

The Mining Journal.

Page 1001 Col. 1, 4th. October 1879.

IMPROVEMENTS IN COLLIERY WINDING GEAR.

A new system of winding gear, known as Koepe's patent, which has already been adopted at many of the collieries in Germany and France, is being introduced at some of the collieries in this country, and Messrs. Nasmyth, Wilson, and Company, of the Bridgewater Foundry, Patricroft, near Manchester, are at present constructing engines and winding apparatus on this principle for the Bestwood Colliery Company, Nottingham. The principal feature of the new system consists in doing away with the ordinary drum and great weight of rope, which in deep mines is a very great strain upon the engine. In this system the cages are attached, one to each end of the winding rope, which passes over the head-gear pulleys and over a winding pulley, which takes the place of a drum, and a balance rope of the same weight as the winding rope is fixed to the bottom of each of the cages, the balance rope hanging freely in the shaft, and the lower end being allowed to dip into the sump at the bottom. By this method, however deep the shaft, the ropes and cages are always balanced, and the engine in winding up has only to overcome the weight of the coal in the tubs and the friction of the working parts. A steady engine speed is secured, whilst considerably less engine power is required, and the risk of overwinding is very much reduced. The system has answered satisfactorily where it has been tried, and is spoken highly of by mining engineers.

The Mining Journal.

Page 1002 Col. 2, 4th. October 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct. 2. - There has not been much change in the state of affairs in Derbyshire since my last notice, but so far as trade is concerned it has not been for the worse. Iron appears to be improving, and from the meeting of the shareholders of the Staveley Company the year has not been so bad as many were led to believe, for the trading shows a considerable profit. The iron productions of the company, it may be said, have a high reputation at home and abroad, and the energetic character of the managing director, Mr. C. Markham, has ensured for the men a larger share of employment during the year than those at other works have had. There has been a large output of pig, whilst the several collieries belonging to the Company have been kept well going. The make of Bessemer steel and the rolling of rails continue at Dronfield, from which it was recently said the works were about to be removed, but this has as yet received no confirmation. The business doing in house coal has been very fair, and in all probability will go on increasing, whilst a slight advance in the price may reasonably be looked forward to, but of this as yet there has been no indication. To London of late a considerable tonnage has been sent over the Midland, but prices to consumers remain the same as they have been during the greater part of the summer. In steam coal the demand has not been up to that of some former years, whilst the prices have been exceptionally low and unremunerative. At the Kilburn Colliery, where there was a row a short time since, in consequence of some men working whilst others would not, matters have settled down, and there are now as many men in the pit as are required. In some few instances the wages question has not been quite settled, but there does not appear to be any likelihood of a dispute of a serious nature, although some few of the men are open for a fight, but fortunately they have no following.

In Sheffield business appears to be in much the same state as it has been for several weeks, with perhaps the exception of hematite pigs, and for them the demand has increased to such an extent that makers have been able to go on advancing until they are now something like from 7-0d. to 8-0d. per ton more than they were six or seven weeks ago. The result is that stocks that had grown very large have been well toned down, whilst makers are holding back from taking orders for forward delivery. Some heavy armour-plates are being turned out for the Admiralty, and the Government has also given out some good contracts for steel plates, barrels, and gun blocks. For ordinary ship and boiler plat the business doing is but moderate, but some of our boiler makers are taking more steel than previously. There is a large output of Bessemer for various purposes, a considerable quantity being used for cutlery and wire; but, owing to the advance in hematite, the makers have been obliged to advance their quotations from 5-0d. to 6-0d. per ton for it. There has been no falling of in the output of the Bessemer rail-mills, and the establishments as a rule, have as much as they can do. More is also being done in cast-steel, a few orders for exportation having come to hand from America, from which it appears that there they have not yet been able to master the peculiarities of the best Sheffield steel. For general cutlery the demand is quiet, but some of the houses engaged in the making of edge tools and files are decidedly better off. At the foundries business is anything but brisk, the production of stoves, grates, and builders' castings during the whole of the summer having been but moderate. The collieries around Sheffield have been working tolerably well, and the strike at one of them, which has lasted for several weeks, may now be said to have terminated, as many men being at work as are necessary for the quantity of coal required.

