

The Mining Journal.

Page 1097 Col. 2-3, 1st. November 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct. 30. - There has been a little stir of late in the lead mining districts of Derbyshire with respect to the price paid by the local smelters for the ore. A few days since a meeting on the subject was held at Bradwell. It was stated that at present there was only one buyer of ore, so that there was a monopoly which it would be well to break down. The Chairman said that formerly, when lead was £17 per ton, they were able to get 50-0d. a load for ore which weighed 60 lbs. a dish; but now, when lead had again reached £17 per ton, they could only obtain 39-0d. a load. It was moved and agreed to - "That all miners present who are at liberty to sell their ore to whom they think proper shall pledge themselves to sell their ore to anyone who comes against the present monopoly, so long as such person gives a fair market value." One of the speakers said he had taken some pains to ascertain the cost of smelting, and found that 26 cwts. of ore would yield 1 ton of lead. The cost would be - 1 ton of lead at present price of ore, £10-19-0d.; coal to smelt it, 10-0d.; wages, 6-0d.; carting of ore, 6-0d.; carriage of lead to Manchester, 10-0d.; sundry expenses, 5-0d. total cost of 1 ton of lead, £12-5-0d., which at the present price of lead would leave a profit of £4-5-0d. per ton, besides which there would be a further profit on the slags and cinders. It was then proposed and agreed that a committee be appointed to obtain information respecting the working of co-operative societies, and then to report to another public meeting what steps they deemed practicable. There is no doubt that many of the men working mines on their own account have had a long and hard time of it; but it would be well were they to wait a little to see whether the recent advances were likely to be permanent or not. The gentleman who now smelts the ore is well known to be highly honourable, and if there is any advantage he is not the person to take all to himself. Again, the cost of smelting in practice would be found different to what was laid down at the meeting, so we should advise the miners not to be too precipitate in their action, lest in their endeavours to find new purchasers they are not in a worse position than they would be in dealing with the person they have so long been accustomed to do business with.

The iron trade of Derbyshire has improved considerably of late, and the increase in the price of pig has made business profitable after a long season of quietness, resulting in considerable loss. At the foundries and mills there has also been some improvement, with every prospect of its continuing. There has been no falling of with respect to Bessemer rails, so that the one firm in the country making them have been doing well. The coal miners just now are comparatively quiet, and much better employed than for some months past. A large tonnage of coal for household purposes is being sent to the London and other markets, so that at several places the men are working five and six days a week. Steam and small coal are still quiet, and prices low and unremunerative.

Affairs in Sheffield are looking healthier every day, and some manufacturers have orders on their books that will last for several months, whilst others are being constantly received. The production of Bessemer was never so large as it is now, and in addition to the vast quantities absorbed by the makers of rails there is a good demand for billets and various qualities suitable for second-class cutlery and other materials. Cast steel is also being more extensively produced and there are some large orders on Government account that use up a great deal of it. Heavy armour-plates are also being turned out for one or two vessels that are now being constructed. A moderate business is being done in wheels, axles, and tyres, but there is still but a moderate enquiry for springs. Bar iron is in improved request, and the price is now about £6 per ton, but makers do not appear desirous of booking for forward delivery. There has been an increase in the business doing in hoop-iron, as well as in ordinary wire. Some of the foundries are rather

better off; but scarcely any of them can be said to be busy, and the past few months has been very dull as regards stoves, grates, and ranges. Pig-iron has become more steady but prices still rule high to what they were.

The coal trade of South Yorkshire continues tolerably fair, and the collieries are working well, excepting of course a few that are standing, some of them having ceased working only to-day. At the Birley Pits, near Sheffield, where the men have been out for a considerable time, the men have offered to accept a 5 per cent. reduction, but this was not accepted. A good many non-unionists are working at the pits, so that the old hands can now be done without; yet the manager has offered them the chance of contracting for some stalls if they think well to accept it, but this they have not done so far. Yesterday the men at the Wombwell Main, Edmund's Main, and Swaithe Main left work, their notices having expired, and as they refused to accept a reduction. The Association at the delegates meeting on Monday resolved to make a levy of 1-0d. to support those who have left the collieries named. At the Oaks Colliery the question of a reduction of wages is for the present in abeyance.

In consequence of the low price at which steam coal has to be sold the owners of the Strafford Colliery; near Barnsley, have closed their Parkgate pit. The pit produces steam coal only, and as it is sold as low as 6-0d. per ton, and in some instances even less, it does not pay to raise the coal.

On Tuesday a meeting of coalowners was held at Barnsley for the purpose of supporting the proposed line of railway from Hull to Barnsley. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Tyas, of the Edmunds and Swaithe Collieries, and the gentlemen present were unanimously in favour of giving every support to the proposed line, which they considered would be of great benefit to the coal interest of South Yorkshire.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Green Trigs and Milton Main Coal Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in shares of £1 each. The purchasing, taking, or holding and prosecuting the existing colliery works, land, buildings, engines, boilers, machinery, plants, appliances, rights and privileges of the Newill and Milton Main Coal Company in liquidation, or any other colliery works, lands, buildings, &c. Price to be paid to the trustees is £4,000 in fully paid-up shares, and £1,000 in new shares. The trade debts of the liquidating company (excluding £1,639-15-4d. to the bank) amount to about £1,500. Most of the debt to the bank is secured. The winning, working, selling, or otherwise disposing of the Milton field, bed, or Wathwood bed of coal. The subscribers are - C. Adams, Wath-upon-Deerne, corn miller, 250; J. Bamforth, Wath-upon-Deerne, fellmonger, 250; J. Parker, Swinton, flint miller, 250; G. Shaw, Rotherham, earthenware manufacturer, 250; S.E. Thompson, Sheffield, grocer, 13; W. Heppenstall, Sheffield, licensed victualler, 25; M. Chappel, Sheffield, salesman, 13. Messrs. Adams, Bamforth, Parker, and G. Shaw to be the first directors, the qualification being fixed at 150 shares.

