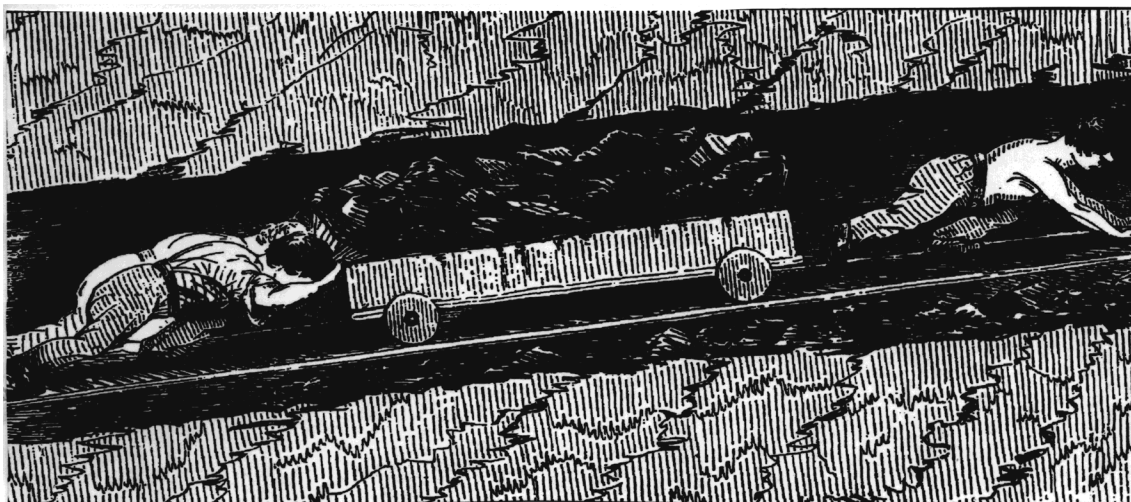


CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION 1842.

**REPORT by SAMUEL S. SCRIVEN, Esq.,
on the Employment of Children and Young
Persons in the Mines and Collieries of the
West Riding of Yorkshire, and on the State,
Condition and Treatment of such Children
and Young Persons.**



**Edited by
Ian Winstanley**

PICKS PUBLISHING

Published by:-

**PICKS PUBLISHING
83. Greenfields Crescent,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan WN4 8QY
Lancashire.
Tel: (01942) 723675**

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COMMISSION

(UNDER THE GREAT SEAL)

FOR INQUIRING INTO THE EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN MINES AND MANUFACTORIES.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith. To Our trusty and well beloved Thomas Tooke, Esquire, Thomas Southwood Smith, Esquire, Doctor in Medicine, together with Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, Esquires, To of Our Inspectors of Factories, Greeting:- WHEREAS, an humble Address was presented unto to Us by Knights, Citizens and Burgesses and Commissioners of Shires and Burghs in Parliament assembled, humbly beseeching Us that We should be graciously pleased to direct an Inquiry to be made into the Employment of the Children of the Poorer Classes in Mines and Collieries and the various branches of Trade and Manufactures in which numbers of Children work together, not being included in the provisions of the Acts for regulating Employment of Children and Young Persons in Mills and Factories and to collect information as to the time allowed each day for meals and as to the actual state, condition and treatment of such Children and as to the effects of such Employment, both with regard to their morals and their bodily health; NOW KNOW YE, THAT WE, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability and discretion, have nominated, constituted and appointed and do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint you the said, Thomas Tooke, Thomas Southwood Smith, together with, Leonard Horner and Robert John Saunders, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid; And We do hereby enjoin you to obey all directions touching the premises which shall from time to time be given you, and any two or more of you, by one of our principle Secretaries of State: And for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, we do, by these presentiments, give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you, such persons as you will judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth in the premises, and to inquire of the premises and every part thereof, by all other lawful way and means whatsoever; And We do hereby also give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority when the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an oath or oaths to any person or persons whatsoever, to be examined before you, or two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises; And Our further will and pleasure is, that you Our said Commissioners, or any three of you, do, with as little delay as may be consistent with a due discharge of the duties hereby imposed upon you, Certify to Us. under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three of you, your several proceedings in the premises; And We further will and command, and by these presents ordained, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued, from time to time by adjournment: AND WE HEREBY COMMAND all and singular Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all other Our loving Subjects whatsoever, as will within Liberties as without. that they may be assistant to you and each of you in the execution of these presents: And for your assistance in the due execution of this Commission, We have made choice of Our trusty and well beloved Joseph Fletcher, Esquire, to be the Secretary of this Our Commission, whose services we require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require. In witness thereof, We have caused these Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself at Westminster, the Twentieth day of October, in the Fourth Year of Our Reign

By Writ of Privy Seal,

EDMUNDS.

**LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE COMMISSION TO
“YOUNG PERSONS”**

Whitehall, February 11th, 1841.

GENTLEMEN,

THE QUEEN having been pleased to comply with the prayer of an humble Address presented to Her Majesty, in pursuance of a Resolution of the House of Commons, dated 4th of February, 1841, ‘That Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that the Commission appointees in answer to an Address of this House, on August 4, 1840, for the investigation of certain branches of Infant Labour, do include within its inquiry the Labour also of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act’ I am delighted by the Marquis of Normanby to desire that you will include within your inquiry the Labour of Young Persons designated as such by the provisions of the Factory Act accordingly.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) F MAULE

*The Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition
of Children employed in Mines, &c.*

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CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION.

REPORT by Samuel S. Scriven, Esq., of the Employment of Children and Young Persons in the Collieries of the West Riding of Yorkshire and on the State and Condition and Treatment of such Children and Young Persons.

TO HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to submit for your perusal the accompanying Minutes of Evidence which I have collected at the several coal pit in the district assigned to me in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

On the receipt of your letter at Stourbridge, I immediately proceeded to Leeds and after an arrangement made between my colleague, Mr. Symons and myself, that we should divide the duties of the coal field, I left for Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, accepting these parishes and their townships as my portion, and leaving him Leeds, Wakefield and Dewsbury.

On arriving at Bradford I soon found that all the manufactories in which children were employed were under the "Factories Regulation Act" and that the collieries of the immediate neighbourhood had been partially visited by my predecessor, Mr. Wood, who had retired from the Commission on account of indisposition.

Determin therefore to take up my position in the most central locality, I hastened to Halifax, via, Keithley and Denholme visiting, in the former place, the machine manufactories of Messrs. W. Smith and Sons., Messrs. Fox and Bland, and Mr. George Hattersley, in neither of which were there more than three or four "young persons" and no children.

In the village of Denholme I waited on Mr. Isaac Baxendale, the proprietor of the colliery and finding him from home, I proceeded to the pits where, upon inquiry, I was informed by the Banks man that Mr. Wood had forestalled me by an examination of the people which superseded the necessity of my proceeding further.

On leaving, I overtook upon the road a little gang of hurriers returning to their homes. Many of them were very young and amongst them one of five years of age. They had come to their work that morning at six o'clock and stated that they generally left at six at night, sometimes later. For other information relating to them I beg to refer you to Mr. Wood's report.

In the Unions of Halifax and Bradford and the vicinities (the former of which includes 23 populous townships) I have visited 200 coal and ironstone pits. Out of this number I descended and explored 70, which, together with others in Staffordshire, amount to 75, viz:-

Firm	Name of Pit	Description	Means of Working.
Messrs. Rawson's	Swan Bank	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Rawson's	Bank Bottom	Day hole	Tunnel.
Messrs. Waterhouse,s	Ainley Top	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Wilson's	Park Bottom	Day hole	Tunnel.
Mr. Wilcock's	Park Bottom	Day hole	Tunnel.
Messrs. Wilson and Stock's	Quarry House	Shaft	Steam engine.
Miss. Lister's	Listerwick	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Quarry House	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Hinscliff's	Knowle Top	Shaft	Horse gin.
Messrs. Holt and Hebblethwaites	Bins Bottom	Day hole	Tunnel.
Mr. Butterworth's	Norwood Green	Shaft	Horse gin.
Mr. Well's	Norwood Green	Shaft	Horse gin.
Mr. Pollard's	Eaton Hill	Shaft	Horse gin.
Messrs. Dickenson's	Shelf	Inclined place	Horse gin.
Mr. Spencer's	Ingham Lane	Shaft	Horse gin.
Mr. Wilcock's	Ingham Lane	Shaft	Horse gin.
Mr. J. Stock's	Shaw Lane	Day hole	Tunnel.
Mr. J. Stock's	Booth Town	Day hole	Tunnel.

Cont.