At the collieries in the Barnsley, Wombwell, and Wath districts the wages question has been prominently brought forward during the last two or three days, and at several places the men have received notice to leave, the object of course being to have new contracts entered into

at reduced rates. This was the case at Wombwell Main, where the men had notice yesterday. At Darfield Main the men on Wednesday morning refused to go down the pit in consequence of the manager having refused to let some of the miners go down the Tuesday afternoon's shift, after the men had held a meeting to discuss certain alleged grievances. At Hoyland Silkstone the notices have been withdrawn, so that work will go on as usual.

On Monday there was a meeting of delegates from the various miners' lodges at Barnsley, when the question of an advance of wages or the limitation of production was discussed. The proposal that notice of an advance should be given on Oct. 10 was agreed to, and in the event of a refusal then the output is to be limited. There is not much to be feared from the threat, the men having nothing to fall back upon, the coffers of the Association being quite dry, could not continue a struggle for many days. However, there is every appearance of a short and decisive struggle before long, and the result as usual will be to leave the men a great deal worse off at the end of it than they were at the commencement.

Some of the colliery owners in South Yorkshire have given their customers new price lists, showing an advance of from 6d. to 1-0d. per ton, but in the present state of the trade it is doubtful whether they will be able to get it.

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Registration of New Companies.

South Wheal Crebor (Limited).

Capital £40,000, in shares of £1. To acquire by purchase, lease, or agreement lands and mines in Devonshire or elsewhere, and any other mining and mineral properties, together with the plant, machinery, implements, premises, buildings, &c. To work the mineral grounds, with power to erect engines, buildings, and machinery as may be required for the purpose of crushing, washing, smelting, refining, and dressing the ores and minerals for commercial gain. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W. Reynolds, Kingston-on-Thames, C.E.; J.B. Rogers, St. Clement's House, Lombard Street, engineer; J.A. Solomon, Millwall, newspaper proprietor; G.H. Scott, Bow, clerk; A.F. Green, 41, Lancaster Road, gentleman; C. Hart, 119, Lambeth Road, clerk; S. Granfield, 1, Upper Charles Street, clerk. There are 10 clauses in the Articles of Association; these only refer to the general working of the company, but no details are given as regards directorate, &c.

The Bouldnor Pier and Land Company (Limited).

Capital £55,000, in shares of £10. To purchase or otherwise acquire the Bouldnor estate and any other properties in the Isle of Wight or elsewhere, and to carry on the manufacture and sale of bricks, tiles, &c. the subscribers (who take 10 shares each) are - G.E. Morton, 12, Buckingham Street; R.L. Gourlay, New Cross; G. Woods, 19, Harpur Street; H.P. Omeara, 47, Tollington Park; H.S. Wilde, Bushey Heath; C.G. Percival, 23, Green's Terrace; C.B. Lamey, 2, Dowgate Hill.

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A Traction Engine.

On Thursday last great excitement prevailed in Ingleton, it being known that a large boiler was on its way from Burnley to Mr Bracewell's Colliery at Ingleton, the boiler being conveyed by Traction Engine. At about three miles from Ingleton the road gave way, and a considerable delay took place. It was 8 o'clock when the engine arrived in the town. This being the first Traction Engine at Ingleton and many hundred people were awaiting it. On the return journey the road gave way in the same place as before, and another considerable delay took place.

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Page 1021 Col. 2-3, 11th. October 1879.

NO SAFETY IN SAFETY-LAMPS - REMARKABLE MINING REVELATIONS.

