

The Mining Journal.

Page 901 Col. 3 to Page 902 Col.1, 6th. September 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Sept. 4. - Very little change of late has taken place in the lead mining district, but the future looks rather more promising than it did. The returns for last year it may also be said were more promising than for some previous years, although the Millclose is credited with nearly one-half of the entire produce of the county, the Mill Dam at Great Hucklow coming next. In the raising of lead economically experience has shown that plenty of capital with the best pumping and other machinery are the great essentials, and of this we have the strongest proof in Derbyshire, where the Messrs. Wass last year raised nearly two-thirds of all the ore produced in the county, whilst the returns from 130 mines only give a total of 309 tons. The lead, too, does not appear to give any percentage of silver as that in most other districts does, and it appears from the statistics that less silver is now obtained from the ore than there was a few years ago taking all our mining districts into account. The reason for this is certainly anything but clear. In some of our iron-making districts there has been a little more activity, and Derbyshire pig has sold rather more freely, but there has been no material improvement as regards the manufactured articles. At some of the foundries there is a trifle more being done in pipes and ordinary castings. There is just now a better feeling with regard to coal, the price of which is still very low, but the business done in even household qualities for the season is fully equal to what it was for the corresponding period of last year, thanks to the changeable nature of the weather. From Clay Cross, Blackwell, Eckington, Grassmoor, and other large collieries having a connection in the Metropolis, a steady trade has been done over the Midland to St. Pancras and the depots. A fair tonnage has also been forwarded to Northamptonshire, from which large quantities of ironstone are imported. Along the western branch of the Midland system by way of Birmingham, Worcester, and Cheltenham, coal from the district also finds its way. Steam coal for exportation has been quiet, whilst the consumption for the local furnaces and manufacturers has been less than previously. Of late more has been done in coke for ordinary smelting, a considerable quantity being sent into Sheffield.

In Sheffield there is a general feeling that the tide of improvement has set in, and that it will increase in volume as the year gets towards the end. Some of the branches that have most felt the change are those that in the earlier part of year were the worst off, so that many men are now on full time for many months. The mills in particular appear to be working well, and this not in one description of material, but in nearly all. Our own Government have some heavy contracts for armour-plates being worked off at the establishments where such are made, and then there are heavy gun blocks and other ordnance material in hand, so that the Sheffield workmen have no need to condemn the policy of the Government, seeing that it has been a marked source of benefit to numbers of them, and at a most critical period too. Wheels, axles, tyres, and connecting-rods meet with a better sale, whilst makers of edge tools are busier. A large quantity of Bessemer Steel is now being produced, and a good deal is being used in the manufacture of certain descriptions of cutlery. etc., but the bulk goes through the rail mills, and these are likely to have a long and busy season; for in addition to the heavy Canadian orders recently received others are expected. It is true the contract prices are low, but it is for that reason that the orders have been secured, and there is a little profit left at the finish. For crucible steel there has been an improved demand for various purposes, and many plates for ships and boilers are now being made from that material. There has not been much change with regard to cutlery, the business doing, as a rule, being steady, but not brisk, what enquiry there is being for best qualities of knives.

The South Yorkshire coal trade is much as it has been for the last two or three weeks, being certainly better than for some months previously as regards "softs" but this has in no way affected prices, which are still unremunerative. In steam coal the season has not been so active as in some former years, despite the fact that prices have been lower than for some years past. A fair tonnage of coal, however, has been sent to Goole, for which during the week several cargoes have been cleared for Cronstadt, Calais, Gravesend, Sandwich, Rochester, &c. There has not been so much activity in the business to Grimsby, where large quantities of South Yorkshire hard coal are shipped in the open season to the Baltic.

The Northfield Iron and Tyre Company (Rotherham) annual meeting was held a few days ago, when it was stated no loss had accrued from the year's working, whilst additions have been made to the plant. No dividend under the circumstances was declared.

Advices just received from New York state that there is a growing demand for rails, and that orders for from 10,000 to 12,000 tons have just been sent to England, and it is expected that some portion will be placed in the hands of the Sheffield makers.

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Registration of New Companies.

Maninghea Stone Company (Limited).

