; also the purchasing or acquiring the lands adjoining thereto for the purpose of carrying on mining or quarrying operations, and making merchantable and disposing of lead and other mineral substances. The subscribers (who take 10 shares each) are - D. Bowen, Pembroke, clergyman; G.H. Watkyn, Holywell, land agent; J. Lloyd, Mold, wine merchant; E.J. Bartlett, 30, Great St. Helen's, sharedealer; J. Owen, Holywell, bank manager; W. Parry, Holywell, wine merchant; J. Danker, Reading, gentleman.

Pinos Altos (Mexico) Mining Company (Limited).

To acquire the business, mining rights, machinery, &c., mentioned in an agreement made between J.G. Buchan Hepburn, Joseph Waithman, and W.M. Kerr, and the Pinos Altos (Mexico) Mining Company (Limited), to carry into effect the said agreement, and to acquire any other mines, mining rights, tracts of land, setts, and claims in the district of Pinos Altos, or elsewhere, in Mexico. To carry on the business of mining in that country, and to deal with the property of the company. To do all acts necessary for obtaining for the company a legal status in Mexico, or any other country in which business may be carried on. The subscribers are - T.B. Hepburn, Smeaton Hepburn, baronet, 250; D.M. Horne, Payton House, Warwickshire, M.P., 250; A.B. Hepburn, 7, Bury Street, barrister, 250; W.T. St. Auburn, Weybridge, gentleman, 250; W. Sharp, 29, Albert Gate, gentleman, 250; J. Waithman, 23, Bentinck Square, gentleman, 1; W.M. Kerr, 38 Hogarth Road, mechanical engineer, 1. The first directors shall be Sir Thomas B. Hepburn, Bart.; General Sir Archibald Little, K.C.B.; Capt. D.M. Horne, M.P.; Messrs. W. Sharp, A.B. Hepburn, J.G.B. Hepburn (managing director), and H. de Lindeth Waithman, to continue until 1883. Qualification 500 shares.

Hodgson and Stead (Limited).

Capital £40,000, in shares of £25 and £100 each. For carrying into effect an agreement for the purchase by the company of land in Salford, together with the iron-foundries, machine works, and buildings known as the Egerton Ironworks, and the cottages erected on the said land, and to carry on the business of engineers, millwright, iron-founders, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - C. Hodgson, Manchester; W. Hodgson, Manchester; J. Needham, Salford; H.A. Allford, Nottingham; C. Hill, Nottingham; J.A. Fisher, Derby; R.H. Potter, Manchester.

Glandoverly Slate Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £1. To acquire the right of working and extracting slate from land named Dynin, in Llanfihangel Generflyn, Cardigan, and to carry on the business of slate and slab quarrymen and miners in all its branches. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W.F. Richardson, 11, Queen Victoria Street; J.W. Burrows, 47, Fleet Street; J. Cox, 9, Gresse Street; R.W. Tubby, 124, Palmerston Road; J.S. Nowlan, 2, Hadlow Place; H.E. Millington, 7a, Goding Street; W.H. Talbot, Lee.

The Mining Journal.

Page 496 Col. 1 to 2, 17th. May 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

May 15. Business at the ironworks and mines in Derbyshire has undergone no noticeable change during the week, so that trade generally may be said to be moving along steadily. There is still several furnaces out in several districts, but the make of pig is fully equal to the requirements of consumers. Of late, however, it has gone off somewhat better, for the damping down of several furnaces in the North of England causes the demand to go into other channels, and the iron from several of our works holds a high position in several of our markets, being superior to Cleveland, a good deal of it being made from a mixture of the local stone, and that from Northamptonshire. The mills are still quiet, but there is a steady output of pipes, pillars, stoves, and pump castings at several of the foundries. The state of affairs at Durham has led to a demand for inland coal in excess of what is usual at this time of the year, and Derbyshire has participated in the transfer of the traffic from the sea route to the railway. This is especially the case with regard to London, where a much larger quantity of house coal than usual has been sent over the Midland and Great Northern lines. Clay Cross alone has been sending at the rate of 5,500 tons a week, whilst several other collieries have been forwarding 3,000 tons a week. The increased business for the month of May has not lead to any improvements in the prices, but it is something to be able to find most of the miners as much as five days' work a week. In steam coal there has been no material improvement, although the demand is certainly better than what it was a month or two since. The wages question at the collieries at the present time is quiet, but in the event of the men in Durham resuming work shortly, and things returning to their ordinary state, there is no doubt but what it will be again brought to the fore, for even now profits appear to be next to nothing, whilst many places are not doing more than barely paying expenses.

