

The Craven Herald

June 10th 1892.

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Swaledale -

The Census Returns for Melbecks Parish show that the population has decreased from 1519 to 830, and Muker Parish from 837 to 615, owing chiefly to the closing of the lead mines through so called Free Trade, or the free importation of Spanish lead. There are now in Melbecks parish some 135 empty houses, which multiplied by five gives a decrease of 675, the real decrease being 689; and in Muker the decrease is 222. In Melbecks parish there are now only 238 inhabited houses with 385 males and 445 females; in Muker there are 153 inhabited houses with 292 males and 328 females.