Capital £8,000, in shares of £50. To acquire certain quarries of building stone situate at Wimille, Pas de Calais, France, with the machinery, workshops, plant, &c., and working the same. The subscribers are - F.S. Isore, 22, Great Winchester Street, 10; J.M. Mayer, 124, Wood Street, 4; W. Stewart, Ethelburga House, 3; E. Mayer, 124, Wood Street, 1; W. Keane, 70 and 71, Bishopsgate Street Within, 2; H.J. Taylor, 20, Herbert Street, 1; F.P. Leon, 2, Copthall Buildings, 5.

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#### REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Sept. 11. - There has been but little change in the state of the Iron and Coal Trades of Derbyshire during the past week or ten days. It may, however, be stated that there is every appearance of an improvement taking place in the demand for both pig and manufactured iron. Steel rails also continue in fair request at the works at Dronfield. The coal trade has kept up fairly so far as relates to household qualities, and the traffic with the Metropolis has but slightly declined of late. Unfortunately prices do not move upwards, so that the business doing leaves little or no profit to the colliery owners. Derbyshire coal is now sold and delivered to consumers at 19-0d. per ton, so that the pit price must be a very low one. In steam coal there has been no material improvement of late, and less has been done in it than is usual for the time of year. The shipments during the whole of the summer have been particularly moderate, and the rate at which sales have been effected have been beneficial only to railway companies and merchants. Gas coal is beginning to move off rather better, but this is only according to the contracts entered into earlier in the year. Makers of coke have been able to sell more freely, a good deal being sent to Sheffield and the district for smelting.

In Sheffield the improvements noticed a fortnight since has been up, and no doubt will be to the close of the year. Nearly all workmen are much better off than they have been since the commencement of the year. There has been an increased consumption of pig, and prices of the finer qualities for steel-making have gone up. Bessemer rail makers are well employed, and will be for some time to come, for there are some large orders in hand, and others are expected. A little more is also being done in other descriptions of railway material, such as tyres, axles, and wheels. Orders are being received from America for cutlery and other goods, whilst our own colonies are becoming better customers. The home markets are also showing signs of activity. Rolled iron has improved in request, and some of the largest works are now favourably off for business. No material change has taken place with regard to foundry material, stoves and grates being in but moderate request, owing to the slackness of building operations. In the Rotherham district some of the establishments are doing more, and it may be said with regard to Sheffield and the district that a healthier tone pervades all classes as to the future, still there are many houses uninhabited.

The question of the rates for the carrying of coal to London from the Midland field is being now discussed, and it is proposed to present a memorial to the House of Commons in the next session, praying for a Royal Commission on the subject. Such being the case a brief notice of the coal traffic by railway to London may not be out of place at the present time.

A falling off in the tonnage of coal taken by railway to London in September, as compared with the previous month, is scarcely what might be expected, but of late changes and fluctuations have been more frequent than usual. It appears that last month there was sent by railway to the Metropolis 17,308 tons more coal than in August, 1878, whilst in the same period there was forwarded by water 22,702 tons more, although the carriage by railway is about twice what it is by sea. This, again, brings up the question of the carriage rate by railway as compared with that by sea, which is shown to be greatly in favour of the latter, and hence it is that several schemes of late have been brought forward for conveying coal from the West Riding of Yorkshire in particular entirely by water to the Thames by means of boats and screw-steamers fitted up with powerful hydraulic appliances for loading and discharging. The present rate for coal going from the Tyne to the Thames in screw- steamers is 4-0d. per ton, whilst by the Great Northern from South Yorkshire in company's trucks the charge is 7-11d. per ton of 21 cwts., exclusive of

city dues. This of course shows plainly enough that the sea carriage is by far the cheapest, and it has been proposed to take the coal from Yorkshire to Boston Deepes, or to the Humber, and thence ship it in fast steamers and discharge at Sheerness or some other convenient point. Mr. W.J. Thompson, of London, who is well acquainted with the home and export coal trade, has during the last few days again drawn attention to the subject, and states that he is prepared to show to the owners of collieries not contiguous to the Aire and Calder Navigation, nor even the Trent, that quite independent of its being optional to ship in sacks or in bulk by means of a non-patented but proved system of road traction over an undulating country to the water, their output can be delivered without recourse to steam at considerably under the rate they are at present paying by rail.