Firm	Name of Pit	Description	Means of Working.
Messrs. Spencer and Lassey	Bradshaw	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Thomas Holme's	Bradshaw	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Spencer and Illingsworth	Shugden	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Foster and Lassey's	Clewes Moor	Shaft	Gin.
Messrs. Akroyd and Smith's	New Road	Shaft	Gin.
Mr. B. Hall's	New Road	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Isaac Wood's	Pinchback	Gin.	
Messrs. Barstow and Wilson's	Alderscoles	Shaft	Gin.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Windy Bank	Day hole	Tunnel.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Penfols	Shaft	Gin.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Brown Top	Shaft	Gin.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Clayton	Shaft	Gin.
Mr. Joseph Stock's	Oates Royd	Day hole	Tunnel.
Low Moor Company	Engine Pit	Shaft	Steam engine.
Low Moor Company	Law's Pit	Shaft	Steam engine.
Low Moor Company	Bywater	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Park Lees	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Soldier Green, twice	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Sheard	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Naylor	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Mortimer Pit	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Junction Pit	Shaft	Steam engine.
Low Moor Company	Chapel House Pit	Shaft	Steam engine.
Low Moor Company	Level Pit	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Weigh Pit	Shaft	Gin.
Low Moor Company	Wyke Pit	Shaft	Gin.
Messrs. Clayton and Co.'s	No.1	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Clayton and Co.'s	No.2	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Clayton and Co.'s	No.3	Shaft	Gin.
The Bowling Co.'s	Lodge	Shaft	Steam engine.
The Bowling Co.'s	Oakes	shaft	Gin.
The Bowling Co.'s	Lower Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Garden Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Well's Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Powell Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Incline Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Wilson Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Weigh Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Roundhead Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Rudding's Pit	Shaft	Gin.
The Byerly Co.'s	Corner Pit	Shaft	Gin.
Messrs. Rawson's	Swan Bank*	Shaft	Gin
Messrs. Waterhouse's	Elland*	Shaft	Gin.
Messrs. ____	Barnsley*	Shaft	Gin.
Messrs. Sparrow's	Moss Field	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mr. Kinnersley's	Endless Chain	Shaft	Steam engine.
Mrs. Palmer's	Rugeley	Shaft	Steam Engine.
Messrs Banford's	Dilhorn	Shaft	Steam engine.
Messrs. Attwood's	Ecton	Shaft	Water mill.

* *With Dr. Smith and Robert J. Saunders, Esq.,*

I soon found, from the difficulties I repeatedly experienced in bringing the children, who were especially objects of my search, from the mine to the cabins at the pits mouth, that my arrival in the district was pretty generally known and but little understood and all my endeavours to overcome the prejudices that evidently existed in the minds of the colliers proving fruitless, I determined at once to provide myself with a suitable dress of flannel, clogs and knee caps, in order that I might descend as many as possible, and take the dispositions of the children themselves during their short intervals of rest, feeling a conviction that this was the only means of arriving at anything like a correct conclusion as to their actual condition and I have surmounted the dangers common to all whose duties or avocations require them to do so (for it can't be denied that there are many), I have

reason to congratulate myself upon my resolve because I feel that I have become more familiarised with their habits, practices, wants and sufferings, can more faithfully describe them and better stand the test of any future examination that may be considered necessary, than would have been otherwise possible.

In the Union of Bradford there are three large companies who have extensively foundries, ironstone and coal pits. They are Low Moor, Bowling and Bierly, each of the two latter having upwards of 50, extending over a country of some miles but it is with the small proprietors that I shall first have to do.

These are scattered about the townships of Elland cum Greetand, Hipperholme cum Brighouse, Northowram, Southowram, Shelf and Ovenden, none, with few exceptions, owing more than two pits.

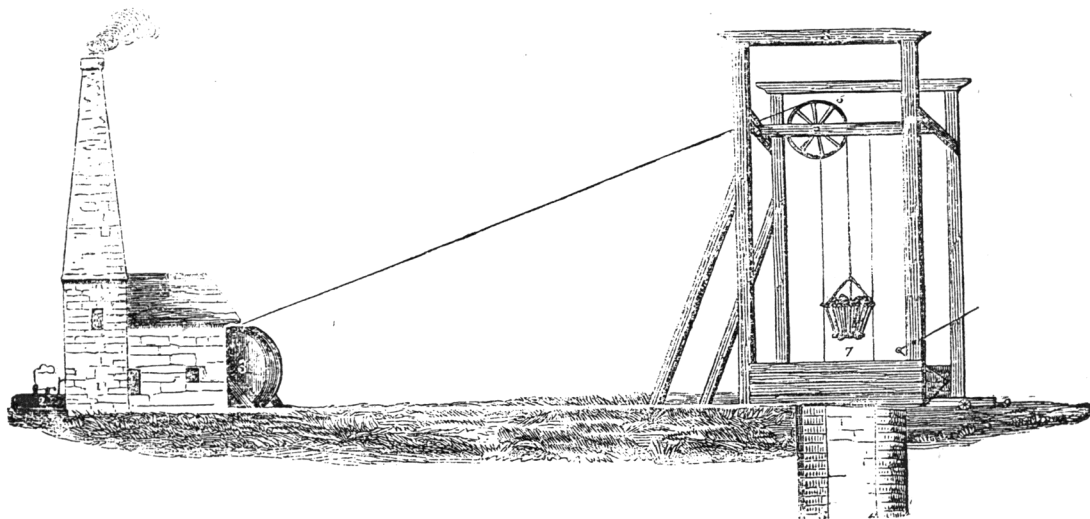
They are generally men, who, by industry and provident habits have acquired enough to “sink a shaft.” To effect this they condition with some land owner for the bed at from £100 to £200 per acre according to the quality of the coal, paying the occupying tenant of the field double the rent which he pays for surface damage as in making roads, building cabins and for space occupied by the soil brought up.

Their machinery is of three distinct kinds, steam engines, horse gins and turn wheels, or roller, the first being by far the most costly.

By the time they have sunk the shaft which is an expensive undertaking, their resources are probably expended or they have little effect for the erection of machinery beyond a horse gin or turn wheel.

If, on the other hand, the mine is worked by the landlord, or some extent of land is leased by him, for a period of years, to a greater capitalist, the engine and framework. (Figure No.1) as here represented is at once erected. The engine house is built within 50 or 100 yards of the shaft. I have seen them however as far off as 300 yards and made to answer the purposes of three distinct mines. One being 50 yards in front, another being 100 yards behind and the third 300 on the right, one engineer performing the duties of the whole.

Fig 1.



The essential part of the machinery is the cylindrical drum on the right hand of the house around which are wound three or four coils of rope, the ends passing over a cast iron pulley fixed to the frame above the mouth of the shaft and terminating in some feet of chain and cross bar of iron called the “clutch harness,” by which the corve is suspended.

This kind of drum and the round rope enables the engine to perform double duty, by lifting the loaded corve from below and sending the other down at the same moment with an equal velocity through the whole distance, thereby giving it an advantage over the flat rope of other districts which winds upon itself round a spoke-drum, layer, superlayer, enlarging its diameter at every revolution and consequently its leverage by which the rapidity of the ascent continues to increase

as the corve approaches the top and its descent diminished in a corresponding ratio. Its safety, therefore, in this respect together with its greater strength and durability, recommends it for more general adoption. (This figure represents the single corve shaft.)

There is nevertheless a frightful danger attendant on the use of the best of them.

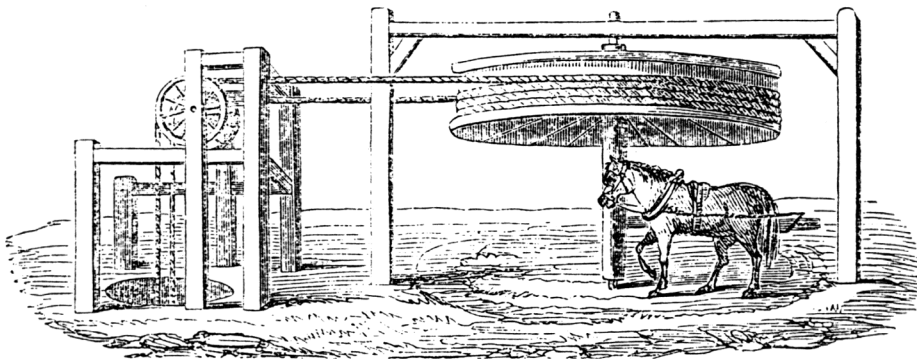
It is well known that the changes and usage to which they are subjected contribute greatly to their premature decay. Such, for example, as their constant exposure to wet shafts or, the other hand, to hot and arid ones, to intense frosts, and to the friction of the cast iron wheels over which they roll, bearing at all times heavy weights, by which means they lose their elasticity and become smooth and brittle, having the appearance at the same time of firmness and strength. Their size appears to be regulated by the weight of the corve and varies from three inches in circumference to five and a half. The size, however is not always the criterion of their safety as instances in the Barnsley Pit where a collier was killed a short time ago by one of five and a half inch breaking. At the Swan Bank Pit at Halifax another separated just at the moment previous to my intended descent with Mr. Allan, the surgeon. In neither of which cases was there any assignable cause.

Within twenty yards of the "clatch iron" there is fastened a piece of tow, or oakum, which is intended to indicate your near approach to the surface. When this is in sight, the tenter (see Glossary) gradually turns off the steam and you alight coolly on the bank. If, on the contrary, his attention is directed for a moment to another object, you are sent over the pulley with fearful rapidity and killed probably above ground or the rope breaking, you are precipitated with a certainty, and awful certainty, of immediate destruction. See cases of William Walker and David Kellett (Nos.1 and 50), in Table of Deaths.