Some remarkable revelations respecting the ability of miners to tamper with safety-lamps, which hitherto appeared to have escaped the notice of magistrates, transpired during the hearing of a case before Mr. J. Kaye and Mr. J. Dyson at the Barnsley Town Hall. A youth named John Gooth, aged 16 years, a hurrier in the employ of Messrs. Pope and Pearson, owners of the Woolley Colliery, was charged with unlocking a safety-lamp, and exposing the light, in a mine exclusively worked with safety-lamps, contrary to the rules. Mr. Parker, solicitor, prosecuted. Charles Waring, the lamp inspector at the colliery, deposed to being in the workings on the 26th ult. when he met a lad named John Adshead, and found that he had a lamp which was not locked. He asked if the lamp had been extinguished. He replied it had, and that defendant had relighted it by opening it with a lamp hook. In answer to Mr. Kaye witness said Davy lamps were used, and any man could unlock them, light them, and lock them again without his knowing, provided they screened their light. Mr. Kaye said that it was a most important statement. He had never known that safety-lamps could be opened and re-locked by the men in the way the witness described. In answer to Mr Dyson, witness said the lamp was taken to the lamp station, and there lighted. Mr. Kaye said it was quite a new feature in the Davy lamp to him. There appeared to him to be no safety in a Davy lamp if a man could open it and lock it again with the lamp hook. They might put on what penalty they choose; it would not prevent their doing such an act, when they knew they would not be detected. The Bench instructed the clerk to write to Mr. F.N. Wardell, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for Yorkshire, calling his attention to these statements. In answer to the Bench, witness said that Clanny lamps were used at the pit, but they could be opened and locked in the same way. Mr. Kaye said he considered it a most important case, as he always thought they could not unlock them in that way. Mr Parker said he was under a similar impression. A boy named John Adshead spoke to seeing defendant light the lamp, but should not know how he unlocked it. The Bench believing that an example ought to be made committed defendant for one month, and if it had not been for his youth they would have sent him for the full term of imprisonment. They were of opinion that no Inspectors could prevent explosions occurring if lamps could be opened and lighted in the way described.

Manchester Courier, Oct. 7.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct.9. - An improvement has undoubtedly taken place in the Iron Trade, and it is certainly not confined to one locality, but appears to be general, and Derbyshire is now sharing in it, although there has as yet been no increase in the production. But there is still every reason to believe that should matters go on as they have been doing during the last few weeks before long some more furnaces will be put in blast. The recent advances in prices have had the effect of reducing stocks, singular as it may appear, for consumers consider that prices will still go up; hence the desire to purchase at existing rates. In manufactured iron there is also more doing, but as yet not to any appreciable extent. Bessemer rails are in as active request as ever, so that there is still a large output. Coalowners of late have been doing much better than for some time past, and there has been a marked increase in the demand for London, but without any alteration in price, for consumers can now purchase on the same terms that they did during the summer months. Derbyshire it may be said now sends more coal to the London market than any other county, or even the whole of Wales, South and North. Its proximity to the Metropolis and the moderate rate charged by the Midland Railway place it in an almost exceptional position, so that colliery owners in other and more distant districts are able to purchase it and have it sent direct to London cheaper than they can raise it at their own pits. Steam coal is still in rather moderate request for the time of year, and prices rule low. The collieries in the county, however, are now free from strikes, the men at the last place where they thought it advisable to oppose their employers having resumed work after mutual concessions. In common and small coal not much is being done, the consumption of engine fuel in the Lancashire manufacturing districts being still but moderate. A good deal of coke is now being turned out, and this now meets with a fair sale in the Sheffield and other districts.