Some such system is what our colliery owners now require, seeing that the frequent applications made to the directors of the Great Northern Railway for a reduction of the rate have been made in vain. Owing to this there has been a serious falling of in the tonnage of coal from the South Yorkshire collieries which are connected with the Great Northern by means of its feeder, the Manchester and Sheffield. This is shown by the returns recently issued, for from them it appears that the Great Northern took from South Yorkshire to various places in 1877 a total of 835,883 tons, and in 1878 only 755,808 tons, showing a decrease for the year of 80,075 tons. Yet from Derbyshire the Great Northern carried 89,217 tons more in 1878 than in the previous year, and from West Yorkshire 125,497 tons more last year than in 1877. The Midland takes principally from the collieries in Derbyshire and Notts., through which the line passes, as well as from a few in the West Riding directly connected with the line; and so far as the metropolitan traffic is concerned far outstrips all the other companies, the rate being lower than that charged by the Great Northern from Yorkshire. The London and North-Western still holds the second place, intersecting several fields of coal, taking largely from Lancashire, Staffordshire, and South Wales, and also favouring several collieries in the West Riding as well. The Great Western devotes itself principally to what may be termed its legitimate field in South Wales, whilst the Great Eastern, having no direct connection with any coal district, obtains its supplies mainly by means of the Midland and other lines from Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The Great Northern is nearest to the South Yorkshire collieries, some of which are only some six or seven miles from Doncaster, but the company seem to pay more attention to other districts. The traffic passing over the various lines to the Metropolis during the last three mouths will be seen from the following figures:-

	Tons	June.	July.	August.
Midland		142,886 ...	158,052 ...	148,763
London and North-Western		124,132 ..	118,246 ..	107,823
Great Western. . . . .		84,851 ..	73,571 . . .	87,157
Great Northern . . . . .		69,432 ..	.90,094 ..	73,030
Great Eastern . . . . .		43,749 . . .	44,729 ..	48,127
London and South-Western		5,135 ..	3,951 ..	4,018
South Eastern, &c.. . . .		1,607 ..	2,889 ..	1,391
Total . . . . .		471,782 ..	486,532 ..	470,309

The Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society held their annual meeting at Skipton, on Tuesday, and visited the Raygill Limestone Quarries to inspect the great fissure in the rock in which a quantity of mammalian bones were found, great interest attaching to them because they differed from most cave deposits in this country. A dinner preceded the business meeting, at which the Report, including in the obituary one of the gentlemen present, was read, showing £3-11-6d. balance in hand, and the Chairman (Mr. Walter Morrison) regretted as a member of the University of Oxford the failure of the English Universities to produce any good or great work. Looking back during the last century he could not recollect any first class work done except in the

region of pure mathematics by men resident at the University. The most important paper was that on the Midland Coal Field by Mr. Arnold Lupton, C.E., F.G.S., instructor in Coal Mining at the Yorkshire College. He said that the most remarkable feature in the Midland coal field appeared to him to be the great similarity in the nature of the seams of coal in the north and south. There appeared to be a thinning out of the rocks towards the south, but the seams of coal retained the same thickness on the average. Among the other papers read was one by Mr. J.R. Eddy on the Le

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VALUABLE FREEHOLD COLLIERY WITH COAL AND IRONSTONE MINES.

To Be Sold, either the WHOLE or PART of LESSOR'S INTEREST in a LARGE FREEHOLD COLLIERY in one of the North Midland Counties, also a LARGE AREA of LEASEHOLD COAL, with power to work thereout as much as possible during eleven years, without any further payment to Lessor.

The coal is of high repute in the London and Southern markets, and the plant is powerful and efficient and included in the Lessor's interest, and is capable of raising a minimum of 4000 tons of coal per week. There is ample siding accommodation in connection with the Midland Railway Company's Main Line to London.

The Advertiser would be prepared to CO-OPERATE with the PURCHASER in WORKING the COLLIERY finding his proportion of Capital for such purposes. For particulars apply to Messrs. J and P. HIGSON, Civil and Mining Engineers, 18. Crown Buildings, Booth Street, Manchester.

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Registration of New Companies.

The East Florida Silver-Lead Mining Company.