The South-Western Peat Charcoal Company, Dartmoor (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £5. To acquire the rights and interests on land in the Forest of Dartmoor, held direct from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and to dig, work, sell, or otherwise dispose of the products. The subscribers (who take five shares each) are - W.T. Jennings, Wandsworth Common; J. Moysey, Leytonstone; A.L. Pearce, 37, Chancery Lane; T. Tilley, Lower Clapton; A.J. Davies, Bow; T.F. Leager, Belvidere; E. Hills, Homerton.

The Mining Journal.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Nov. 6. - That trade generally has improved in Derbyshire admits of no doubt, for even those connected with the lead mines are not quite so demonstrative with respect to the price for ore they obtain from the local smelter. As the price of lead advances they are certainly entitled to participate in the rise, and we may be sure they will do if they are not too keen in looking after their own interests. They have certainly had a hard time of it; but there is every reason to believe that much better things are in store for them, as there is every prospect that prices will still go up. At some few of the mines a fair quantity of ore is being raised; but at the majority of them the wonder is that the parties in possession are able to continue working, so small is the quantity of ore that is raised, for many of the mines last year were credited with less than 5 tons each. Ironstone is not now worked so much in the county as it was formerly, as ironmasters have found that they can obtain perhaps a better article as cheaply as that found at home. What is now worked is that in connection with the coal measures, the greater part of what is consumed being brought from Northamptonshire by the Midland. Of late there has been a considerable increase in business done in pig, large quantities of which are sent away in addition to what is consumed at the local foundries and mills. Makers have shared in the advanced rates, so that those who hold large stocks have done well, as they received in many instances 10-0d. per ton more than they did a couple of months ago. In finished iron a steady business has been done, and there is every appearance that this improved state of things will continue. At the collieries the workmen have been fairly employed, and very little is now heard about advances of wages - for where the men were out on strike there were plenty others to take their places, and as the Unionists have had no funds to fall back upon they have had to give way after a short fight. Derbyshire still maintains its position as the principal purveyor of coal by railway to the London market, and of late it has sent a full average tonnage over the Midland and other lines. Prices to consumers, however, are barely 1-0d. per ton higher than they were during the summer months for house coal. For other qualities, however, the charge is still low, and cannot be considered as paying. More is being done in coke for the Sheffield district.

The dispute at the Birley Colliery continues, and the "black sheep," who have been receiving 6-0d. a day, on being told that they would have to work by contract, fraternised with the old hands, and went home. It appears that the manager has been trying to introduce the "butty" system at the colliery, and there are very few miners who will submit to it, as its unfairness is too obvious, and has always met the strongest opposition from the miners of both Derbyshire and Yorkshire. Efforts, however, are still being made to bring about a settlement, and in all probability they will be successful.

Business in Sheffield goes on improving in almost every branch and a much larger number of hands are employed than has been the case during any previous part of the year. The mills engaged on plates and sheets are turning out large quantities, and the demand for the former promises to be heavy during the remainder of the year. In Bessemer rails makers are as busy as ever, whilst more is also being done in cast-steel. Manufacturers of cutlery are fairly off for business, and the same can be said with respect to other of the old industries. The consumption of pig goes on increasing, and at Parkgate last week two of the furnaces that had been standing for a considerable time were blown in. The transactions in hematite are heavy, but prices have become more settled, but still they are sufficiently high to seriously affect the makers of Bessemer who took contracts a few months since, never thinking that there would be such an advance in the raw material. Outside the town trade is tolerably fair, the Parkgate Company

being busily engaged in the rolling of plates, whilst there is a steady output of hoop iron as well as railway wagons, axles, and tyres.

Machinery has been introduced for the production of sheep-shears, and the result is that a great many men will have to be discharged in consequence, and the large firm of Ward and Payne have given notice to nearly four-fifths of their hands. This is a serious blow for the forgers, for they are not likely to be set on by other firms, all of whom will find that hand-made sheers cannot compete with those produced by machinery, for owing to the rapidity with which they can be turned out the cost is considerably less.

In South Yorkshire the miners are still in an unsettled state, whilst upwards of 2000 of them are on strike against reductions of wages. At the Oaks, which belongs to Cammell and Co., of Sheffield, an arrangement has been come to, and the men continue at work. But such has not been the case at four other large collieries where the men refused the terms offered. Many of the men are dissatisfied with the leaders, and a movement is on foot to remodel the Association, which the promoters say is on the high road to ruin. It is proposed that the power of ordering strikes shall be taken from the council altogether, and invested in the lodges and members throughout the district. It is also suggested that quarterly council meetings only should be held, that each lodge should be registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and keep its own money.

A handsome stained glass window and reredos has just been placed in the parish church, at Netherseale, in memory of the late Mr. John Thomas Woodhouse, the eminent mining engineer, of Overseale and Derby, who was churchwarden of the parish for 36 years. The window has been executed by Messrs. Burlison and Grylls, of Newman-street, London; and the reredos is "Opus Sectile," a new method of church mural decoration lately introduced by Messrs. Powell and Sons, of the Whitefriars Glassworks, London. It is painting on opaque glass and then burnt in. The memorial has been put up at a cost of £344, which has been raised by subscription amongst the late Mr. Woodhouse's friends and admirers. Mr. Arthur W. Blomfield, architect, London, has superintended the work. The effect of the whole thing is very beautiful, and well worth a visit.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Moeltryfan Slate and Slab Quarry Company (Limited).