The improvement in most of the Sheffield trades which commenced some five or six weeks ago is still maintained, and there is now every appearance that it will continue, and there is in all directions a far more hopeful feeling as to the future than has existed during the previous part of the year. Makers of pig-iron have been doing a large business, and prices have gone up astonishingly, more especially for hematites, the consumption of which in the Bessemer converters has greatly increased of late. Ordinary furnace and mill pig as a matter of course has also advanced in price as the demand for it has also increased. Makers of Bessemer rails are doing well so far as orders are concerned, but they must be working very close so far as profits are concerned, owing to the advance which has taken place in the raw material. Some fair Government contracts are in hand for heavy armour-plates as well as for rifled barrels and gun-blocks. In cast-steel there has been some little improvement of late, and there is every probability of a marked increase in the demand for that material, and just now a good deal is being sent to America. Steel plates for ships and boilers are also coming into greater request, whilst steel wheels are also being more extensively produced. A good business continues to be done with Australia in most descriptions of goods, whilst other of our colonies are also taking more from us than during the early summer months. Cutlery manufactures are by no means busy, but some of the leading firms are able to keep their hands fairly going in the best qualities of table and pocket knives. The foundries are moderately well employed, whilst the engine and machine works are still comparatively quiet, as they have been for a considerable time.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade is in anything but a satisfactory state, the wages question being still a bone of contention. In several places the men have been requested to submit to a reduction of wages, and in reply to this the delegates from the various lodges passed a resolution that an advance of 10 per cent. should be demanded, and in case of its refusal that

the output should be reduced one-fourth. October 8 was the day fixed for giving in notices for the advance, but the men on calm consideration evidently thought that discretion was the better part of valour, so that on the day named no notices were sent in. As it is, however, there are several collieries standing, whilst the association is unable to render the men any material assistance. At some collieries also the men are under notice, and will have to leave unless they agree to a new price list or to a reduction of wages. The trade it may be said, has improved, and at several collieries the men are able to work full time, and are getting very fair wages. The business doing with London in house coals has declined during the past month so far as South Yorkshire is concerned, owing to the high rates charged by the Great Northern, which throws a large quantity of the traffic into Derbyshire, where the rate to London by the Midland is much lower. Steam coal has gone off very well of late, a large tonnage being sent to Grimsby for shipment to the North of Europe. A fair quantity is also being forwarded to North Lincolnshire for the use of the furnaces in that rising ironmaking district, and there is every prospect of an increase in the requirements, as it is said some more furnaces there are likely to be put in blast before long.

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Registration of New Companies.

The Mickleover and Etwall Gaslight and Coke Company (Limited).

Capital £6,000, in shares of £10. The making and supplying was gas, coke, and other kindred materials the villages of Mickleover, and Etwall and adjacent parishes in Derbyshire. The subscribers are - W. Holly, Derby, 30; H.H. Bemrose, Derby, 30; C.H. Bakewell, Quarndon, 20; B. Bradley, Derby, 50; E. Mills, Derby, 30, G. Murray, Elvastone, 5; W. Peat, Derby, 20; C.E. Newton, Mickleover, 50; J. Haslem, Derby, 50.

The Craven Herald.

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No Headline.

Notice of sale (with details) of the Bentham Fire Clay Company Limited. In voluntary liquidation.

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Page 1049 Col. 2-3, 18th. October 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct.16. There has been some little change in the state of trade during the past week, and it is gratifying to state it is for the better. Reports from Cleveland have been to the effect that pig-iron has gone up considerably, and this, of course, has affected the production of the Derbyshire furnaces, so that with an improved demand there has been a considerable increase in the price. Seeing that the pig made at the leading works, such as Stanton, Staveley, Sheepbridge, Renishaw, and other places, is principally made from the ores of Northamptonshire, the quality is, of course, decidedly superior to that made from the poorer, but more abundant, ironstone found in North Yorkshire, and for most purposes the pig is preferred to that of Cleveland, so that our ironmasters have been doing better during the last two or three weeks than for a long time previously. No hematite, however, appears to be made, although there is a large consumption of it at the Bessemer works at Dronfield, where vast quantities of rails have been turned out, a good deal going to Russia. The foundries have also become busier, but the mills are still doing what may be called a comparatively moderate business in ordinary castings. At the collieries, not only in the Chesterfield district, but throughout the Erewash Valley, there has of late been more activity, so that the colliery owners have been able to find more employment for the miners. In some instances there has been a slight advance made in the pit prices, but not to the extent of securing anything but the slightest margin of profit. The London trade has also improved so far as regards house coal, and the Midland Railway has been taking a rather heavy tonnage, whilst some of the merchants have advanced their charges to consumers about 1-0d. per ton for what are known as Derby brights, which for several months past have stood at 19-0d. per ton delivered. Steam coal, on the other hand, has not gone of at all well, and the busy season for it may now be said to be closing. Prices have been, and indeed are, particularly low, which has been of great advantage to the railway companies in making contracts for the usual forward deliveries. The improvement which has taken place in the iron and steel trade has led to more being done in coke for smelting, as well as for other purposes.