The latter terrible result may be wholly prevented by the general use of self-acting trap doors, as provided at the Barnsley Pit, and copied by Luke Brook, one of the Low Moor Company's bottom stewards, for their Junction pit, the object of which is to close the mouth of the shaft and thereby effect a safe landing for the corve, whether containing persons or coals.

"Gins" are turned by horses and work much upon the same principle as engines, with this difference that the drums are elevated eight or ten feet above the ground and revolve horizontally.

Fig. 2



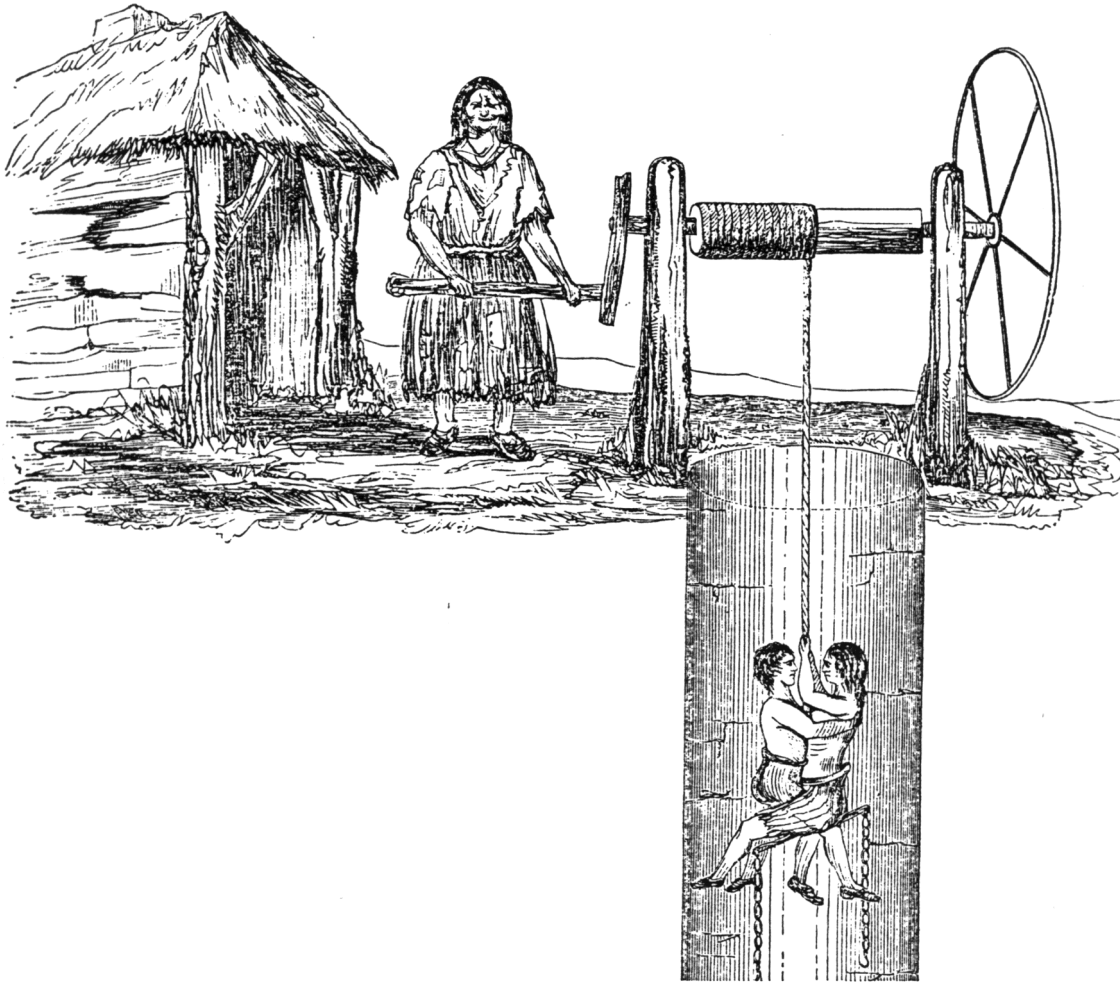
Of the three methods, this (provided the appointments are in good condition) is the least dangerous, as the strength of the horse, even if disposed to be restraive, which would be a most uncommon circumstance, is seldom enough either to draw the corve over the pulley, or break the rope. The motion in coming up or going down the shaft is of course regulated by the qualities of the animal or upon the attention of the child that drives it. It is sometimes quick, at others slow, jerking and disagreeable. If the shaft happens to be deep you will probably have the benefit of some half dozen turns of the rope by which a swinging motion is given to the corve. The chances then are that you get a blow from the other descending or ascending corve, or strike the side of the shaft with the danger of being thrown out. I can readily believe that many children have been sacrificed in this way. (See cases Nos.1, 9 and 10 in the list of deaths.)

Cattle of the worst description, wind-galled, spavined and blind, are made to perform the work, often with or without halters, bridle or other had gear.

Some few of the gins and invariably the engine pits, have the excellent contrivance of conducting rods. These are four iron bars, extending from the frame above the shaft to the bull stake at the bottom. They are made to pass through a ring at each end of the clatch iron so that it cannot by any possibility strike, in its descent, the ascending corve or separate the loose measures which form the sides of the unlined shafts. They are also the medium for the conveyance of signals from below, by striking them with a piece of iron, one or more times, the sound is audibly heard at the top and in calm weather at a distance of half a mile.

The turn wheel, as represented in Figure No.3 is the least expensive, and certainly the most dangerous, as you are, upon all occasions, dependant on the man or it may be a woman, who works it. It is in fact nothing more or less than a common well winch with a fly wheel, without trap door or stage, conducting rods or anything else. In getting on or off the catch iron, or corve in coming up or going down, you are at the mercy of the winder. The unfortunate case of David Pellett, No.50, who was drawn over the roller by his own uncle and grandfather at the time I was pursuing my investigation upon the same ground, just at the moment with their attention was called to a passing funeral, is a painful illustration of their unsafety.

Fig. 3



The sketch given is intended to represent

The sketch given is intended to represent Ann Ambler and William Dyson, witnesses No.7, hurriers at Messrs Ditchforth and Clay's colliery at Elland, in the act of being drawn up cross-lapped upon the clutch iron by a woman. As soon as they arrived at the top the handle was made fast by a bolt drawn from the upright post. The woman then grasped a hand of both at the same time, and by main force brought them to land. The corve on these occasions is detached from the hooks to render the load lighter.

The day hole or tail end mines are tunnels at the base of a hill. They have no machinery unless (as at Shelf) the tunnels dip. In that case rails are laid the plane and the coals are brought up in corves attached, at equal distances, to an endless chain which is made to pass round a horizontal wheel within an another without the mine and worked by a horse gin.

The shafts are of variable depths, being in some instances, as shallow as 45 feet in others a low as 600. This difference is consequent upon the number of seams in work and upon the undulations of the country. The measures also through which they are cut are as variable in character and density, consisting of loam, sandstone, ironstone, clay, gravel, shale &c. The greater number of them are lined with stones, bricks or boards as means of protection.

In many instances however, this necessary precaution is neglected. The consequence is that when the earth is saturated with moisture the measures are loosened and large portions fall or are

struck off by the descending light corves, and alight on the children below. This was nearly illustrated in my own person at Messrs. Stocks and Wilson's, Quarry House Pit, where, just at the moment of my disengaging myself from the corve and chains at the foot of the shaft, all around me being dark and dismal enough, a stone weighing five pounds fell from nigh the top, or elsewhere, close to my feet. The cases of Abraham Binns, No.8, of John Crossley, No.9, Abraham Crossley, No.10 and George Walker, No.3 in the return of deaths are others, but attended with results more distressing.

Some of the shafts, indeed all that I descended at Low Moor, Bierly, Bowling and Eccles Hill, have roomy excavations at the foot of them which I look upon as an indispensable provision for the safety of the children. It is at this spot that they meet as many times in the day as they have corves to hurry. For the purpose of hooking them to the chains and often in considerable numbers. In many shafts no such protection is afforded them. They are therefore continually exposed to falling stones, corves and water. The pit above mentioned and Mr. Waterhouse's at Elland, where both Dr. Smith and Mr. Saunders favoured me with a visit, they will well remember are examples.

It would be an almost endless task to attempt anything more than a general description of the gates through which I have passed, as there are no two alike. As, however, some notice of them may be requisite, I would premise it by stating that the strata of coal in this field in some mines are not more than 14 inches thick and very rarely more than 36.

The practice of forming "gates" is to drive two heads parallel with each other right away from the shaft to the extreme boundary, alternately mining and topping the bye-gates, which are formed at right angles as they proceed. One of them may be designated the hurrying in-gate, the other the hurrying-out. They then commence "getting" right and left, working out the coals as they retire, neither cutting much away from above or below the bed. They use few props, except at their places of work, called "headings" but allow, as they finish, the superincumbent earth to fall in as it will.