Capital £40,000, in shares of £10. To work all the slate and stone in the Moeltryfan Mountain, in the parish of Llandwrag, Carnarvonshire, forming part of the waste lands belonging to Her Majesty, and to sell the products. To construct machinery, engines, railways, tramways, roads, &c., for the purpose of transporting the said slab and stone. The subscribers are - R.O. Morris, Bethesda, 25; J. Edwards, Bethesda, 50; J.E. Roberts, Upper Bangor, 100; R. Jones, Bethesda, 100; E. Williams, Minai (Menai) Bridge, 25; J. Davies, Carnarvon, 50; J. Evans, Carnarvon, 25.

The Atlantic Patent Fuel Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £10. The acquiring certain patent fuel works at Swansea, and carrying on the business of manufacturing and dealing in patent fuel. The subscribers (who take one share each) are -T. Ford, Swansea; J.D. Jones, Swansea; J.E. Burgess, Swansea; E.B. Meager, Oystermouth; H. Crawhurst, Swansea; R.A. Essery, Cefn Bryn; J.R. Leaver, Swansea.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Nov. 13. There has been very little change in the lead mining districts of Derbyshire of late, but there is every prospect that next year will be a more prolific one than the present has been, for the increased price of lead cannot fail to stimulate many of those working mines to make increased exertions to produce a larger quantity of ore. The improvement in the iron trade has been well maintained, and prices have been such as to repay those who have kept large stocks in hand, and several companies and firms were in that position two or three months ago. Large quantities have been taken by millowners in Staffordshire and other districts. It is quite probable that early in the new year some more blast-furnaces will be lighted, for the existing demand is not only likely to be fully maintained, but to be considerably increased. In manufactured iron more has been done, but there is still room for improvement as regards mill material. The foundries are also better employed, more especially in gas and water pipes. The Bessemer works at Dronfield keep busy, turning out large quantities of rails, a heavy tonnage of which is for shipment. During the last few weeks the house coal trade has been more active than during any previous part of the year, although the prices have not gone up to the extent that might have been expected, for there has only been a comparatively slight advance on the summer rates. The demand for London has been particularly good of late, no less than 27,000 tons having been forwarded from Clay Cross alone during the month of October. The pits at Eckington have been busier than usual, whilst those in the neighbourhood of Chesterfield have also been doing well. Along the Erewash Valley business has also improved, both at the iron works and collieries, and the same may be said with respect to the more southern part of the county. A considerable tonnage of coal is being sent over the Midland to Birmingham and the West, as far as Bristol and Bath. Steam coal moves of somewhat slowly, the exports having declined, but they have been very moderate during the summer months.

In Sheffield trade generally goes on improving, and during the remainder of the year the workmen will at most places be well employed. A considerable number of workmen have lately been put on at the Atlas and other works, where considerable orders are in hand for plates and other rolled material. Just now there appears to be the greatest activity at the shipbuilding works on the Clyde, and this will have the effect of increasing the demand for both iron and steel plates, and just now large quantities of the latter are being rolled for that purpose. In armour-plates there is a fair output, as there is also in other descriptions of war material for our own Government. Makers of Bessemer rails continue busy, but new contracts, owing to the heavy advance in the price of the raw material, are only taken at enhanced rates. Some good orders have been received from America for rails, cutlery, plain steel, and other materials, whilst pen and pocket knives, as well as razors, have been sent out in increased quantities to China, the East Indies, and Japan.

The South Yorkshire miners are still in a very unsettled state there being two parties in the council, one in favour of restricting the output, expecting by so doing to raise wages, whilst the other is opposed to it. The consequence is that the Association runs the chance of foundering, as an attempt is being made to form a new one, allowing the lodges to keep their own money, instead of sending it to the secretaries. The coal trade, however, is good so far as households are concerned.

The strike at Birley Colliery still prevails, and about 1000 men and boys are out. The result is that instead of sending 8000 tons of Silkstone coal to London last month the quantity forwarded was only 400 tons.

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BREACH OF COLLIERY RULES.

At the Barnsley Town Hall, on Wednesday, 12 miners were summoned for a breach of the 25th special rule at the Hoyland Silkstone Colliery on the 31st ult. by disobeying the orders of the hanger-on. On the above date the defendants went to work, when they found the south jenney partly blocked through a fall of roof. They had to wait three hours for it being cleared away, at the expiration of which they refused to commence work. They went to the pit bottom, when the hanger-on refused to let them ascend, and they commenced pushing the corves about, thus placing themselves and others in danger. Mr. Clegg, of Sheffield, who appeared for the defendants, contended that they were justified in leaving the pit under the circumstances. They were each fined 2-6d. and costs.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Newfoundland Mineral Company (Limited).

Capital £60,000, in shares of £5. To purchase or otherwise acquire certain mining licenses, grants, and leases for searching for and exploiting minerals, situate in Robert's Arm and Conception Bay, Newfoundland, now standing in the names of F. Ellerhausen, A. Guzman, and J. Evans-Freke Aylmer. To purchase any other lands, mines, collieries, minerals, works, concessions, licenses, grants, &c. To work any mines and quarries, ores, coal, and other minerals which may be at any time acquired by the company. To erect, build, acquire pit, and work all smelting and other works, manufactories, and buildings that may be found necessary. The subscribers (who take one share each) are -F. Ellerhausen, Nova Scotia, mineowner; H. Haveman, Paris, merchant; J. Evans-Freke Aylmer, 27, Walbrook, gentleman; C.E. Long, 6, Great Winchester Street, secretary to a public company; W. Hall, 75, Cornhill, bank manager; P. Thaine, 1, St. Swithin's Lane, merchant; E.J. Thomson, 5, Portland Road, gentleman. (No particulars are given).

The Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) Gold Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £200,000, in shares of £5 (preferred and deferred). To acquire from J.C. Backheuser, A.D.C. Faria, and H.D.S. Souza liberal concessions, gold mines and reduction works, land, buildings, plant, and other property in the province of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, according to an agreement entered into by them and H. Bankart as trustee for the company (particulars of purchase not given). The selling, letting, and carrying on of the several branches of the business of a mining and reduction company, and such other works, operations, and business as may be deemed advisable in the interest of the company. The subscribers (who take 50 shares each) are - L. Marshall, 65, Linden Gardens, captain 20th. regiment; B.D. Kershaw, 51, Chetwynd Road, C.E.; J. Bergthiel, 38, Warwick Road, merchant; J.P.G. Smith, Liverpool, merchant; F. Baker, West Hackney, contractor; T. Bush, Farningham, gentleman; W. Martineau, 6, Great Winchester Street, C.E. Number of directors (to be appointed by shareholders) not to exceed seven, or be less than three. Qualification is fixed at 50 shares, and the commencing remuneration of the board £1,000 per annum.

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LIST OF SMELTING, METAL EXTRACTION, ARSENIC, AND BARYTES COMPANIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1878.

(From the Mining Record Office Statistics.)

TIN.

Thomas Bolitho and Sons, Chyandour and Angarrack, Cornwall.
Williams, Harvey, and Company, Trethellan and Mellanear, Cornwall.
Daubuz and Company, Cavedras and Treloweth, Cornwall.
R.R. Michell and Company, Trereife, Penzance, Cornwall.
Bissoe Bridge Company, Bissoe, near Truro, Cornwall.
Redruth Tin Smelting Company, Redruth, Cornwall.
Calenick Tin Smelting Company, Calenick, Cornwall.
Charlestown Tin Smelting Company, Charlestown, St. Austell.

COPPER.

Vivian and Sons, Swansea.
Pascoe Grenfell and Sons, Swansea.
Nevill, Druce and Company, Llanelly.
Williams, Foster, and Company, Swansea.
Mason and Elkington, Pembrey.
Copper Miners Company, Aberavon.
Charles Lambert and Company, Swansea.
The British and Foreign Copper Company, Liverpool and St. Helen's.
Bibby, Sons, and Company, St. Helen's and Liverpool.
W. Roberts, jun., St. Helen's.
James Keys and Son, Whiston Works, Cheadle, Staffordshire.
Sweetland, Tuttle, and Company, Swansea.
Ravenhead Copper Company, Liverpool.

LEAD.

Nevill, Druce and Company, Llanelly.
Runcorn Smelting Company, Runcorn.
The Panther Lead Works, Bristol.
Sheldon, Bush, and P.S. Company, Redcliff Hill, Bristol.
Weston, Son, and Company, Bristol.
W.J. Cookson and Company, Newcastle.
Lecke, Blackett, and Company, Newcastle.
Shield and Dinning, Haydon Bridge.
Vivian and Sons, Swansea.
Howden Smelting Company, Newcastle.
Washington Chemical Company, Newcastle.
Enthoven and Sons, London.
Lock, Lancaster, and Company, London.
Pontifex and Wood, Farringdon Works, London.
Logan Edward, Birkenhead.

Treffry's Estate (C Remfrey), Par, Cornwall.
Peter Glover and Robinson, Widnes Lead Works, near Warrington.
Adam Eyton, Llanerchymor, Holywell.
The Cambrian White Lead Company, Brymbo, near Wrexham.
Joseph Walker, Parker and Co., Dee Bank, Bagilt, and Newcastle.
Governor and Company of Lead Smelters, Nenthead, Alston Moor.
W.B. Beaumont, Allendale, Alston Moor.
Mill Dam Mining Company, Bakewell.
Joseph Wass and Company, Lea Lead Works, Matlock Bath.
J. Fairburn and Company, Middleton Dale and Bradwell.
Snailbeach Lead Company, near Shrewsbury.
Robert Howe Ashton, Castleton, Derbyshire.
Via Gellia Lead Works, Cromford - (Mr. Salisbury, Derby).
E. Backhouse, Darlington.
Greenside Mining Company, Penrith.
The Keld Head Mining Company, Wensleydale.
George York, Pateley Bridge.
Duke of Devonshire, Grassington.
The Duke of Buccleuch, Wanlock Head.
The Lead Hills Mining Company, Lead Hills.
The Hurst Mining Company, Hurst.
Lister Robinson and Company, Grinton Moor.
R.M. Jaques and Company, Arkengarthdale.
The Blakethwaite Lead Company, Blakethwaite.
R. Milner and Company, Belde (Beldi) Hill.
The Swaledale Lead Company, West Swaledale.
Charterhouse Blagdon, Mendips, Bristol.
Waldegrave Lead Smelting Company (Limited), Mendips, near Wells.
The Mining Company of Ireland (Limited), Dublin.

ZINC.

Bagilt Zinc Company.
Vivian and Sons, Swansea.
William Marsden, Oldland Hall, near Bristol.
Kenrick and Son, Wynn Hall, Spelter Works, Ruabon.
Charles Titterton, Phoenix Zinc Works, Warrington Junction.
Dillwyn and Company, Swansea.
J. Collingborne, Spelter Works, Warmley, Bristol.
Joseph Thompson, Spelter Works, Carlisle.
Ryland Brothers, Warrington.
Richardson and Company, Swansea.
Crown Spelter Company.
Villiers Spelter Company, Morryston, Swansea.
Swan and Company, Maryhill, Glasgow.
Swansea Vale Spelter Company (Limited), Swansea.

PYRITES PRECIPITATE COMPANIES.

Duncan McKechnie, St. Helen's.
The Widnes Metal Company, Widnes.
The Tharsis Sulphur and Copper Company, Widnes, Newcastle, Birmingham, Glasgow and Cardiff.