In Sheffield there has been some little excitement as regards sales of pig, more especially hematites, for which there has been a considerable increase in the demand, so that prices have gone up rapidly, which of course will somewhat seriously affect some of the rail makers who took contracts when the raw iron was 8-0d. or 10-0d a ton less than it now is. The large order received by Vickers, Son, and Co. for the steel chains for the Firth of Forth Bridge ensures for that firm a long and busy season, which will come at a time when work will be much appreciated by the men. America just now is taking from us a good deal of pig as well as steel, cutlery, and other goods, whilst the transactions with some of our colonies have declined. In heavy armour-plates there has been a tolerably fair turn out for our own Government, whilst ordinary ship and boiler plates have in no way declined. Steel plates, however, are in better request for several purposes, but at the expense of those formerly made of iron. Most of the cutlery houses of note are kept steadily going, but there is no pushing in any department. Files meet with a readier sale but the manufacturers hold heavy stocks of them, and are more inclined to making a reduction than to go on producing. Edge tools are still quiet, but some of the scissor makers are more fully employed. Silver-plated and Britannia metal goods are more enquired for, and there is a growing increase in the production.

In South Yorkshire coal mining is in anything but a satisfactory state, although most of the miners may be said to be working well. But some hundreds are out on strike, having refused to concede a reduction of wages more or less. At several collieries the men have been requested to agree to a new list of prices, which would be from 10 to 20 per cent. lower than what they

have been working under, and at the meeting of the delegates of the Miners' Association, held at Barnsley, on Monday, the question of limiting the production unless an advance of wages was made was seriously discussed. The panacea of Mr. Macdonald for advancing the price of coal and wages at the same time meets with support from some of the lodges, but there is no doubt but what the great bulk of the men are opposed to it as impracticable. The wages paid to the colliers in the South Yorkshire district are higher than those paid in any other part of the kingdom, and the steady workmen here have no desire to be thrown on the charity of the public. The men at Monk Bretton are still out, and have issued an appeal to the miners and the public asking for support, asserting that they have been asked to submit to a reduction of wages to the extent of from 20 to 25 per cent.

Messrs. Dorman, Long, and Co., of the Westmarch Ironworks, Middlesborough, have announced their intention to work the Britannia Ironworks, Middlesborough, during next week. These works employ 1600 hands, but it is anticipated that about 600 may be started. The Skerne Iron Company bought the works some time ago, and carried them on for a short time.

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Registration of New Companies.

Donald Mackintosh and Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £20. To adopt and carry out an agreement between D. Mackintosh and the company, and to carry on the business of quarrymasters, paviours, stonemasons, &c. The subscribers are: - D.M. Brinscall, Liverpool, 200; J. Dewhurst, Preston, 25; C. Cranshaw, Wigan, 50; J. Tarbrick, Wigan, 25; S. Haworth, Tyldesley, 25; J. Kershaw, Tyldesley, 25; C. Wood, Wigan, 25.