I know but of two gates that will admit of the use of horses (Messrs. Rawson's Swan Bank and Chapel House Pit at Low Moor). Hence has arisen the substitution of children.

In some of them I have had to creep upon my hands and knees the whole distance, the height being barely *twenty inches* and then have gone still lower upon my breast and crawled like a turtle to get up to the headings.

In others I have been fortunately hurried on a flat board mounted on four wheels, or in a corve, with my head hanging over the back, and legs over the front of it in a momentary anticipation of getting scalped by the roof, or of meeting with the still more serious infliction of a broken head from a depending rock, whilst in others I have been able to accomplish my journey by stooping.

They are sometimes of a great length. In the Booth Town Pit, in which Patience Kershaw (No.26) hurries 11 corves a day, I walked, crept and rode 1800 yards to one of the nearest "faces." The most distant was 200 further. The bottom or floor of this gate was every here and there three of four inches deep in water, and muddy throughout. The Swan Bank Pit, to which I was accompanied by Dr. Smith and Mr. Sanders, was almost as bad and more resembled a city drain than anything else.

The accumulation of water in them is attributable to the character of the soil. If gravely it will of course filter through, but on the contrary, of hard clay, it will remain and contribute greatly to the irregularities of the floor by assisting the side walls and superincumbent earth to heave it constantly up, thereby displacing the rails and sleepers, and making them difficult to hurry over.

The roof and walls also depend upon the characters of the soil and are sometimes even, at other rough, rocky and loose, requiring every here and there proppings to prevent their falling. Despite however, the utmost precaution, large lasses are occasionally separated by the action of air and the shaking of the rails over which the loaded corves run, burying the children under their weight. See cases of Jonas Brook (43), Joseph Sharp (36), William Wilkinson (30), Joseph Brook (26), Benjamin Fetley (25), Joseph Gray (16). Table of Deaths.

The "board facings", "headings" or "workings" (synonymous terms,) are at the extreme ends of the bye-gates and are the excavations of the bed in which the colliers labour.

I have often been shocked in contemplating the hideous and anything but human appearance of these men, who are generally found in a state of bestial nakedness, lying their whole length along the uneven floor, and supporting their heads upon a board or short crutch (Fig. 4), or sitting upon one heel balancing their persons by extending the other.

Fig. 4

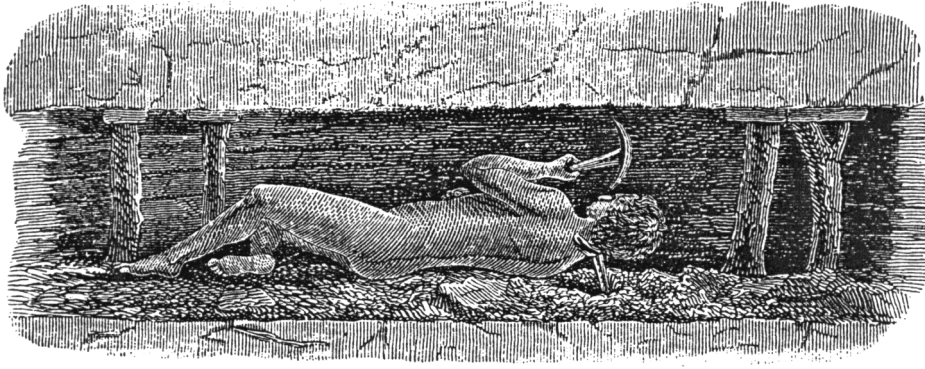


Fig. 5

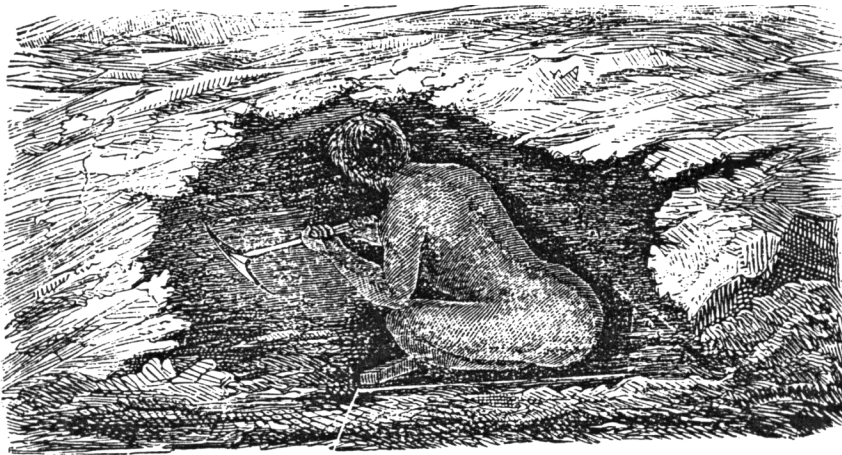


Fig. 6.



Black and filthy as they are in their low, dark, heated and dismal chambers, they look like a race from the common stock. It did not surprise me to be told that old age came prematurely upon them and that they were “mashed up” at 40 or 45. Indeed the care worn countenances, the grey hair and furrowed brows of those I met with at that age were sufficient indications of the fact and the only wonder is that human life should even be given so far prolonged in an atmosphere with loud crackings from newly made surface, together with the exhausting influence of excessive perspiration occasioned by the severity of eight, ten or twelve hours of continuous labour, in order to support their own cheerless existence and that of their families.

The ventilation of the mines in the neighbourhood of Halifax is extremely imperfect.

The strata in work are called the Better and Black Bed, known also as the Upper and Lower Bed or Hard and Soft Bed, one lying about 45 yards below the other and being 16 and 36 inches in thickness.

It does not appear that carburetted hydrogen, or as it is called, firedamp, sulphur and wildfire, collects in the gates in any great quantities, except in the localities of Low Moor, Bowling and Bierly, where pyrites, the agent necessary to its formation, exists or, if so, it is dispersed by its ascending power through the rocky crevices of the roofs which it would not be were the roofs composed of more compact matter as clay but that it is more or less present, without being very perceptible to the senses is undoubted. The Swan Bank Mine, before alluded to, is an example, where a jet is thrown out from the rock and had continued in a state of combustion eight or nine months, serving the purposes of a light. Explosions therefore are very rare, and this has led probably to indifference upon the subject of ventilation.

The companies carry on their works with great system, order and regularity and up in a scale of magnitude not to be attained by the small proprietors. Their machinery (baring horse gins), shafts, roofs, floors, porches and upcast furnaces are superior to any others that I have met with, either in this or any other district. The currents of air passing through their mines, by this last provision, are so strong that I have had many times a difficulty in opening a door against them. A handkerchief held up in any of the passages would blow out as in half a gale of wind. It would certainly much surprise me to hear of an explosion in any of them, except from the extreme negligence of the men in the headings, or from their ignorance, or that of their children, of the *principles* of the Davy Lamp with which they are provided.

In my progress through the Wyke Lane Pit, in which gas was given off in great abundance, one of the lads who accompanied me held up his lamp to show the blue flame burning within it. To save light, which he continued to hold near the roof, and which would have gone out in that position, and rekindled had he lowered it to the floor, he attempted to blow through the gauze. It is needless to observe that had he succeeded the probability is that the flame would have passed out on the opposite side with his breath and have exploded the gas by which we were surrounded. I struck it, however, at the moment from his hand in the act of taking it from him. In falling, the light was extinguished. We had of course to grope our way back in the dark, under an apprehension of the probable danger of being overtaken by loaded corves.

I have often seen boys, and men to, regardless of consequences, unscrew the bottoms of their lamps, to trim their wicks, in very suspicious places, which has inclined me to wonder that accidents do not occur more frequently.

Children as well as the colliers (like the mill children before the *pass note system) are continually changing their place of occupation so that even with the assistance of the printed forms issued to masters, it has been impossible to obtain a correct return of their numbers. At a moderate calculation I should say that they average at least 12 to every pit in the two Unions, there being upwards of 300 pits, it follows that there are near 400 children and young persons between the ages of 5 and 18 employed as hurriers, thrusters, trappers, trub packers, getters and gin drivers. The first and second out numbering all the rest in the population of five to one.

They are initiated in these various callings by fathers, uncles, and brothers from the period of infancy. Joseph Gledhill, a banksman (No.40), states he took his child into the pit at Flockton at three years old. It was made to follow him to the workings there to hold a candle and when exhausted with fatigue was cradled upon the coals until his return at night. This child he took *regularly* to work at the age of *five*, and another he took between *four* and five and a third between five and six. A reference to the following table of wages will show 16 out of 30 that are now in six pits between that age and *nine*.

“Hurriers” are children who draw loaded corves or waggons, weighing from two to five hundredweight, mounted upon four cast iron wheels of five inches diameter, without rails, from the headings to the main gates. In the thin seams this is done upon their hands and feet, having frequently no greater height from the floor to the ragged roof than 16, 18 or 10 inches. To accomplish their labour the more easily they buckle round their naked persons a broad leather strap, to which is attached in the front a ring and about four feet of chain terminating in a hook. (See Figure 7).