N. Mathieson and Company, Widnes.
The Runcorn Soap and Alkali Company, Runcorn.
Wigg Brothers and Steele, Runcorn.
Newton Heath Reduction Company, Manchester.
Muspratt Brothers and Huntley, Flint.
William Russell and Company, Newcastle.
The Bede Metal and Chemical Company, Newcastle.
W. Hunt and Sons, Leabrook, Wednesbury.
William Hunt, Castleford.
Harrison, Blair, and Company, Kearsley, Bolton, Lancashire.
Henderson and Company, Irvine.
Eyton Copper Company, Mostyn.
William Haslam, Bolton, Lancashire.
Morris and Company, Doncaster.
H.D. Pochin and Company, Newcastle.
South Devon Metal and Chemical Company, South Down, Devonport.
H.G. Lord and Company, Calstock.
Holmbush and Kelly Bray Company, Callington.
Redmoor Company, Callington.
Gibbs, Jackson, and Company, Newcastle.
Plympton Mining and Arsenical Company (Limited).

ARSENIC.

Cornwall Arsenic Company, Hayle and Bissoe Bridge, Thomas Willis Field, Managing Partner,
Marazion, Cornwall.
Devon Great Consols Mining Company (Limited), Tavistock.
J.B. Drayson and Company, Harrowbarrow, Callington.
English Arsenic Company, Roseworthy, Gwinear, Cornwall.
J.J. Rayner, Morrision, Swansea.
A.C. Hadland, Swansea.

BARYTES MANUFACTURERS.

Pegg, Harper, and Company, Derby.
Ellam Jones, and Company, Derby.
Stevens Brothers, Matlock Bath.
Mr. Garton, Lumsdale, Matlock Bridge.
Mineral Paint Company, Cromford, near Matlock Bath.
Wm. Hawley, Bonsall, near Matlock Bath.
E. Brown, Bonsall, near Matlock Bath.
Hegginbotham, Stoney Middleton, near Sheffield and Whaley Bridge.
Middleton Dale Barytes Company, Stoney Middleton, near Sheffield.
White and Company, Chapel-en-le-Frith, near Stockport.

NICKEL AND COBALT.

R. Hussey Vivian, M.P., Swansea.
Stephen H. Barker, Birmingham.
Henry Wiggin and Company, Birmingham.
W. Webb and Company, Aston, near Birmingham,
J.H. Williamson, Stoke-upon-Trent.
Rawlins and Son, Liverpool.

GOLD AND SILVER SMELTERS.

Vivian and Sons, Swansea.
Johnson, Mathey, and Company, London.

SILVER ORE SMELTERS.

Vivian and Sons, Swansea.
Nevill, Druce, and Company, Llanelly.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Nov. 20. In nearly every part of Derbyshire the signs of improved trade are clearly manifested, and that this is likely to be permanent admits of little doubt. The lead mining districts are generally those that are about the last to feel any change for the better, but they also look more cheering than they did, owing to the recent advance in the price of lead. Some of the mine workers have expressed dissatisfaction with the prices they received for the ore they raised, but of late little or nothing has been heard about it. Some few mines have been turning out a fair quantity of ore, but there is still a considerable number the production of which cannot be said to afford a decent living for those who work them. This is the result of the want of capital, as has so often been pointed out, and will continue to be the case so long as working men without any other capital than their hands seek to become mineowners, which the peculiar mining laws of Derbyshire enable them to be. There are now comparatively few ironstone mines in the county being worked, so cheap can the ore be obtained from a distance, even with the carriage rate included. The consequence is that the ironmasters patronise Northamptonshire and North Lincolnshire instead of working ores at home. Derbyshire pig has sold more freely of late, and at prices that must have returned handsome profits, so that those who have held the largest stocks have been the best off. In manufactured iron a steady business has been done, and the foundries have been working better than usual, but the mills have not been so busy as might be expected. The collieries have been doing well, large quantities of house coal passing over the Midland daily to the South of England, as well as to the West, as far as Bristol and Bath. To London the tonnage recently forwarded has been larger than usual for the season, but so plentiful have the supplies been that the price to ordinary purchasers - barely 1-0d. in the ton more than what it was in the summer months - and even that difference goes principally to the merchant, where the colliery owner does not sell direct to the consumer, which is only done in few instances. In steam coal the business done has been but moderate, and now the briskest season is over, so that no improvement can be looked forward to unless some more furnaces are put in blast, which is not unlikely to be the case now that the demand for crude iron is so good. Gas nuts are in fair request, and there is a steady demand for coke.

There is more activity at the works in Sheffield than has been observable for a long time, and the number of hands employed is far in excess of what it has been for more than a year. The change is not confined to two or three branches, but appears to be general, and likely to continue. Armour plates of new construction are now being extensively produced, having a back of several inches in thickness of iron and a face of steel, and some of these have been ordered by the well-known shipbuilder, Mr. Samuda, who is engaged on an armour-clad for the Argentine Republic. Some heavy orders have also been given out for steel plates for ordinary trading steamers that are about to be built of an unusually large size; in fact, makers of cast-steel have of late been much busier than for a very long time past, in one or two instances causing more furnaces to be put in operation. Bessemer steel is also being extensively produced, the consumption on the part of rail makers being not only large but increasing, there being good orders in hand for them for America, India, and other countries. Bessemer steel is also being purchased for wire rolling, as well as for some qualities of cutlery. On Government account there is a good deal doing just now in ordnance at one at least of the principal establishments in the town. Manufacturers of cutlery are better off, and there has also been some improvement with respect to edge tools, saws, and files. Hematite pig has sold somewhat freely, and prices appear to have become more settled.

In South Yorkshire there are still a large number of miners on strike, but there is some probability of an arrangement being come to at two or three of the collieries, for the men are not in a position to hold out, whilst the masters are desirous of keeping their pits going. At the Swaithe and Edmunds Main Collieries the men and the representatives of the employers had a meeting on Wednesday, so that there is some probability of an agreement being come to.