Capital £30,000, in shares of £5. To search for, lease, or otherwise own mines, situate in Gorgora parish, Gwnews, Upper Cardiganshire, and work any lodes therein obtained, according to an agreement made between Captain J. Williams and D.L. Lloyd, on the one part, and the company on the other, by which the above-mentioned property is disposed for £12,000, in fully paid-up shares. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - T. Paul, 49, Bedford Street, broker; J.M. Pinwill, 5, Clifford Road, accountant; E. Miller, 3, Guildhall Chambers, accountant; T. Cannon, Peckham, journalist; J. Cannys, St. Day, Cornwall, accountant; W. Weller, 24, Lacey Street, merchant; F. Miles, 2, Osborne Road, commission agent.

The East Pant-du Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £4,800, in shares of £5. To purchase and acquire the mining property in Flintshire called the East Pant Du Lead Mine. To acquire any other mines and mining properties for the purpose of carrying on the business of mining in all its branches. The price of the above-named property is £3,600 in fully paid-up shares. The purchase of plant and other appliances necessary for the purposes of the company. The subscribers are - W.E. Turner, Liverpool, merchant, 24; E. Leicester, Liverpool, merchant, 21; J. Ashworth, Manchester, surveyor, 27; F. Green, Belfast, merchant, 48; J. Malcolmson, Belfast, merchant, 15; G. Malcolmson, Belfast, merchant, 15; H. Bell, Belfast, merchant, 30; C. Elcock, Belfast, accountant, 12.

The Ground Rents and Freehold Land Trust (Limited).

Capital £100,000, in shares of £5. To purchase lands in the United Kingdom or abroad, to deal in the same, and carry on the business of brick and tile, &c., manufacturers. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - A.J. Dobson, London; E.O. Fergusson, Westminster Chambers; C. Griffin, Shepherd's Bush; A. Mason, 186, High Holborn; T. Lund, 24, Martin's Lane; W. Whieldon, 84, Cannon Street; E.A. Harrison, 28, Budge Row.

The Countesthorpe Brick and Tile Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £5. To carry on the trade of brick and tile manufacturers, and to acquire the business, with all belongings, of W.H. Townsend, near Leicester. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - W.H. Townsend, Leicester; W.E. Hickling, Leicester; G. Gibbons, Leicester; G. Harrison, Leicester; W. Jefferson, Leicester; W. Crisp, Nottingham; E. Bland, Leicester.

The Glanrafon Iron and Tin-plate Company (Limited).

Capital £20,000, in shares of £100. To purchase or otherwise acquire coal and tin works, ironworks, tin-plate works, charcoal works, &c., situate in Clydach, Llangyfelach, Glamorganshire, and carrying on the business of smelting, &c. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - B. Jones, Flammertyd; J.B. Jones, Cledach; J.H. Davies, Swansea; J. Jenkins, Glass, Glamorganshire; L. Evans, Hay, Brecon; R. Smith, Clydach; C. Evans, Clydach.

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Registration of New Companies.

New Hucknall Colliery Company (Limited).

Capital £90,000, in shares of £100. The acquiring, holding, working, and carrying on the New Hucknall Colliery, mines and seams of coal, ironstone, fireclay, minerals, rights, and privileges, &c., heretofore belonging to and carried on by the said colliery in the parish of Sutton, Ashfield, Nottingham. To purchase or otherwise acquire coal mines or any other mines, minerals, &c., in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. To search for, dig, and prospect work, and get, export, &c., the products. The subscribers (who take one share) are - E.M. Bainbridge, Dissington Hall, Northumberland, coalowner; R. Robson, Newcastle, wholesale grocer; G. Bainbridge, Newcastle, draper; J.M. Vickers, Mitcham, esquire; C. Bainbridge, Walsingham, coalowner; E.M. Bainbridge, jun., Sheffield, mining engineer; T.E. Fenwick, Hilcote, coalowner. The first directors are - Messrs. E.M. Bainbridge, C. Bainbridge, E.M. Bainbridge, jun., J.M. Vickers, and T.E. Fenwick - qualification £1000 in shares. Remuneration to be fixed by the company in general meeting.

Peninsular Metal Company (Limited).