**This measure now universally adopted by the leading manufacturers of Halifax and a very generally at Bradford, Leeds and other places, was introduced by Mr. James Holroyd, the certifying surgeon. My frequent visits with this gentleman, to the different establishments under his charge have been an opportunity of bearing witness to its excellence and to the advantages that have already resulted to both employers and children. In order therefore, that it should be fully explained, I have the measure of appending a letter with which I have been favoured upon the subject.*

Fig.7.

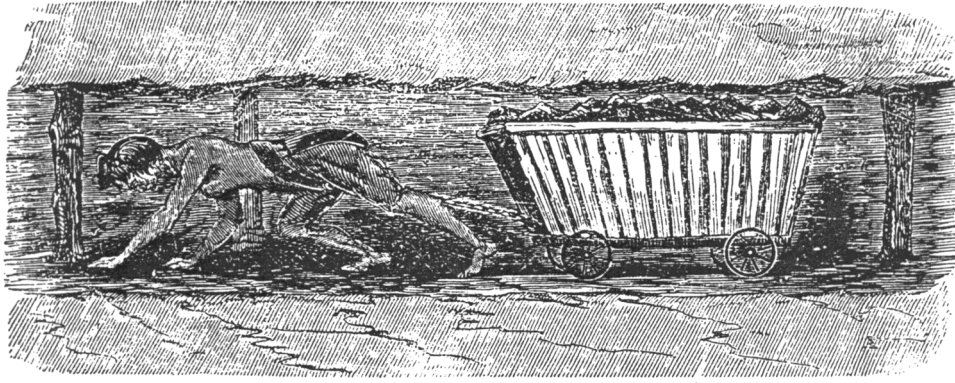
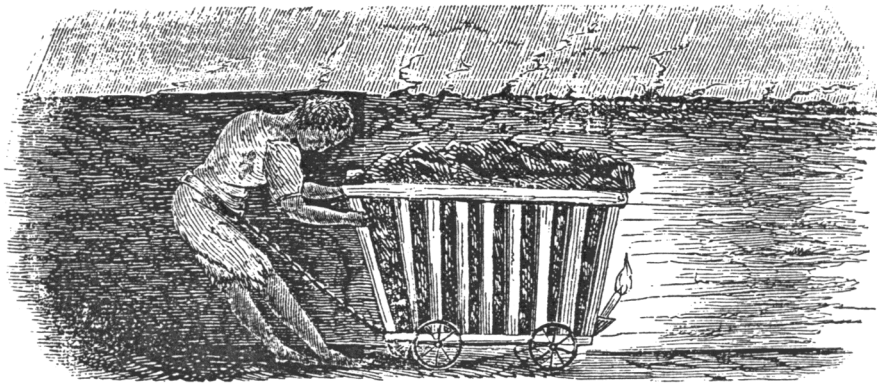


Fig.8.



All their physical power of which they are possessed is brought into action to propel their loads forward. Hence it is that their muscles are extraordinarily firm and prominent, especially those of the shoulders, arms and legs. In height and genital development they are singularly stunted and defective. Such, however, was my conviction after a careful examination of some hundreds of them and with the view of determining the first fact beyond dispute, I measured round the chest and from head to foot, 220, taking advantage of the same opportunity is ascertaining their educational qualifications in order that I may compare them with about the same number of potters, manufacturers and agriculturists. The accompanying tables (Appendix A Nos.1 to 7) showing the aggregates and averages will faithfully give the result.

Perhaps the most accurate mode of ascertaining their strength would have been to have take the weights, as I first intended but in the low gates I found this impracticable and was therefore compelled to have recourse to my own judgement in classifying them under the order of "very muscular", "muscular," "at par," and "below par." The first including those whose fibres were extremely prominent, rigid and well defined and the last as being lax, slender and feeble, the proportion of the latter being only 10 in 229, the circumference of the former increasing with their diminished height. Whilst in the potteries, where children labour as mould runners in excessive heat, the proportion of the same class is shown to be 106 in 150, with their heights and circumference directly reversed. The farm labourers far out measuring both.

The premature muscularity of hurriers, consequent upon the severe labour of their youth, will readily account for the stunted growth and shortening of the natural lives of the "getters" who are notoriously a diminutive race of men, old, and in their own phraseology, "mashed up," at a period when others are considered in their prime. Occasionally the bigger men leave the pits as being unable to follow their occupations there and on that account are promoted to the rank of banksman, steward or ground bailiff. I have never found, for the same reason, that they have migrated to follow other employments. A collier would have some difficulty to make up his mind to that.

As soon as the hurriers enter the mine gates they detach their harnesses from the corve, change their position by getting behind it and become "thrusters." The vehicle is then placed upon the rail, a candle is stuck fast by a piece of wet clay and away they run with prodigious celerity to the shaft, pushing the load with their heads and hands. (Fig.9.) The command they hold over it at every

curve and angle considering its pace, the unevenness of the floors an rails, mud, water and stones, is truly astonishing.

Fig.9.



The younger children thrust in pairs.

The hours of work with few exceptions, altogether uncertain.

In some of the Day Hole Pits, I have known them to commence at six o'clock in the morning and leave at seven, eight or nine o'clock at night without an interval of rest. This irregularity depends upon the habits of the collier, who receives his wages at so much per dozen corves, paying his hurrier by the week. It is his practice to carry down with him in the morning a given number of sticks, having his own peculiar mark on them, in the shape of one, two or more notches. They are called "nicks." In every loaded corve at the heading he deposits one stick which the banksman receives above and conveys to his pigeonhole in the cabin. That day's "getting" is calculated by the number of nicks carried to account, and amounts to 4s. 6d. per diem. Out of this he will have to pay for oil, candles and hurrier.

If the seam in which he works is of some thickness, he can "get" in eight hours as much as the child can hurry in twelve and he will leave the pit or if working in a thin seam, at a distance of 700 or 800 yards from the shaft, he will require the child to keep him "agate." (See Glossary).

Two days of the week (Monday and Saturday) he absents himself from the pit altogether and is most frequently to be found loitering about the fields, village or in the alehouse, but takes good care that there shall be something left "at bottom" for the child to do in the way of getting, hurrying or cleansing.

David Oldfield (No.18) states:-

I come at seven in the morning and go home at seven sometimes eight. Down in the lower pit, boys have stopped after the horse is gone home and have been pulled out by the men.

James Grandage (No.25) states:-

I come with the rest of the boys and go home at all times but have never staid after eight.

John Bell (No.34) says:-

We all come down together at six, seven or eight and go home at six and eight. "Tis just as leets." We all think we work too many hours a day. The men do not work every day with us. They lake some odd times. When they lake we do not. They make us get what coals we can, and muck put of bottom and what we get we hurry. If they lake one day we work longer the next to make up for it. We don't think it fair and tell hem so but they laugh and if we are not sharp they hit us with the handle of the pick &c.

William Hollingsworth (No. 64) says:-

The first time I went to work I went at half past five in the morning and stayed in the pit until 10 at night. The second time I stopped till half past day. The third day I left at half past eight and the fourth at eight. Neither I nor the other boys had anything more than a cake and a half each either day to eat and nothing to drink.

(See Evidence of others.)

The same irregularity will be equally applicable to meals. The collier often lives at a distance of a mile or two from the pit and in that case will bring his dinner with him. At other times he will eat with his return home. The hurrier must therefore conform to circumstances and get his how and in what way he best can, having no specific time allotted him and is therefore most commonly seen eating and hurrying at the same moment. In no case do they leave the pit, as the act of dressing, undressing, washing, ascending and descending and going to and from their homes would involve more time and trouble than they would be inclined to sacrifice and would be the means of prolonging the hours of labour beyond those which custom has sanctioned in the majority of pits.

The breakfast generally consists of a mess of porridge (oatmeal and hot milk or water), the dinner is almost invariably a flat thin coarse oaten cake peculiar to the North or a wheat cake weighing about six ounces, without any other accompaniment, save a morsel of butter or lard. This they often partially or wholly dispose of before 9, 10 or 11 o'clock when they feel most hungry which suffices them until they return home and when they get their suppers, and are said to be satisfied, which I believe is true as in very few instances have I heard of any complaints.

The wages of the hurriers depend upon their ages and aptness. In six pits I have selected an equal number of the oldest and youngest with the view of ascertaining the difference between them and then recorded the several amounts received by the whole number and found that it averaged 4s. 8½d. per week which is received by their parents.

TABLES OF WAGES OF COLLIERS.