At the Birley Yale Colliery, near Sheffield, the men have been out for several weeks, and the owners have brought men from Chesterfield every morning to fill the places of the old hands, paying the former from 5-0d. to 6-0d. per day. The new hands, however, were asked to go on "piece," the same as at other collieries. This they refused to do, and on Tuesday morning a number of them left the pit, declining to continue at work on any other terms than so much per day.

At Barnsley Town Hall on Wednesday two miners named George French and Henry Sharp were charged with wilfully rendering useless a door and fence at the Barrow Hematite Colliery put up to keep out some gas which had accumulated. Sharp did not appear, and French was fined 40-0d. and costs, or two months imprisonment in default.

The Mining Journal.

Page 1169 Col. 1-2, 22nd. November, 1879

Registration of New Companies.

The Clogwyn-y-Gwin Slate Quarry Company Limited.

Capital £40,000, in shares of £5. The adoption and carrying into effect an agreement made between R.R. Williams and R.B. Tennant of behalf of the company. The working and developing of a quarry the subject of the said agreement. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - F.J. Kirby, Bramerton Street; J. Garrett, 21, Crosby Hall Chambers; W.R. Merrett, 2, East India Avenue; R.W.H. Newington, Tower Chambers; R. Mack, 88, London Wall; E. Carter, 85, Gracechurch Street; H.C. Hill, 8, Union Court.

The Effuenta Gold Mines Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £5, ordinary and deferred. To adopt and carry into effect an agreement made between Paulus Dahse on the one part and F. Fitzgerald on behalf of the company, for the purchase of the lease and concession of certain land called Effuenta, situate on the Gold Coast of Africa, and the exclusive rights of mining therein granted by chief Guabinah Angoo. To purchase or otherwise acquire any other mines, minerals, ore, concessions, &c., on the Gold Coast, and to work, construct, maintain, and improve roads, tramways, railways, piers, wharves, mills, and any other works and buildings that may be deemed necessary or profitable. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Irvine, Liverpool, merchant; W. Geikie, Liverpool, broker; S. Hecht, 14, Hamsell Street, merchant; C. Hecht, 14, Hamsell Street, merchant; E. Berman, 30, Addle Street, merchant; M. Haas, 30, Addle Street, merchant; F. Fitzgerald, 121, Fleet Street, newspaper proprietor. The first directors shall be Messrs. Ervine, S. Hecht, Berman, and S. Cearns. Secretary, F. Fitzgerald. Director's qualification, 50 shares. The remuneration to be fixed by the shareholders in general meeting.

James Dodge and Company (Limited).

Capital £43,000, in shares of £10. To purchase from the liquidator the patents, inventions, lands, buildings, works and goodwill of a former company named James Dodge and Co. (Limited), and to carry on the business of merchants and dealers in iron, steel, and other metals. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J. Bright, Alderley Edge; H. Rawson, Manchester; G. Spencer, Manchester; S.J. Negroponte, Eccles; J.J. Clark, Manchester; R.W.B. Sanderson, Tyldesley, Manchester; J. Dodge, Burkdale.

Nant Rhys Syndicate (Limited).

Capital £3,000, in shares of £1. To purchase or otherwise acquire the right to work a mining sett known as Nant Rhys, situate in Montgomeryshire. To erect stamping machinery, furnaces, mills, and all the necessary plant and appliances connected with the property of the company. To dress, smelt, crush, and refine any ores and minerals, and to realise and deal with the products. To construct all necessary roads, tramways, railways, &c. The subscribers are - J. Lord, 6, Holtham Road, 20; H.C. Elliott, 23, Holborn Viaduct, 5; W.A. Barron, Richmond, 50; N.L.H. Clark, Tynemouth, 50; A. Chadbourn, 57, Tulse Hill, 8; E.J. Daken, Holloway, 3; H.C. Richardson, Stoke Newington, 2. Messrs. Barron, Clarke, and Wright to be the first directors, the number not to exceed seven or be less than three; qualification 50 shares.

The Mining Journal.

Page 1204 Col. 2-3, 29th. November 1879.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE IRON AND COAL INDUSTRIES.

Of the various mining districts in the kingdom scarcely any one has received less notice than Nottinghamshire, although as a coal producing county alone it has during the last 25 years grown more than any other. It is the southern extremity of the great Midland coal field, the largest in England, with the greatest amount of coal at a workable depth, and has the great advantage of being the nearest portion of it to the Metropolis, with which a good business is done in coal from several collieries. The limestone series, in connection with the coal field, it may be said commences in Nottinghamshire, extending northwards into Yorkshire and Durham, and is extensively quarried both for building and for being converted into lime. The thickness of the limestone about Cinderhill does not exceed 30 ft., and at the Newcastle Colliery was found to be 27 ft. Going northwards, however, the limestone gets much thicker, the greatest depth as yet sunk through to the Top-hard coal being at Shireoaks Colliery. After piercing the first seam of coal at a depth of 88 yards the men came upon a compact sandstone grit 66 yards thick, very hard and open, and on the rise a great portion was covered by the Magnesian limestone. The sinking through that rock occupied no less than one year and eight months. The Top-hard coal was found at a depth of 510 yards, but was only 3ft. 10in. thick, while in other parts of the field it reaches the thickness of 10 ft. The bright portion, indeed, which is of considerable thickness at other places, was entirely wanting, the section giving 10in. of softs, 10in. hards, 3in. bright, 12in. spiry - mixed hard and soft - and 11in. soft, in succession. The following is the thickness of the limestone at different points, at some of which it has been gone through to the coal measures :-

| | | |
|--|-------|--------|
| Near to Hucknall Torkard | about | 100ft. |
| Near Annesley | | 120ft. |
| Near Kirby Forest | | 100ft. |
| Near Warsop | | 140ft. |
| Near Shire Oaks | | 318ft. |
| Near Doncaster | | 360ft. |
| At Ouston Park | | 262ft. |
| At Byram Hall, near Pontefract | | 312ft. |