Capital £4,500, in shares of £10. To purchase certain iron and other mines, situate in St. Luiz and Cercal, in the province of Alemteja, South Portugal, according to an agreement between T. Carr, R.E. Dickenson, and T. Joliffe, and to search for, dig, smelt, and manufacture the ores into iron, steel, &c., and to sell, import, and export, the same. To construct and lay down railways and tramways for the conveyance of ores, minerals, &c. The subscribers are - T. Carr, Rockferry, mine-owner, 200; R.E. Dickenson, Rushead, esquire, 199; T. Joliffe, Liverpool, steam-tug owner, 47; W. Joliffe, Liverpool, steam-tug owner, 1; T.A. Joliffe, Liverpool, steam-tug owner, 1; J. Woodburn, Liverpool, solicitor, 1; M. Foy, Liverpool, agent, 1; No Articles of association are registered.

The Trimley Hall Limeworks and Caergwrlle Land Quarries (Limited).

Capital £36,000, in shares of £10. To purchase or otherwise acquire, get, work, prospect for mines, minerals, and mining rights, lands, hereditaments in Great Britain and Ireland, and in particular the estate known as the Trimley Hall Limeworks in Flint and adjacent district, with the houses, buildings, plant, engines, &c., and to acquire any other suitable property. Price £30,000, in fully paid-up shares. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - G.J. Aman, Wrexham, limeburner; A.U. Higgins, 28, Budge Row, architect; A. Holcomb, Waterloo, contractor; T.G. Wenham, 13, King Street, accountant; R. Richards, Ashburton, mining engineer; T. Durant, 5, Guildhall Chamber, solicitor; T. Durant, younger, 5, Guildhall Chambers.

Nant-y-Moch Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £1. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring the above mining property in Cardiganshire, together with all the machinery, plant, buildings, and other works, minerals, quarries, pits, liabilities, &c., in connection therewith, and any other pits, mines, mining properties, and quarries in the neighbourhood, for the purpose of carrying on mining operations, smelting and selling ores, minerals, &c., obtained from such mines, and generally to carry on the business of a mining company in all its branches. The subscribers are - E. Rowland, Aberystwyth, surgeon, 250; W.E. Fielding, 9d, Finlater's Corner, merchant, 100; J. Coutts, 29, James Street, merchant, 250; H. Francis, 9, Curzon Street, accountant, 50; A. Francis, Aberystwyth, mining

engineer, 250; G.H. Jones, Aberystwyth, merchant, 10; R. Rowland, Aberystwyth, farmer, 50. The first directors shall be - Messrs. E. Rowland, W.E. Fielding, and A. Francis, the latter gentleman managing director, at a salary of £4-4-0d. per month until the first general meeting, the remuneration of the directors to be fixed at such meeting. Qualification to be at least 100 shares.

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Page 953 Col. 3 to Page 954 Col. 1, 20th. September 1879.

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Sept. 18. - From reports received a steady business appears to be doing at the lead mines in Derbyshire; but at many of them the results of the work done are anything but satisfactory to those who have to raise the ore themselves. Still, there seems some probability that matters will be better before long by an advance in the price of lead, which has long been looked forward to. At the collieries towards the more northern part of the county things are not quite so bright as they have been, for several disputes are pending as to the reduction of wages, whilst the men at one place have been drowned out in consequence of the stoppage of a pumping-engine at an adjoining colliery. At Clay Cross the men have shown their good sense by submitting to a reduction of about 5 per cent., and have been able to continue work as usual. This is better than fighting for a few weeks, and then resuming work when money and credit have been exhausted - a policy which just now appears to be the one adopted by many miners, who do not take into consideration the losses already sustained by many employers in their endeavours to find them employment. Considering the time of year the trade in soft or house coal is as good as could be expected, and the weather has certainly been a great help to it; otherwise, low as is the price of coal, it must have got lower. The business doing with London is at least seasonable; but, unfortunately, prices do not move at all upwards, so that where profits are actually made they must be small, for such is the competition, and so plentiful is coal in all our markets, that no fixed rate can be adhered to. From some of the collieries in the southern portion of the field coal is being sent by the Midland to Birmingham and to the west of that town, and so competing in localities where there are collieries close at hand. The call for steam coal has in no way improved, whilst the consumption by the local furnaces is less than what it has been. The railway companies, however, are reaping the full advantage of the low prices, being able to buy good steam coal at 6s. per ton, if not less, whilst only a few years since they had to pay from 20-0d. to 24-0d. per ton for it. This gives them the opportunity for reducing the rates for the carriage of coal going long distances; but where one has done so the others have refused. In small coal there has not been much doing and it appears to be a drug in the market, for it is a commodity that all mining districts find considerable difficulty in disposing of. A steady business has been done at most of the ironworks in Derbyshire; but the number of men employed is far below what it was, and this is forcibly illustrated by the large number of houses that are empty at several places, and have been for some time. At Dronfield a heavy tonnage of Bessemer rails has been turned out at the large establishment at that place belonging to Messrs. Wilson and Cammell, whilst at Eckington the works are said to have been fairly of for business, for there are four furnaces there that were kept in blast all last year, which was a marked exception to the rule.