COLLIERS.							
Name of Proprietor or Place of Work.	Youngest Employed.	Age.	Wages	Oldest Employed.	Age.	Wages	No. of Young Persons examined, and Average Wages of each.
		Ys. Mo.	s. d.		Ys. Mo.	s. d.	
1.—Mr. Joseph Stocks's Lightcliffe Colliery.	Ellis, Levi . .	8 0	2 0	Ellis, Joseph . .	15 6	6 0	16 examined, whose average wages amounted to 4s. 8d. each per week.
	Satterall, John .	8 0	3 0	Hirst, Thomas .	14 6	7 6	
	Cater, Thomas .	8 10	2 0	Beryam, Hargraves	15 1	7 0	
2.—Messrs. Waterhouse's Colliery, Ainley Top, Elland.	Hepworth, Joseph	7 3	1 6	Batley, John . .	14 5	6 9	26 examined, whose average wages amounted to 4s. each per week.
	Lees, William .	7 2	1 6	Nichols, Asa . .	14 3	6 9	
	Brook, John . .	8 9	3 0	Gormally, Dennis.	13 1	4 6	
	Pitchforth, Rosd.	13 3	4 6	Townsend, James.	13 3	4 6	
	Pitchforth, Sus.	10 9	2 3	Crossland, Eli . .	13 7	6 9	
	Gormally, Margaret	9 0	2 6	Pilling, George .	13 7	5 3	
3.—The Bowling Companies' Collieries and Ironstone Pits, Bowling.	Hillhouse, Edwin .	8 0	2 6	Hall, John . .	17 4	8 0	In these works, including the foundry, are employed 403 children and young persons under 18 years of age, as hurriers, thrusters, puddlers, gin-drivers, getters, coke-burners, trubbers, refiners, engine-tenders, bailers, and smiths. Of these, 240 are hurriers, working under ground, whose average wages amount to 4s. 8d. per week.
	York, George . .	8 4	3 0	Shoesmith, John .	16 4	7 6	
	Wright, James .	8 9	4 0	Galloway, Reuben	16 2	7 6	
	Barstow, George .	8 9	2 0	Maun, William .	17 0	7 0	
	Clough, John . .	8 9	3 0	Marshall, George .	17 0	7 6	
	Wells, Isaac . .	8 9	4 0	Band, Peter . .	16 2	7 0	
4.—Late Miss Lister's Colliery, Listerwick, Southowram, Halifax.	Pickles, John . .	6 6	1 6	Breasley, William	17 7	9 0	26 examined, whose average wages amounted to 3s. 11d. each per week.
	Crossley, Joseph .	7 4	2 0	Whitehead, Edmd.	16 6	8 0	
	Breasley, Joseph .	7 5	1 0	Peel, James . .	16 6	8 0	
5.—Jonathan Dickenson's Colliery, Shelf, Halifax.	Jackson, John .	10 4	4 0	Holdsworth, David	17 3	8 6	21 examined, whose average wages amounted to 6s. 6½d. each per week.
	Sharp, Abraham .	10 0	4 6	Barth, John . .	16 0	8 6	
	Mouncey, James .	10 0	4 0	Settley, William .	15 5	8 0	
6.—Messrs. Wilson, Holmes, and Stocks's Quarry-house Colliery, Southowram.	Benn, James . .	7 9	1 6	Kendle, Benjamin	19 0	9 0	23 examined, whose average wages amounted to 5s. 2½d. each per week.
	Jettle, Josias . .	9 6	2 0	Crossley, John .	17 0	8 0	
	Barber, Henry .	11 0	5 0	Green, Amos . .	15 0	7 6	

In these Six Collieries are 352 children and young persons between the ages of 6 and 18, whose average wages are—

Proprietors.	Pit.	No. of Children.	Aggregate Wages of Pit.	Average of each Child.	Total.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Messrs. Stocks	Lightcliffe . .	16	3 14 8	0 4 8	321. 17s. 2½d., divided by 352, gives 4s. 8½d. to each child.
Messrs. Waterhouse	Ainley Top . .	26	5 4 0	0 4 0	
The Bowling Company . . .	Bowling . . .	240	56 0 0	0 4 8	
Late Miss Lister	Listerwick . .	26	5 1 10	0 3 11	
Messrs. Dickenson	Shelf	21	6 17 4½	0 6 6½	
Messrs. Holmes and Co. . . .	Quarry-house . .	23	5 19 3½	0 5 2½	

WAGES OF SCRIBBLERS, CARDERS, AND SPINNERS.

Name of Proprietor or Place of Work.	Youngest employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages	Oldest employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages	Number employed and Average Wages.
			Ys. Mo.	s. d.			Ys. Mo.	s. d.	
1.—Messrs. Benjamin Crocker and Co., Kirkburton, York.	Hardcastle, Wm.	Piecer	9 1	3 0	Hardcastle, George	Piecer	14 9	4 0	20 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 4s. 3½d. each.
	Scoles, Mary	Ditto	10 6	3 0	Styles, Jane	Feeder	16 3	3 6	
	Moorhouse, Emma	Ditto	10 4	3 0	Wood, Emma	Carder	16 0	2 6	
2.—Messrs. Waterhouse, Sowerby Bridge.	Brown, James	Ditto	9 1	3 0	Baldwin, Samuel	Feeder	12 2	4 0	16 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 2s. 9½d.
	Radcliffe, John	Ditto	9 11	3 0	Bentley, James	Ditto	11 10	3 6	
	Smith, Hephshey	Feeder	9 1	3 6	Smith, John	Carder	12 0	3 6	
3.—Messrs. Walker and Co., Stainland.	Buckley, Job	Doffer	10 0	2 0	Shaw, Joshua	Jobber	17 5	6 0	40 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 3s. 5½d.
	Walker, John	Ditto	9 11	2 0	Ogden, James	Spinner	14 11	5 0	
	Ogden, William	Ditto	10 2	2 0	Smith, Samuel	Ditto	15 0	4 0	
4.—Mr. George Shaw & Sons, Raw Royds, Elland.	Cox, Nancy	Piecer	11 0	3 0	Walker, John	Feeder	17 0	5 0	26 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 4s. 0½d.
	Kitchen, Henry	Ditto	10 0	3 0	Stott, Joseph	Ditto	17 0	5 0	
	Simpson, James	Ditto	10 0	3 0	Shaw, Thomas	Piecer	17 0	4 0	
5.—Mr. John Hurst, Raw Royds, Elland.	Kitchen, Sidney	Ditto	10 0	3 0	Nortcliffe, Benj.	Spinner	16 0	6 0	22 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 4s. 2½d.
	Mallison, Elizabeth	Ditto	10 0	3 0	Scott, Mary	Piecer	17 0	5 0	
	Shaw, Ann	Ditto	10 0	3 0	Stott, Sarah	Ditto	17 0	5 0	
6.—Mr. Benj. Mellor, Spring Mill, Stainland.	Foss, Sarah	Ditto	13 4	5 0	Sutcliffe, Sarah	Feeder	17 8	6 6	37 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 5s. 5½d.
	Anson, Samuel	Winder	13 0	1 6	Hanson, Joseph	Ditto	17 5	9 0	
	Parke, William	Ditto	13 1	2 6	Brooke, John	Piecer	17 9	7 0	

AVERAGE WAGES.

Name of Proprietor.	Place.	No. of Children	Aggregate of each Factory.	Average of each Child.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Messrs. Benjamin Crocker	Kirkburton	20	4 6 0	0 4 3½	35½ 3s. gives to 161 children and young persons employed 4s. 4½d. and a fraction each.
Messrs. Waterhouse and Co.	Sowerby Bridge	16	2 5 0	0 2 9½	
Messrs. Walker and Co.	Stainland	40	6 19 0	0 3 5½	
Messrs. George Shaw and Sons	Elland	26	5 6 0	0 4 3½	
Mr. John Hirst	Elland	22	4 13 0	0 4 2½	
Mr. Benjamin Mellor	Stainland	37	10 2 6	0 5 5½	

WAGES OF POTTERS.

Name of Proprietor or Place of Work.	Youngest Employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages	Oldest Employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages	Number employed, and Average Wages.
			Ys. Mo.	s. d.			Ys. Mo.	s. d.	
1.—Messrs. E. and E. Wood, Burslem, Staffordsb.	Montford, John	Mould-runner	8 8	2 9	Wareham, Geo.	Presser	17 9	8 0	156 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 3s. 11½d.
	Kelsal, Eliza	Ditto	8 0	1 0	Stephenson, Geo.	Turner	17 11	10 0	
	Moss, William	Ditto	9 0	2 0	Weatherby, Thos.	Handler	17 11	13 0	
2.—Messrs. T. and J. Mayor, Longport.	Phoebe, Watkins	Ditto	8 6	1 0	Shaw, Thomas	Plate-maker	17 10	7 9	161 children and young persons employed, whose average wages amount to 4s. 1½d.
	Helham, Thos.	Ditto	8 6	2 0	Hill, George	Ditto	17 5	12 0	
	Buley, Thomas	Ditto	9 0	2 3	Davis, Mary A.	Paintress	17 9	11 0	
3.—Mr. J. Hawley, Longton	Winker, William	Ditto	9 1	1 0	Jones, Richard	Plate-maker	18 0	9 0	47 children and young persons employed, whose average wages are 4s.
	Brough, Thomas	Ditto	9 0	2 3	Cook, Thomas	Presser	16 8	7 6	
	Willshire, Wm.	Ditto	8 10	1 0	Meigh, Wesley	Dish-maker	16 10	12 0	
4.—Messrs. Minton and Boyle, Stoke.	Hays, Thomas	Dipper	7 0	1 6	Powis, Stephen	Plate-maker	17 6	5 0	180 children and young persons employed, whose average wages are 3s. 3½d.
	Davis, Thomas	Turn wheel	9 2	1 6	Wilson, Mary	Paintress	17 7	6 0	
	Bevington, Jos.	Handler	9 9	2 0	Smith, John	Kilner	17 7	5 0	
5.—Mr. Jos. Clementson, Shelton.	Burton, Thomas	Mould-runner	10 0	1 6	Gotham, Eliza	Transferrer	17 10	6 0	83 children and young persons employed, whose average wages are 3s. 3d.
	Hopkin, John	Ditto	10 1	1 6	Brownseed, M.	Presser	17 4	8 6	
	Hall, William	Ditto	10 2	2 6	Mureton, Reuben	Ditto	17 9	5 0	
6.—Mr. C. Meigh, Hanley.	Ball, David	Ditto	9 8	1 6	Edwards, Thos.	Ditto	17 10	7 0	90 children and young persons employed, whose average wages are 4s. 1d.
	Barnett, Richard	Turn wheel	8 6	1 8	Morris, Thurza	Paintress	17 6	7 0	
	Montford, Eliza	Ditto	8 3	1 8	Bott, Sampson	Presser	17 5	5 0	

AVERAGE WAGES.