In Nottinghamshire are all the coal measures peculiar to the entire field, including the well-known black-shale or silkstone, but owing to its great depth, being from 360 to 380 yards below the Top-hard, it has not been much resorted to as yet. To the former, however, several collieries have been sunk of late, the Staveley and Sheepbridge companies having jointly tapped the Newstead estate, belonging to Mr. WEBB, and formerly the property of Lord Byron, and which is more than 500 yards from the surface. A colliery has also been sunk at Bestwood on the estate of the Duke of ST. ALBANS, to the same seam. The Cinderhill Colliery, in the Nottingham district, is 660 ft. deep to the Top-hard or rifler coal; whilst there is a second one about 1480ft. to the main soft seam. The Awsworth Iron Company have three collieries going, having built three furnaces recently. The Linby Colliery, near to Nottingham, is also a comparatively new one, from which a large quantity of coal is sent to the south. Many of the small collieries where the coal was worked on the outcrop have ceased working, so that in the extreme southern parts of the field there cannot be much of the Top-hard seam left, for there are many abandoned pits south of the turnpike road from Nottingham to Watnall, but in their place large pits have been opened out northwards, surrounding the villages of Hucknall Torkard, Linby, &c., so that the average annual output of each colliery is upwards of 100,000 tons, the largest of any county. In 1855 the production of the county was 809,400 tons of coal, and it has advanced at the following rate :-

| Year. | Number of collieries. | Tons produced. |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1866 . | 25 | 1,600,560 |
| 1868 . | 27 | 1,508,433 |
| 1874 . | 45 | 3,127,750 |
| 1875 . | 46 | 3,265,368 |
| 1876 . | 48 | 3,415,100 |
| 1877 . | 47 | 3,895,750 |
| 1878 . | 41 | 4,107,350 |

The increase since 1855 to the present time has been unprecedented in the mining history of the kingdom, being nearly five times what it was in the former year. A large tonnage of the coal raised is sent by railway to the Metropolis, Hucknall Torkard sending about 3000 tons a week, and Linby nearly as much. The two great rival railway companies - the Midland and Great Northern - cultivate the coal trade for the county, and at Newstead, Bestwood, and other places there are to be lines of railway, giving the collieries more direct access to the main systems. In connection with the coal measure there is plenty of ironstone, but there does not appear to be any disposition to work it on the part of the few ironmasters in the county. At one large establishment, where there are eight blast-furnace - the Stanton Iron Company - and where a good deal of the pig is worked up, the company find it more advantageous to obtain the stone from Northamptonshire, where a large area of ground has been leased direct. Last year the company drew from Desborough, near to Market Harborough, 79,000 tons, and from Wellingborough 110,000 tons. The Midland Railway Company give a low carriage rate, so that more than three-fourths of the ore raised in that county passes northward over the Midland. Last year the ironstone raised in Nottinghamshire only amounted to 12,250 tons. It may be stated that the ordinary blackband and argillaceous carbonates found in the coal measures do not produce quite so good a quality of pig as the Northamptonshire, but a mixture of the two at Stanton has made a good iron suitable for most purposes. Like most other districts the production of pig for some considerable time past has been but moderate, but now that there has been such a marked improvement in the demand, and prices are so remunerative, it is said that some of the furnaces that have been out for some time will be put in blast again. The following are the furnaces within the county or bordering on it :--

| | Furnaces out. | Furnaces in |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| James Oakes and Co. | 1 | 2 |
| The Butterley Company | 6 | 2 |
| Awsworth Iron Company | 0 | 2 |
| Erewash Valley Iron Company | 2 | 1 |
| Stanton Iron Company | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 11 | 13 |

The Stanton Company have recently erected additional works for foundry purposes, have made a good start, and are turning out large quantities of castings. At Messrs. Oakes' foundries also business has been very fair in gas, water, and steam pipes. It is worth while noticing as an interesting fact that whilst the miners in the adjoining county of Derby, as well as those in Warwickshire, have during the year been in constant conflict with the employers on the wages question, there has been scarcely any misunderstanding between the colliery owners of Nottinghamshire and their employers, and the result has been advantageous to both, for the pits have been kept well going, and several of them are now doing an increasing business, more especially with the Metropolis, as their customers have been able to depend upon supplies being promptly forwarded, which has not been the case at many places, owing to strikes leading to stoppages for a considerable time.

The Mining Journal.