In Sheffield the improvement that took place some few weeks ago has kept up, and a larger number of workmen are now in full employment than has been the case during the previous part of the year, but there are still a good many on short time. Of late there has been a better enquiry for best qualities of pig, the local consumption having increased. The mills are running better, and there is a considerable output of armour-plates for our own Government, as well as of ship and boiler plates and light sheets. Some makers of tyres and axles are tolerably well off, whilst others are doing but little. Makers of Bessemer rails are doing well so far as production is concerned, having some heavy orders on their books; the figure at which they have been taken is low, but there is no doubt it leaves a profit, if only a small one. For the better descriptions of cutlery there is more doing, whilst there is also more activity as regards edge tools and files. The foundries are by no means busy, the season having been a bad one for building requisites, but at some places they have been fairly employed in pipes and fittings. In

caststeel there has been very little change of late, but things are scarcely so dull as they have been, yet there is plenty of room for improvement.

The miners in South Yorkshire have during the last two or three weeks been in a more unsettled state than for some time past, for many of them have been asked to submit to a reduction of wages, which they have in some instances not seen fit to concede. Some of them, however, by making a concession have been able to resume work. At Carlton Main the men resumed on Friday last, after being out on strike for several weeks, at last accepting a reduction equivalent to 8 per cent. At Thorncliffe a reduction of 6 per cent. has been agreed to, whilst at Rockley the men are still out, as they refused the terms offered by their employers.

RESTRICTION OF THE OUTPUT OF COAL. - At a meeting of the men employed at the Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery a few days since an extract from a letter was read from Mr. Macdonald, M.P., in which he stated that he considered restriction was the only means for the amelioration of the working classes, and that in Scotland they were receiving 1-6d. per day more wages through restriction. The letter suggested that the men in South Yorkshire should fix a date when the restriction of the output should commence, and that an effort should be made to induce Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to join in the scheme. The suggestion of Mr. Macdonald is not likely to be acted upon, for the miners of South Yorkshire evidently are aware that restriction could not be carried out, seeing that the non-Unionist miners are a vast majority of the entire body, and that they would be greatly benefited were the Unionists to agree to work only three days a week instead of five or six.

Sir J.G.N. Alleyne, Bart., the manager of the Butterley Ironworks (about the largest in Derbyshire), has retired from that position, and he has been succeeded by Mr. J.C. Wilson, late of the Avonside Engine Works, Bristol. Mr. Wilson is brother of Mr. G. Wilson, chairman of Messrs. Cammell and Co. (Limited), Sheffield; and of Mr. A. Wilson, of Wilson and Cammell, Dronfield.

Writing on Blast-Furnace Slag, Mr. L. Cooper, of Aireside Ironworks, Leeds, states that it may, perhaps, interest your readers to know that slag glass, slag wool, paving blocks, &c., have been produced in Leeds, and I have in my possession at the present time examples made several years ago. The chief use, however, of slag is, undoubtedly, in the manufacture of concrete, for which purpose (from the similarity of its chemical analysis to Portland cement) it is admirably adapted. I have made the most elaborate architectural designs in slag concrete, and as it is not only practically indestructible, but hardens by weather, there is no question of its being a valuable addition to the list of building material specially suitable to our variable climate.