Matters are looking better in Sheffield, and several of the leading branches are now busier than they have been since the commencement of the year. In the heavy departments, such as the manufacture of heavy armour-plates, steam-hammers, and general mill material, there has been a considerable improvement. Makers of Bessemer steel continue to be well employed, for the consumption is large, not only for rails but axles and tyres as well, whilst it is also being extensively used for many purposes for which iron not so long since was solely used. A tolerably fair business has been done in unwrought steel with the United States, and some of our cutlery manufacturers have received from there good orders of late - table and pocket knives. Not much is being done in railway springs, Belgium makers being able to run us very hard both at home and abroad. File makers are decidedly better off, and a large order has been received from Russia, as well as others on home account. Sheepshears for Australia and South America are being largely turned out, and the former is also taking a tolerably fair quantity of general hardware and cutlery. Steel boiler-plates are now being extensively used, and they are made so that they cannot be injured by the weather, as it was said that the frost made some of them crack. The foundries are now working better, there being an improved demand for stoves, grates, cooking ranges, and ordinary castings. A little more has been done of late in pig-iron, but haematite is still in by far the greatest request, principally for converting into Bessemer for the rail mills.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade is tolerably active, and transactions with London have increased, more particularly in Silkstones, which are most liked by consumers after the so-called Wallsends. The Great Northern has been taking a large tonnage from the Birley, Wharnccliffe, and Thornccliffe collieries, whilst a good deal of the Barnsley Thick coal has also gone in the same direction. Steam coal now sells more freely than it did, and shipments are becoming heavy from the Humber ports. A good deal of late has also been shipped from Goole to London, Portsmouth,

Gravesend, and other of the home ports. Engine coal does not sell at all well, and the same is the case with respect to slack and smudge. A steady business, however, is being done in coke for smelting and other purposes, a good deal being sent to the furnaces in North Lincolnshire and to works in Sheffield.

A Conference of Miners' Delegates was held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Barnsley for the purpose of discussing the question of setting down all the collieries in the kingdom, so as to maintain the present rates of wages at least. Mr. Pickard, of Wakefield, occupied the chair. Several resolutions were passed, the principal one being to the effect that the time had come when the whole of the mining community of Great Britain should take united action to prevent the recurrence of reductions of wages, and that each district should ask for an advance of wages of 10 per cent., and if the employers did not grant it that a general stoppage take place throughout the country; also that the men should try their utmost to bring about a shortening or equalisation of the working hours, so as to make the supply of coal equal to the demand. The subject is to be again discussed at a Conference to be held at Birmingham on June 17. In the interval mass meetings are to be held for the purpose of obtaining the consent of the men to the decision come to by the Conference.

The award of the umpire, Mr. Ellison, judge of the Sheffield County Court, with respect to the proposed 12½ per cent. reduction, which will affect several thousands of miners in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, has not been given. On the contrary, Mr. Ellison has agreed that the question shall be reopened for the purpose of some statistics being altered, as it is said that they are incorrect.

A few days ago operations were commenced in constructing new colliery premises, sinking new shaft, etc., at Trowell Moor, near Ilkeston, for Messrs. Dunn Brothers and Company. The new shaft, stables, offices, bed for engine, etc., have been commenced on the estate of Lord Middleton, of Wollaton Hall, on the Swansea Farm, Trowell Moor, and in a field well known in the locality as the "Healing Well Field", there being an abundant spring of excellent water in the field, which is said to possess certain healing properties. The cutting of the first sod took place last week, in the presence of Messrs. Dunn and Mason, the latter being the contractor for sinking the shaft. The Midland line from Ilkeston to Nottingham is only a few yards distant in passing through Trowell, and the colliery will, therefore, be well situated for disposing of the output of coal by rail.

The miners of the Gomersall Colliery, Dronfield, have struck, as the manager states, in consequence of some of the men having received notice, and these being dissatisfied persuaded the others to leave work. The men, however, state they have struck against a proposed reduction of wages.

The Mining Journal.

Page 497 Col. 3, 17th. May 1879.

ADVERT - TO BE LET.