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Page 1073 Col. 3, 25th. October 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Oct. 23. - There has been an undoubted improvement in the state of the iron trade of Derbyshire in common with what has been the case in all other iron-making districts, and prices as a matter of course have reached the paying point. So far, however, the inducements have not been sufficiently strong as to lead to the blowing in of any of the furnaces that have been long out. Manufactured iron has also been in better demand, so far as regards both mill and foundry material. In Bessemer rails a good business continues to be done at the works at Dronfield, and this no doubt will continue during the remainder of the year. House coal has been in increased demand and prices have at most places slightly advanced. More is being sent to London from Clay Cross, Eckington, Grassmoor and several other collieries, whilst merchants have raised the price of the best coal to consumers 2-0d. per ton, and for inlands from 1-0d. to 1-6d. per ton. Of course no such increase has taken place at the pits, for the prices at them are barely paying in many instances. Steam coal goes off slowly, and at rates that leave no margin of profit. In small coal but little is doing. There has of late been an improved demand, more especially for the Sheffield iron and steel smelters.

Most of the Sheffield trades are now busier than they have been for a long time, and orders continue to flow in daily, and this has been the case more particularly with respect to Bessemer rails, all the makers of which are now busy. At the Cyclops Works part of a large contract for steel rails has just been received from the Government of India. Steel guns, gun-blocks, and heavy armour-plates are also being extensively produced for our own Government. Steel plates for ships and boilers are also in fair request, and more is being done in brands suitable for the best descriptions of cutlery. In ordinary plates and sheets some of the mills are better off, whilst considerable quantities of telegraph wire continue to be turned out. Makers of springs are still quiet, and but little is being done in those manufactures in Belgium, makers there being able to undersell us even in our own markets. The leading cutlery establishments are working steadily, but there has been no material improvement as regards secondary qualities. More files have been sent away recently, but the hands are as a rule not fully employed. Makers of pig have been doing very well, more particularly in hematite for rails and other steel materials, but prices have been such as to greatly lessen the profits of those who have old contracts in hand.

In South Yorkshire the coal trade is still in an unsettled state several of the colliery owners having given their workmen notice of a reduction, whilst the executive of the Miners' Association have issued a circular asking for an advance of 10 per cent., on the ground of the recent rise which has taken place in the price of coal. There is, however, no mention made of restriction, which was threatened a few weeks ago. The trade in house coal is certainly better than it has been, with an advance of about 6d. per ton, but steam coal, low as it has been all the summer, is likely to come down still lower, so that it will have to be sold, in all probability, at a loss during the winter months.

On Wednesday night a meeting of the miners employed at Swaithe and Edmund's Main Collieries, near Barnsley, was held, when it was determined to resist the proposed reduction of wages.

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Registration of New Companies.

Schofield's Foundry Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £10. To carry on the trade and business of engineers, machinists, brass and iron founders, &c., at Littleborough, Lancashire. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - P.H. Schofield, Birkenhead; R. Kay, Heywood; J. Schofield, Littleborough; F.J. Bright, Rochdale; W. Schofield, Littleborough; J.H.C. Hill, Littleborough; Elisa Schofield, Littleborough.

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Narrow Escape at Ingleton Colliery.

On Saturday last Henry Wadeson, son of Mr John Wadeson, of Ingleton, very narrowly escaped with his life at the above Colliery, under the following circumstances. It seems that for some time they have been engaged in driving a drift to convey air into the working. Two sets of men have been working in directions to meet each other, and it was thought that they had got so near that, by putting in a shot on Saturday, they would hole into each others workings. An extra quantity of powder was made use of, but it did not do the work anticipated. After the shot was fired, a man named Joseph Hodgson went to examine the place, but soon found, - owing to the sulphur from the powder, which is considered more dangerous than foul air,- that it was dangerous to proceed to the place. It appeared that Wademan, in spite of what was said to him by the other man, persisted in going to the place. He proceeded part of the way to the workings, when his lamp was heard to fall. They called to him several times but received no answer. Hodgson (the man who had previously attempted) rushed to the place and found the boy unconscious. With great difficulty he succeeded in carrying him to a place of safety. Everyone thought that Wadeson was dead, and it was not till an hour had expired that he showed the least sign of animation. He was afterward conveyed home, and he still remains in a feeble state. We trust that this may be a caution to other inexperienced youths.