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REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Sept. 25. - There has been no change to record with respect to affairs in the lead mining districts of Derbyshire, there being still a moderate production of ore. But it is only in a few instances that the mines can be said to be realising a profit at the present price at which lead sells. Poor men, however, who have taken places on their own account struggle on gamely enough, and are evidently contented with very small mercies in the shape of realised profit for hard work. There does not appear to be any new ventures, and some of the companies are evidently quiet, and one scarcely ever hears of any of them paying a dividend, anything in that shape being left to the dusky future, and shareholders have evidently been so long without receiving anything but reports that the probability is the last thing they think of is a dividend. Ironstone mining in the county is now carried on to but a comparatively limited extent to what it was formerly, dependence being now placed in particular on Northamptonshire, where the resources are almost inexhaustible and the price moderate. Some of the stone there is far more valuable than any that can be raised in Derbyshire, being highly silicious, and giving from 35 to 40 per cent. of metallic iron. Pig-iron of late has been in better request, and prices appear to be on the rise, so that if this state of things should go on it is not improbable but some more furnaces will be put in blast, for stocks have gone down. In manufactured iron there has as yet been no material change either as regards mill or foundry material, but there is no doubt but Derbyshire will share in the revival of trade when it is really felt. The demand for house coal has kept up fairly for the time of year, and an average tonnage has been sent to London during the last few days. Still prices do not improve, so that colliery owners have as much as they can do to carry on without loss, and there is every reason to believe that some of them have been considerable losers during the greater part of the year so far as it has gone. There has been a dispute at the Kilburn Colliery with respect to some new bye-laws that were introduced causing the men to strike. The bye-laws, however, were withdrawn, but many of the men declined to resume work, as they say that the wages are too little to live upon; but as their places are in several instances been filled up, they are likely to be out altogether, and without any other alternative. The activity in some of the Sheffield trades has led to an increased business being done in coke for smelting and other purposes, and a large tonnage is being sent away from several establishments.

The improvement in the Sheffield trades continues, and some good orders are being received by most of the leading manufacturers, so that there is every probability of business being tolerably good up to the end of the year, and of extending to branches that are now rather quiet. There has been more activity with respect to armour-plates for our own Government, and some are being rolled for the Agamemnon 30 tons in weight. Steel guns and gun blocks are also being made by one well known firm, whilst there is more doing in plates for ships and boilers. Makers of best cutlery have received some good orders of late, whilst there has been an improved demand for goods of a varied character for Australia. America, too, strange to say, despite her tariff, continues to be a good customer for ordinary and manufactured steel material. The increase in the production of Bessemer rails has led to a large demand for hematite pig, and this has been followed by a considerable advance in the price, which will rather seriously affect some of the rollers. Ordinary pig has also gone of better, and, as a matter of course, a higher figure is obtained. Stocks, it may be said, have been considerably reduced, and if things go on as they are more furnaces will shortly be put in blast.

In South Yorkshire the Coal Trade has been fairly maintained, but owners say that they are unable to clear themselves, let alone make profits. The result is that at several places the

men have received notices to leave, which means a reduction of wages. At Wells, Birch, Ryde, and Co.'s, where between 400 and 500 men are employed, and where two, if not three, seams of coal are being worked, the men are under notice. At Monk Bretton Colliery the notices expire on Thursday, and the men have not stated what they purpose doing. At Rockley, in the same district, the men are still out. In fact, the trade is in a very unsettled state, without much prospect of its changing for the better. The men, however, have thrown overboard Mr. Macdonald's panacea for raising wages - limitation of production - which he urged upon them whilst down here a few weeks ago.

A drawer in the Sovereign Pit of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company has been fined 40-0d. and costs by the Leigh magistrates for having taken a tobacco pipe into a mine which was said to be very fiery - a continuation, in fact, of the fatal Wigan 9-ft. seam, There were 70 men at work in the pit at the time. Reckless colliers fare worse in the neighbouring jurisdiction, the county magistrates at Bolton generally punishing such offences with imprisonment.

At the Staveley Coal and Iron Company (Limited) annual meeting, held at the Works, Staveley, on Monday (Mr. C. Markham presiding), the report showed that the net profit from the various businesses of the company for the year ending June 30 was £29,291., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, made a total of £60,779., out of which an interim dividend was paid to the shareholders in February last of £13,088. The directors now recommended a further dividend of £1-10-0d., per share on the A and C shares, and 6-0d. per share on the B and D shares, and to carry forward a balance of £28,196.