To be let, on Lease, Four Hundred and Fifty Acres, of the celebrated SEAM of KILBURNE Coal, lying within five miles of the town of DERBY. There is a main line of railway running through the property, and the depth to the coal will not exceed 140 yards.

Apply to Mr. G. Lewis, Mining Engineer, Imperial Chambers, Derby.

The Mining Journal.

Page 488 Col. 1-2, 17th. May 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Nava di Jdraque Gold and Silver Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £40,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire the San Jose di Murcia Mines, and the River Sorbe, in the province of Gadajajara, Spain, comprising an area of 60,000 square yards, and the lands and mines known as Santa Teresa, in the same province, comprising an area of 120,000 square yards. To purchase any other mines in Spain, to work them, win, melt, crush, treat, prepare for sale, and dispose of minerals, and to do all things usual in the business of a gold, silver, and mineral mining company. The subscribers are - G.J. Cross, Gracechurch Buildings, civil engineer, 5; J. Luttman, Queen Victoria Street, accountant, 5; R.T. Gear, 6, Three Crown Square, merchant, 25; F.C. Dyer, 14, Hamilton Terrace, architect, 25; E. Cottam, Lee, civil engineer, 50; C.M. Tate, 5, George Street, E.C., 50; J.J. Heath, Catford, gentleman, 1. Twelve per cent. on the shares taken up is guaranteed for eighteen months by the vendor, who will pay all preliminary expenses. The directors are not to receive any fees until the company has paid a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum. On the declaration of such a dividend the fees accruing since the date of registration shall then be paid them. The remuneration to be £300 per annum, to be divided according to the number of attendances.

The New Ferry Brick and Tile Company (Limited).

Capital £35,000, in shares of £10. To purchase from Messrs. H.A. Colville and Company, the works at New Ferry, Chester, and to carry on the said business. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H.A. Colville, Liverpool; J.R. Keane, Liverpool; J. Clarke, Liverpool; C. Cooper, New Ferry; R.D. Steel, Liverpool; J. Booth, Liverpool; J.C. Pyatt, Chester.

The West Holway Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £12,000, in shares of £1. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring lands and rights of mining, quarrying, and searching for lead and other minerals situate in Holywell and Whitford, Flint, and also the power of acquiring lands and mining properties adjoining thereto, for the purpose of carrying on mining and quarrying operations. The purchase of plant, stock, machinery, fixtures, and other appliances necessary for the purposes of mining, quarrying, &c. Selling and disposing of lead and other minerals and substances. The subscribers (who take five shares each) are - J.S. Eastes, 17, Water Lane, shipbroker; T.E.W. Miller, 29, Manor Road, publisher; J. Wood, Stoke Newington, secretary; E.J. Bartlett, Great Saint Helens, stockbroker; R. Chandler, 64, Bishopsgate Street Within, solicitor; H.M. Ommaney, Greenwich, gentleman; T.P. Gamble, Ealing, gentleman. Directors' qualification 25 shares each; £50 to the chairman and £25 for each director shall be set aside as remuneration for services.

Liverton Company (Limited).

Capital £100,000, in shares of £10. The acquiring of the property and loose plant of the Liverton Ironstone Company (Limited), lately sold by auction by order of the Court of Chancery, and carrying into effect an agreement made between W. Graham, of 4, Stanhope Place, and C.H. Crowe, of St. George's Square, for the purchase by the company of the said property and plant. The working, quarrying, smelting, and otherwise preparing and making merchantable coal, stone, limestone, shale, ironstone, or iron ore, and other ores and minerals, and the making of bricks, coke, artificial and patent fuel, and otherwise developing the resources of the property of the

company. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W. Gradam, 4, Stanhope Place, gentleman; F. Wright, Alfreton; J.P.F. Foy, Saltburn-by-the-Sea; J.P.J. Brinter, Stourport; J.P.G. Graham, 21, Sussex Street, C.E.; H.W. Eagle, 237, Regent Street, artificial florist; C.D. Fox, 5, Delahay Street, C.E. Messrs. W. and G. Graham and Foy shall be the first directors, and continue in office until 1883, with power to appoint others. Qualification 50 shares.

The Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £50. Purchasing from H. Walker, of Sheffield, the Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery, in the county of York, and all railway erections, works, engines, machinery, tools, stock in trade, &c., appertaining thereto, and the goodwill of the business. Taking from the Earl of Wharnccliffe a fresh lease of the said colliery company. Carrying on the business of coal and ironmasters, quarrymen, brickmakers, stone, clay, and brick merchants, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - H. Walker, Sheffield, coalmaster; J. Hobson, Sheffield, manufacturer; E. Bainbridge, Sheffield, mining engineer; J. Hall, Sheffield, grocer; F.F. Ibbotson, Sheffield, manufacturer; G.B. Walker, Barnsley, mining engineer; H. Stephenson, Sheffield, typefounder. Number of directors, 5; qualification, 20 shares.

The Mining Journal.

Page 523 Col. 3 to Page 524 Col. 1, 24th. May 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

May 22. In Derbyshire business has gone on much the same as noticed in last report, but there is some likelihood that the collieries will not be so busy as they have been during the last few weeks. The strike in Durham led to an increase in the demand for inland house coal, not only for London, but for other parts of the country as well, and the Midland Railway and the pits on its route had a full share of such increase. Consequently a larger tonnage than usual has been sent from Eckington, Clay Cross, Grassmoor, Blackwell, and several other places to the south of Sheffield. But, as the men in the North have resumed work, no doubt the trade will fall back into its ordinary state, and that the miners in the Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Langley Mill, and Alfreton districts will not be so fully employed as they have been. In steam coal there has recently been a little increase in the business done; still, there is plenty of room for improvement, seeing that this should be a rather busy part of the year. But the consumption by some of the railway companies is not so large as might be expected. It is, however, a noticeable feature that during the month there have been few excursion trains to the watering and other places as compared with previous years. No doubt the state of trade has something to do with this, and that directors are acting with considerable caution in running excursions, so that they shall not incur any loss. The depression in the cotton trade, as well as in other industries, causes engine coal to be in but moderate request, and to be offered at a price that cannot be said to pay, let alone make a profit. A little more has been done in pig iron districts at a distance, but prices remain much as they have been. The rolling-mills are not doing so much, and less is being done in girders than formerly, although one firm has a reputation for them second to no other in the kingdom. Pipes, and other descriptions of foundry material, go off tolerably well, and the workmen are kept steadily going.

In Sheffield matters are looking steadily better, and in several branches the men are working long time, and the prospects as to the future are much brighter than since the commencement of the year. The Bessemer rail mills are still working well, and with a reduction of the existing rate by railway to sea-ports for shipment will doubtless be able to maintain its position despite the advantages of the North Country makers in connection with the foreign trade. Steel tyres, axles, and plates for boilers, are also in fair request, whilst there is a steady output of ordinary ship and boiler plates. Of late more has been done in heavy iron armour-plates than for some time previously, but this appears to be the finishing off of some vessels partly built, for there is no question that in the future steel backed with iron will be used for British war vessels. Some of the cutlery manufacturers are comparatively active, and an increased business is now being done with the United States, which helps to make up for the decline of orders for the Cape and some parts of India. Several of the foundries are turning out a larger quantity of material, including gas, steam, and water pipes, palisadings, stores, grates, and ranges; still some of the works are scarcely able to keep their men on full time. makers of sheep-shears are kept fairly going for the Australian and South American markets, but there has been very little change with respect to the business doing at the engine and machinery works, departments which have been quiet for a considerable time past. Wagon builders are now fairly off for work.

Between Sheffield and Barnsley - and, indeed, in what may be called the South Yorkshire district - the house coal of late has kept up very well, and more than an average tonnage has been forwarded to London. But prices have not increased in consequence, so that the collieries are still being worked without profit, if not in some cases at an actual loss. Steam coal is now being sent away freely, a heavy tonnage being sent to Grimsby for shipment to the North of Europe, and the probability is that there will be a rise in price, seeing that during the winter and

up to the present time it has been selling as low as 6-0d. per ton. In other descriptions of coal there is not much doing.

The proposal to set down all the collieries in the kingdom as brought forward at the recent Miners' Conference, held at Barnsley, does not appear to suit the views of the miners in South Yorkshire, for at a mass meeting, held at Masborough, a resolution was come to without a dissident that the time had not come for the adoption of such a step.