Name of Proprietor.	Place.	No. of Children.	Aggregate of each Factory.	Average of each Child.	
Messrs. R. and E. Wood	Burslem	156	£. s. d. 31 1 9	0 3 11½	135 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> gives to 717 children, &c., 3 <i>s.</i> 9½ <i>d.</i> each.
Messrs. Thomas and J. Mayor	Longport	161	33 8 0	0 4 1½	
Mr. John Hawley	Longton	47	9 8 9	0 4 0	
Messrs. Minton and Boyle	Stoke	180	29 18 2	0 3 3½	
Mr. Joseph Clementson	Shelton	83	13 13 3	0 3 3	
Mr. Charles Meigh	Hanley	90	18 7 7	0 4 1	

WAGES OF CHILDREN EMPLOYED ON FARMS.

Name of Proprietor or Place of Work.	Youngest Employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages.	Oldest Employed.	Occupation.	Age.	Wages.
			Ys. Mo.	s. d.			Ys. Mo.	s. d.
1.—Messrs. Wallis and Scutis, Preston and Sutton Farms.	Puckett, George . .	Generally . .	8 6	4 0	Miller, Charles . .	Dairy	17 11	6 0
	Butler, Henry . .	Plough . . .	9 0	2 0	Crocker, Geo. . .	Generally . .	17 11	5 0
	Wallis, Martha . .	Dairy	9 7	8 0	Hallett, Henry . .	Shepherd . .	17 11	6 0
2.—Messrs. Luckham and Groves's Farm, Broadway.	Burt, Isaac . . .	Plough . . .	9 0	2 0	Stainer, John . .	Generally . .	15 0	2 6
	Morris, James . .	Bird-keeper .	9 10	2 6	Simmons, Sarah .	Ditto	16 0	1 6
	Hallet, John . . .	Plough . . .	10 0	2 0	Whittle, Ann . .	Ditto	16 3	4 0
3.—Mr. Noakes's Farm, Upway.	Bishop, Robert . .	Bird-keeper .	8 0	1 6	Notley, George . .	Shepherd . .	12 0	2 0
	Gibbs, Charles . .	Plough . . .	10 0	1 6	Whittle, Michael .	Gardener . .	12 0	2 0
	Bishop, George . .	Ditto	11 0	1 6	Whittle, Wm. . .	Ditto	14 0	4 0
4.—Mr. Devenish's Farm, Bradford.	Bridle, Richard . .	Shepherd . .	11 0	3 9	Hales, Eli . . .	Plough . . .	12 0	2 6
	Robins, George . .	Plough . . .	9 0	2 6	Barnes, Edward .	Ditto	12 6	3 0
	Ryale, George . .	Dairy	10 0	2 6	Robins, Wm. . .	Ditto	14 0	3 9
5.—Messrs. Fook's and Homer's Farms, Martinstown.	Slade, Wm. . . .	Plough . . .	7 6	1 6	Matthews, Wm. . .	Ditto	17 0	5 0
	Spranklin, Thos. .	Cow-keeper .	8 6	1 0	Miller, Wm. . . .	Ditto	17 3	4 0
	Stone, Elias . . .	Ditto	9 0	1 0	Churchill, James .	Generally . .	17 3	4 0
6.—Messrs. Homer and Andrews's Farms, Upton, and Osmington.	Chaffey, John . .	Plough . . .	9 0	1 6	Charles, George .	Ditto	17 0	4 6
	Neill, John . . .	Shepherd . .	11 6	1 6	Dowden, Chas. . .	Ditto	18 0	5 6
	Hamilton, Jas. . .	Gardener . .	12 0	2 0	Hatch, Edwin . .	Plough . . .	18 0	6 0

100 children and young persons between the ages of 6 and 18, labouring in the farms of Messrs. Wallis, Scutt, Gill, Homer, Andrews, Noakes, Luckham, Groves, Devenish, Homer, Hawkins, Tizard, and Fooks, in the parishes of Preston, Sutton, Wyke Oliver, Upton, Osmington, Upway, Broadway, Bradford, Martinstown, and Ashton, in the county of Dorset, whose average wages amount to 3*s.* each per week.

WAGES OF CARD SETTERS.

Name of Proprietor.	Youngest Employed.	Age.	Wages.	Oldest Employed.	Age.	Wages.	No. of Young Persons Employed, and Average Wages of each.
		Ys. Mo.	s. d.		Ys. Mo.	s. d.	
1.—Mr. Milner	Greenwood, Sarah .	7 10	0 7	Milner, Thomas . .	14 9	3 0	25 employed, whose average wages amount to 1 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> each.
	Gibson, Fanny . .	8 0	1 0	Walker, William .	13 6	2 0	
	Gibson, Martha . .	9 10	1 9	Holden, William .	12 11	2 6	
2.—Mary Nichols	Crabtree, John . .	8 6	1 8	Hillam, Mary . . .	12 6	2 3	15 employed, whose average wages amount to 1 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i> each.
	Fletcher, Abraham .	9 0	1 0	Sleddon, Sarah . .	12 3	2 0	
	Wood, Alfred . . .	10 0	2 3	Akroyd, Esther . .	11 9	2 0	
3.—Mr. Swift	Sutcliffe, Betty . .	8 0	1 0	Petty, George . . .	11 5	0 9	17 employed, whose average wages amount to 11½ <i>d.</i> each.
	Oates, Olive . . .	8 0	0 3	Hoyle, John . . .	11 6	1 6	
	Smith, Ann	8 7	0 3	Rushworth, Wm. .	14 11	1 6	
4.—Mr. J. Hardyman	Pearson, George . .	6 11	0 10	Greenwood, Jos. . .	12 5	1 6	19 employed, whose average wages amount to 1 <i>s.</i> 5½ <i>d.</i> each.
	Moore, Joseph . . .	8 11	1 3	Kendle, George . .	13 0	2 0	
	Crapper, James . .	9 0	1 6	Arsun, John . . .	12 0	1 6	
5.—Mr. Whiteley	Gledhill, Geo. . .	7 0	0 11	Dixon, Joseph . .	12 6	2 1	21 employed, whose average wages amount to 1 <i>s.</i> 6½ <i>d.</i> each.
	Dixon, Elizabeth . .	6 10	0 7	Howard, John . . .	12 4	2 3	
	Burgess, Mary . .	6 10	0 10	Clegg, James . . .	13 3	1 10	
6.—Charles Radcliffe	Whittaker, Jos. . .	7 6	1 0	Sutcliffe, Aaron . .	12 1	2 3	22 employed, whose average wages amount to 1 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> each.
	Birtwhistle, Jos. .	8 0	0 10	Scott, Thomas . .	12 6	2 1	
	Greenwood, Wm. . .	9 2	1 10	Turner, Emanuel .	11 3	2 0	

In these six Card Shops are 119 children between the ages of 6 and 15, whose average wages amount to 1*s.* 7*d.*

Name of Proprietor.	Place.	No. of Children.	Aver. Amount each Child.	Aggreg. Amt. of each Shop.	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Mr. Milner	Halifax	25	0 1 9	2 3 10	92. 7 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> gives to 119 children, within a fraction, 1 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> to each child.
Mrs. Nichols	Ditto	15	0 1 11½	1 9 0	
Mr. Swift	Ditto	17	0 0 11½	0 16 3	
Mr. Hardyman	Ditto	19	0 1 5½	1 8 4	
Mr. Whiteley	Ditto	21	0 1 6½	1 12 10	
Mr. Radcliffe	Ditto	22	0 1 3	1 17 0	

There appears to be a considerable difference in the rate of pay in the six pits or collieries alluded to, Messrs. Dickenson's men paying 6s. 6½d. per week, while those of the late Miss Lister's pay but 3s. 11d. This is to be accounted for by the difference in the age of the children, and the consequently increased numbers employed, two being engaged in the latter colliery to do the work of one in the former.