Page 1206 Col. 1, 29th. November 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Nov. 27: Business generally continues to improve in the mining districts of Derbyshire, although in some of them the process is slow as compared with others. At the lead mines there does not appear to be the same improvement as there has been at those where coal is raised, but they are certainly better than they were. The advance in the price of lead has been such that should lead to an increase in the production, for profits should now be made. But, as has been frequently pointed out, capitalists do not appear to take so well to Derbyshire as they do to North Wales as far as regards lead mining, but it is just probable that the same inducements on paper are not held out to them, whilst there is not the same buying, and then selling to limited companies. Those few that have good mines are content to keep them to themselves, and take no credit for being philanthropists to the extent of giving a man £5. for a sovereign, as we find so frequently promised by parties. As far as regards really good things, the fewer to partake of them the better one would think. However, so far as regards Derbyshire, the best paying mines are in the hands of a few private individuals who intend keeping them. In the coal districts business has been good, so that the colliers have been working well, in most instances being able to place to their credit six days a week, so that they are much better of than they were during the summer. Many of them have painful recollections of strikes and their consequences during the present year, and the result is that they are now contented with their position, as a rule, and are not to be allured to attempt making demonstrations for an increase of wages, or to pay attention to the policy of restriction which has been put forward by some of the leaders. To London a large tonnage of house coal has been taken by the Midland Railway from Clay Cross and other places. But so plentiful are the supplies from different districts that prices cannot be advanced, so that the best qualities are delivered to the metropolitan consumers at 25-0d., and Silkstones as low as 22-0d. per ton. This is only about 1-0d. per ton higher than in July and August last, whilst water prices are usually from 2-0d. to 4-0d. per ton more in winter. Steam coal does not go off at all well, although particularly low in price - and, in fact, has been dull during nearly the whole of the year. In other descriptions of coal there has not been any change for the better. Of late there has been a good enquiry for pig, and late quotations for Staffordshire and the West Riding have been fully maintained. Some heavy stocks held before the rise began have been cleared off, so that the makers have done well by holding back, instead of selling when prices were so exceptionally low, and with but a sorry prospect of their improving; good profits, however, have been made in consequence, and that is everything. At the steel rail works at Dronfield business has been brisk, and no doubt will continue to be so, for orders appear to be constantly received for them.

In Sheffield trade goes on improving, and more hands are being employed and fresh furnaces put in blast. This is a striking contrast to the corresponding period of last year, when the distress was so great that a committee was formed for obtaining subscriptions for the relief, or rather support, of the workmen and their families. Now the men, as a rule, are working well, and where many of them a week or two since were only working three or four days a week they are now in the enjoyment of full time. The steel departments appear to have become more active, not only in rails, but in plates, as well. The armour-plate mills have been running well, and those also which have been engaged in the manufacture of ordinary plates, so that more puddling furnaces are in operation. The steel-faced armour-plates have made some impression abroad, so that some fair orders for them have already been booked. Some of the cutlery houses are doing more business, and America just now is a good customer for different descriptions, as well as for plain steel, for after all it appears that there is a peculiarity about Sheffield made steel which transatlantic makers are unable to master. Orders from our colonies for hardware, sheep shears,

and other materials have come rather freely to hand of late, whilst in the home markets there is a much healthier tone.

In the South Yorkshire mining district the business done in house coal has been good, but colliery owners still complain of the low and unremunerative prices at which they are obliged to sell. One of the disadvantages they labour under is that the rate charged by the Great Northern to London for coal is much higher than by the Midland from Derbyshire, so that from the latter, although less in area, and with coal more inferior than otherwise, four times as much is sent.

On Tuesday the Duke of Devonshire, accompanied by Lord F. Cavendish, his son, and Sir J. Ramsden, of Barrow, visited the Barrow Hematite Colliery, situate about two miles from Barnsley. The colliery is one of the deepest in South Yorkshire, or probably in the West Riding, and belongs to the Barrow Steel and Iron Company, of which His Grace is the chairman.

The proposal to restrict the production of coal in the South Yorkshire district has been withdrawn, and Mr. Chappell, one of the secretaries of the Miners' Association, whose discharge from that office was voted by the delegates in consequence of his opposition to the proposal, has been reinstated, for at several meetings votes of confidence in him were passed, and he was also congratulated upon the stand he had made against so wild and impracticable a scheme.

The Mining Journal.

Page 1198 Col. 1, 29th. November, 1879

Registration of New Companies.

Northern Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £1, 4,600 shares allotted as fully paid-up shares. To purchase leases of the Brandon Walls, Thorney Brow, and Stotsfield Burn Mines, situate in the parish of Stanhope, Durham, lately worked by the Rookhope Lead Mining Company (Limited), together with the plant, machinery, stores, tools, &c. to purchase or otherwise acquire any other mines and mining properties. To work, explore, develop, and maintain the mines, mineral properties, and works in the possession of the company, and carry on generally the business of raising, working, mining, smelting, and selling lead and other ores, metals, and minerals in all its branches. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - A.S. Cornwall, 7, St. George's Road, accountant; J.H.A. Smith, 8, Austinfriars, secretary; T. Bush, Farningham, gentleman; S.W. Daukes, Beckenham, no occupation; H.W. Lamb, Annerley, no occupation; F.R. Hales, 74, King William Street; W. Hill, 28, Hertslet Road. The first directors to be Messrs. Daukes, Lamb, Edwards, York, and Siddens. Qualification of a director, 100 shares. The number must not exceed five, or be less than three.

The Building Estates Brickfields Company (Limited).

Capital £50,000, in shares of £5. The manufacture of bricks, tiles, and general products from earths for the purpose of sale. The subscribers are - S. Walker, Sydenham Hill, 70; G.E. Brook, Croyden, 30; G. Dibley, 19, Bury Street, 25; W. Freeman, Sutton, 30; H.G. Wright, Croyden, 150; D.B. Burns, Sutton, 5; W. Hobbs, Croyden, 5.

The East London Galvanised Iron Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £10. To carry on the business of a galvanising company and to manufacture articles of which iron forms a principal part. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - S.S. Thomas, Ratcliff; H.C. Morris, 2, Walbrook; A.G. Calow, Brixton; J. Lee, Ratcliff; W.H. Clark, Peckham; D.M. Thomas, Caterham; J. Alexander, Croydon.

Richard Hornsby and Sons (Limited).

Capital £30,000, in shares of £10. To purchase R. Hornsby and Son's business of engineers and ironfounders, and to carry on said business. The subscribers are - H.H. Johnston, Grantham, 500; C.B. Marlay, Regent's Park, 500; J.J. Vickers, 5, Newman's Court, 500; D. Ward, Sheffield, 500; W. Hornsby, Grantham, 5,000; J. Hornsby, Grantham, 500; R. Fairbairn, 42, Wilton Crescent, 500.