On Tuesday a meeting of the South Yorkshire Steam Coalowners Association was held at the King's Head Hotel, Barnsley. An understanding was come to as to the summer price for steam coal to be charged to shippers and others in the tenders. Complaint was made of the high charge made for coal going from South Yorkshire to Hull, which was from 30 to 40 per cent. more than from West Yorkshire, the difference in the distance between the two districts being only a few miles. The consequence was, however, that the fine steam coal of South Yorkshire was practically kept out of the Hull ports for shipment abroad.

At Messrs. Wilson and Cammell's works, Dronfield, during two weeks ending May 17 the quantity of steel rails produced was 4656 tons 18 cwts., the production for each week being as follows: - For the week ending May 10, during which the time of working was ten shifts, 2256 tons 7 cwts.; and for the week ending May 17, during eleven shifts were made, 2400 tons 11 cwts. This enormous output is said to be the largest in the world. Excluding meal times, the quantity of rails thus rolled is 1 ton in every 47 seconds of the time worked.

Pursuant to an order of the Court of Chancery, Messrs. Hepper and Sons (Limited) on Wednesday offered for sale by public auction the collieries, fixed and moveable plant, materials, and effects belonging to the Bowers Allerton Collieries Company (Limited) at Great and Little Preston, Astley, and Swillington, but, although there was a large attendance, the property did not command a single bid.

The men employed at the Stockbridge Colliery, near to Sheffield, struck against a reduction of wages last week. At the Hemsworth Colliery, between Barnsley and Pontefract, the men also struck some days ago, and brought out their tools.

The Mining Journal.

Page 515 Col. 1-3, 24th. May 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

Stretton Pottery, Sanitary Ware, and Brick Works (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire any land, works, machinery, buildings, or collieries for the purpose of carrying on the business of brick, tile, sanitary pipe, and other earthenware manufacturers. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - G.A. Flower, St. Lawrence; J.L. Potter, Ramsgate; L.W. Vaile, Ramsgate; J.C. Marsh, Greenhithe; A. Kirby, Clay Cross; J. Child, Enfield; E. Wilkinson, Maidenhead.

The Ebor Engineering Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £100. To buy and sell iron, steel, and other metals for the business of engineers and millwrights in all their branches. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - E. Taylor, Littleborough; J. Prittley, Sowerby; J. Cockcroft, Littleborough; T. Fletcher, Littleborough; W. Greenwood, Littleborough; J.S. Kershaw, Littleborough; John Law, Walsden; James Law, Littleborough.

The Corsham Bath Stone Company (Limited).

Capital £15,000, in shares of £10. To purchase "The Monk" Quarry, Corsham, with the plant, machinery, buildings, stock-in-trade, goodwill, &c. To carry on the business of quarrying. The subscribers (who take five shares each) are - R. Cripps, Bristol; C. Goody, Islington; J.A. Turner, Stoke; H. Cripps, Bristol; J. Chapman, Corsham; W. Bishop, Putney; R.G. Cripps, Islington.

The Mining Journal.

Page 548 Col. 2 to 3, 31st. May 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

May 29. There has not been quite so much activity at several of the largest collieries in Derbyshire during the past few days as there was previously, for the comparatively fine weather and the termination of the strike in Durham has led to a falling off in the demand for inland coal, more especially for the Metropolitan market. This is but what might be expected, seeing that we are entering upon the dullest part of the year as regards the sale of house coal, and when prices are generally at the lowest steam coal is not in such good request as is usual at this period of the year, whilst the consumption for iron-making is less than what it was during some part of last year. Shipments, too, have been very moderate, so that the trade may be said to be still dull. For some time past a larger quantity than usual of Silkstone coal has been forwarded to London from Eckington, but this is not likely to be the case any longer, for at one of the collieries most of the men have received notice of a reduction of wages, and the other men to be on a level with them also determined to give in notice as well. It is, however, more than probable that during the next week or two a considerable number of the Derbyshire miners will have notice of a reduction of wages, as with the present price of coal the existing rate of payment cannot be maintained, for mining operations are not being carried on at a profit. A fair business is being done in coke for iron and steel making, a good deal being sent to Sheffield and the district. The business doing in pig-iron is fully up to the average of several weeks past, whilst prices have in no way altered. In foundry material, including pipes, stoves, grates, and ordinary castings, there has been a fair output, whilst the malleable works have been kept steadily going. The Bessemer rail works at Dronfield are now in full activity, and have been turning them out at the rate of 2,000 tons a week. As the pig has to be imported from a distance, there is a strong feeling that before long steel will be made in the district from the local and Northamptonshire ores by the new process, for haematites are not likely to be used in the future when the cheaper ores can be made available.