THORP'S COLLIERY COMPANY. - At the meeting of Thorp's Gawber Hall Colliery Company, held on Friday, no dividend was declared. The propriety of reducing the capital of the company under the Act of 1877, by application to the Court, was discussed at considerable length. Some of the shareholders thought it would place the company on a more satisfactory basis to reduce the capital in the balance-sheet to a sum representing the actual value at the present time, whilst others thought that no practical advantage would be obtained by so doing. Ultimately the further consideration of the subject was left over to the next half-yearly meeting.

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Registration of New Companies.

The British White Lead Company (Limited).

Capital £70,000, in shares of £10. To acquire the works, plant, &c., situate at Bermondsey, and to carry on the business of white lead manufacturers. The subscribers are - L.B. Garrett, 195, Maida Vale, 200; W. Humphris, 44, Maida Vale, 100; W.H. Humphris, 44, Maida Vale, 100; C.V. Jones, 16, Blackfriars Road, 100; P.A.V. le Lubez, 60, Grove Road, 50; G.E. Williams, East Dulwich, 50; W.V. Wilson, Mile End, 50.

Bryn Glas Silver-Lead Mining Company (Limited).

Capital £25,000, in shares of £1. To adopt and carry into effect two agreements made between P. Oliver and V. Campbell and V. Campbell and J. Star, on behalf of the company, for the purchase of lease of certain mining property situate in the parish of Llanbadarn, Cardiganshire, with the premises, buildings, plant, machinery, stock-in-trade, effects, &c. To purchase or otherwise acquire any other mines or mineral properties, lands, &c., and to carry on the business of raising, working, winning, and smelting ores and other minerals, for the purpose of sale and gain. The acquisition of any letters patents or patent rights. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - J.S. Houston, 25, Crosby Hall Chambers, stockbroker; A.P. Barr, 16, New Broad Street, accountant; T. Paull, Dalston, engineer; E. Jones, 85, Mildmay Grove, shareholder; G.E. Hooke, 25, Bishopsgate Street Within, sharedealer; W. Marlborough, 25, Bishopsgate Street Within, sharedealer; J. Purcell, Hackney, mining engineer. The directors shall not be more than seven or less than three. The qualification 50 shares. The first directors shall be Dr. H. Campbell, T. Lane, J. Stenson and J. Walker. Remuneration £200, to be divided, and when 10 per cent. is declared upon the paid-up capital a further sum shall be divided amongst the directors.

New Temple Normanton Coal and Coke Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £50. The purchasing or otherwise acquiring of coal mines, iron mines, or any other mines or minerals, and particularly certain lands, buildings, hereditaments, coal and ironstone mines situate at Temple, or elsewhere in Derbyshire, with the business now being carried on near Chesterfield as coal and ironmasters, together with all the stock-in-trade, plant, machinery, contracts, &c., thereunto appertaining, for the purpose of carrying on and developing such business. The subscribers are - P.W. Bowne, Derby, lime merchant, 10; J. Porter, Weston, farmer, 10; J. Caudwell, Alfreton, miller, 20; S. Sedgewick, Codnor Park, engineer, 10; W. Barton, Alfreton, bailiff, 10; W. Caudwell, Rowsley, miller, 20; C. Caudwell, Rowsley, miller, 20; N. Millers, Newton, colliery owner, 10. The directors shall be Messrs. Bowne (chairman), Porter, Sedgwick, Barton, Mellers, J. and W. Caudwell, the qualification being fixed at 10 shares. Remuneration of the directors to be settled by the company in general meeting.

Cooladreen Slate Company (Limited).

Capital £10,000, in shares of £10. To purchase, or otherwise acquire, slate quarries, lands, premises, &c., situated in the County Cork, and the business connected therewith, for the purpose of carrying on such business. The subscribers (who take one share each) are - E. Law, Birkenhead; W.H. Law, New Ferry; J. Law, Liverpool; R. Evans, Liverpool; C. Law, Liverpool; H.J. Hickie, Liverpool; J.H. Sungun, Cork. Messrs. E. Law, H.J. Hickie, E. Roberts, and W.N. Brough are to be the first directors, the qualifications being 25 shares.