In Sheffield there are several branches very quiet, whilst short time prevails at a good many establishments where goods of a varied character are produced. In ordinary pig the trade is anything but brisk, and some heavy stocks are on hand, but there is still a fair enquiry for brands adapted for converting into steel. The Bessemer railmakers are working steadily, but the competition, more particularly for foreign contracts, is very keen, both on the part of English and continental producers. The Phoenix Works, however, has been standing, but it is expected that work will shortly be resumed, as a very large contract is said to have been secured. Tyres and axles have been in tolerable request, but in heavy work generally there is plenty of room for improvement. Not much is being done in heavy plates for our own or other Governments, but the mills engaged on those for ships and boilers have been running tolerably well, whilst a steady business is being done in hoop iron. Some of the cutlery works are not so busy as they have been, although orders have come rather freely from the United States and Brazil, whilst Australia continues to be one of our best customers. Of late not much has been done with Russia in railway iron or other material, but a change for the better is now looked forward to, seeing that shipments can be made direct to the Baltic. Germany, that competes with us in several of our local manufactures, has recently sent us some orders for edge tools, files, and other goods. The foundries have been working steadily, but engineers and mechanics, as a rule, are still badly off.

In South Yorkshire the collieries have been kept well doing for the season, but there are all the signs of coming slackness. So far the trade in house coal with the Metropolis has been rather better than usual for the time of the year, but this state of things may almost be said to be over. Prices have been low and unremunerative, and the prospects as to the future are by no

means cheering. Steam coal for shipment from the Humber to the North of Europe has gone off more freely, and no doubt will continue to do so for some considerable time longer. In slack and smudge a quiet business is being done, considerable difficulty being experienced in selling, although offered at prices considerably below the cost to the colliery owners. A good deal of coke is being made for iron making and other purposes, a rather heavy tonnage being for the furnaces in North Lincolnshire, from which large supplies of ironstone are imported.

At a meeting of the Parkgate Company on Tuesday a dividend of £2 per share for the year was agreed to, and the election of Mr. C.J. Stoddart as managing director was approved of. The retiring directors were also re-elected.

On Tuesday Mr. Ellison, the Judge of the Sheffield County Court, who was appointed an umpire relative to the demand made by the colliery owners for a reduction of miners' wages to the extent of 12½ per cent., made his award. He decided, on the ground that the present rate of wages was barely sufficient to maintain the miners and their families, that there should be no reduction whatever. The decision has caused great surprise throughout the South Yorkshire district.

It is proposed to make a new line of railway from Hull into the centre of the South Yorkshire coal field as far as Barnsley, and open out several districts that are now without any railway accommodation whatever. It is expected that the project will be strongly opposed by the North-eastern Company, but there is a strong feeling in commercial circles that such a line is an actual necessity for the development of the coal and iron industries in particular of several important districts of the West Riding.

The Mining Journal.

Page 542 Col. 1-3, 31st. May 1879.

Registration of New Companies.

The Whyrley Cannock Colliery Company (Limited).

Capital £35,000, in shares of £10. To purchase of J. Palmer and J. Brainsby, the lands, mines, plant, and chattels of the Whyrley Cannock Colliery Company, in Staffordshire. To work mines and beds of coal, ironstone, limestone, clay, and other minerals, at Whyrley and elsewhere in the said county, and to sell and otherwise deal with the products thereof. To manufacture and sell iron and steel forgings and castings of all descriptions, lime and coke, bricks, tiles, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Brainsby, Essington, coalmaster; J. Lindrop, Bloxwich, mining engineer; W. Watson Bradley, Iron and Tin-plate Works, Bilston, iron manufacturers; W.F. Poulton, Reading, architect; J. Field, West Bromwich, mining engineer; J.T. Whitehouse, Coxley, mining engineer; J. Palmer, Hollybush, coalmaster. The first directors shall be Messrs. J. Field, F.F. Clarke, G. Thomas, J. Lindrop, W. Hatton, W.F. Paulton, J.T. Whitehouse, J. Palmer, and J. Brainsby. At the first ordinary general meeting all shall retire except J. Field. Qualification 25 shares.