By comparing the average amount of the whole, which is 4s. 8½d., it is found to be more than what is received by children employed as spinners, piecers or card setters in the same district, or by potters or agriculturalists in distant counties, these being respectively, 4s. 4¼d., 1s. 7d., 3s. 9½d. and 3s. 7d., although, with the exception of card setters, they are the youngest.

It must, however, be remembered that farm labourers have perquisites in house rent, garden ground, wheat at a reduced price, milk, fuel and other domestic necessities, which neither of the other classes have and which may be reasonably considered advantages equal to 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week to each child.

A great number of hurriers are apprenticed by the Boards of Guardians from the age of eight years upwards until *twenty one*, paying with them a sovereign, to be expended, at the discretion of the master, for clothes who likewise receives all their hard earnings as a compensation for board, lodging and instruction in the *art and mystery* of hurrying and thrusting. Many of the colliers take two or three at a time, supporting themselves and their families out of their labour. As soon as either of them is old enough he is made a getter and is then worth from 10s. to 15s. per week.

Joseph Barker, of Windy Bank Pit (No.14.) says:-

I have three apprentices (two hurriers and the other a "getter"). They are bound to me until they are 21. I draw when they earn every fortnight and for that I keep them in meat, drink and clothing. They got to work at six in the morning but I do not know what time they leave. It is according to their work during the day.

He goes on to say:-

As a working man I think that nine hours a day is sufficient for them but if they were prevented from working more than that, *I could not get my living at their present wages*. They hurry about 17 corves a day. As an honest man I think that too much.

I found this man in a cabin, at the tail end, smoking his pipe and drinking ale, just as capable of getting his livelihood as either of the children whom he employed, and who were in a wretched state of filth and rags.

Punishments are said never to be allowed, but what measures are taken to prevent them? The colliers work alone in the dark and secluded places at great distances from each other, where they have opportunities of inflicting them when and how they please. Frequent instances of cruelty have from time to time come under my observation. At Mr. Thomas Holme's Shugden Lane Pit I remember meeting with one of the boys crying very bitterly and bleeding from a wound in the cheek. I found out his master at a remote heading, who told me in a tone of savage defiance, "that the child was one of the slow ones who would only move when he saw *blood* and that by throwing a piece of coal at him, for that purpose, he had accomplished his object and that he often adopted the like means."

William Dyson (No.7), in speaking of his workmate, Sarah Ambler, says:-

I have seen her thrashed many times when she does not please the men. They rap her in the face and knock her down. I have seen her cry many times.

Thomas Moorhouse (No.58), apprenticed by the Board of Guardians, states, in reference to William Greenwood, his master:-

I ran away from him because he used me so bad. He stuck a pick twice into my bottom. He used to hit me with the belt and maul and fling coals at me. When I left him, I used to sleep in the cabins upon the pit's bank and in the old pits that had down working where I laid upon the shale. I used to get what I could to eat and ate for a long time the candles that the colliers had left behind. I had nothing else to eat.

I examined this boy and found wounds he described, together with 20 others upon his back occasioned by hurrying in low gates without the usual protection for his person.

At the foot of Clewes Moor Pit, I found Harriet Craven (No.76) crying and afraid to return to Joseph Ibbotson, her master, who, she said, “had been braying her and had flung a piece of coal at her which struck her back.” Her sister Ester, stated, “that he often brayed them both.”

Susan Pitchforth (No.10) says:-

My father slaps me upon the head and back so as to make me cry. I had rather set cards or do anything else than work in the pit.

Margaret Gomley (No.9) says:-

They (the men) flog us down the pit with their hands upon my bottom which hurts me very much. Thomas Copeland flogs me more than once a day which makes me cry. I had rather set cards at 5d. a day.

(See Others)

The accidents and personal injuries to which they are subjected are consequent upon explosions, falls in coming up and going down the shafts, falling roofs and walls and the weight of the loaded corves, which, if they happen to be in the way, run over them. These are the formidable and as will be shown in the following table obtained from the coroner, which will include a period of little more than three years, are too frequently attended with fatal results.

RETURN OF DEATHS resulting from ACCIDENTS and EXPLOSIONS that have occurred within the last Three Years and Six Months in the Coal Mines of the Bradford and Halifax District.

No.	Date.	Where.	Name.	Age.	VERDICTS.
1	1837 Dec. 26 .	Saddleworth .	Mills, Richard .	..	Fell from a corve in ascending the shaft of a coal-pit. Deceased and another boy in the corve with a collier, and was properly cautioned.
2	1838 Jan. 2 .	Bierley . .	Thorp, Joseph .	52	A banksman, fell down the shaft, in landing the corve had neglected to slip the catch.
3	Feb. 1 .	Lindley . .	Walker, George .	26	Fall of a stone from the shaft side. No neglect.
4	March 7 .	Bowling . .	Root, Edward .	13	Fell from the corve in descending. Supposed to have caught at something on the pit's side.
5	March 22	Holmfirth .	Hurst, Enoch .	10	Killed by a piece of coal falling from the corve. No blame; he might have got out of the way.
6	April 28.	North Bierley	Sugden, Abraham	9	Fall of ironstone from a corve. No blame or negligence.
7	May 2 .	Bradford Moor	Walker, William .	16	Thrown from a corve to the bottom of the shaft by the rope breaking—the engineer neglecting to stop his rope in proper time; the boy coming up without notice, and contrary to the rules.
8	June 22 .	Wilsden . .	Binns, Abraham .	15	Fall of scale from a corve hitting against the ledges of the shaft.
9	July 5 .	Northowram .	Crossley, John .	16	Ditto ditto, in consequence of wet weather.
10	July 10 .	Ditto . . .	Crossley, Abraham	30	The like.
11	Aug. 3 .	North Bierley	Anson, Christopher	7	Accidental fall down a shaft; a "gin" driver. No blame.
12	Aug. 31 .	Halifax . .	Taylor, Francis .	11	Explosion of fire-damp. Neglect of John Crossley, his master, in not going first in pit.
13	April 17	Ditto . . .	Lumley, James .	9	The like. With caution there is no need of safety-lamps in this district.
14	April 22	Baildon . .	Craven, Joseph .	7	Accidental fall in going down a shaft.
15	Oct. 9 .	Northowram.	Oldfield, Thomas .	48	The like, in consequence of machinery being out of gear. No blame.
16	1839 March 1 .	Southowram .	Gray, Joseph . .	11	Accidental fall of a stone from the roof of a pit.
17	March 25	Idle . . .	Hardaker, John .	8	Accidental fall down a shaft. Deceased a cart-driver.
18	April 19 .	Allerton . .	Stansfield, Joshua	8	The like. Deceased not very sharp.
19	April 26 .	Tong . . .	Oates, Henry	Accidental fall down an old shaft. Afterwards filled up at request of jury.
20	May 11 .	Bowling . .	Tewdale, James .	9	Fall from a corve in ascending a shaft.
21	Aug. 13 .	Kirkheaton .	Drake, William .	12	Deceased trying to ascend the shaft by taking hold the axles of the corve, and letting go within a few yards of the top.
22	Sept. 3 .	Holmfirth .	Barraclough, Joseph	14	Unexpected explosion of fire-damp.
23	Oct. 4 .	North Bierley	West, Joshua . .	9	Fall from a corve in ascending a shaft contrary to rules.
24	Oct. 14 .	Northowram .	Jennings, James .	11	Accidental fall down a shaft by attempting to ascend by tackling without corve.
25	Nov. 19 .	Wilsden . .	Fetley, Benjamin .	14	Ditto ditto of earth from the roof of a pit by deceased driving corve against a post.
26	Dec. 6 .	Bradford . .	Brook, Joseph . .	13	Ditto ditto of stone from the roof of pit.
27	1840 March 2 .	Bowling . .	Naylor, James	Fall of dirt from a corve. The corve not properly fastened by deceased.
28	April 6 .	Wyke . . .	Marsden, William	42	Explosion of fire-damp, caused by deceased taking the top from his lamp.
29	April 11 .	Bowling . .	Beaumont, Benj. .	..	Killed by coal-waggons. Cautioned to keep out of the way.
30	April 28 .	Lindley . .	Wilkinson, William	21	Accidental fall of earth from roof of pit.
31	May 18 .	Southowram .	Cheatham, Charles	10	Explosion of fire-damp, Isaac Green, his employer, neglecting to fill up an old hole.
32	June 1 .	Thornton .	Fearnside, Thomas	20	Accidental fall from corve in descending the shaft.
33	June 11 .	Halifax . .	Sheard, William .	30	Explosion of fire-damp, deceased persisting in going into the pit, although warned at seeing the fire-damp as he went on.
34	June 15 .	Ditto . . .	Sheard, Joseph .	..	Explosion of fire-damp. Deceased compelled to go in by Wm. Sheard, his employer.
35	Aug. 15 .	Bradley . .	Haigh, Reuben .	12	Accidentally caught in a chain of a corve, and falling whilst drawing up.
36	Aug. 14 .	North Bierley	Sharp, Joseph .	33	Unexpected fall of coal from the roof of a pit.
37	Aug. 22 .	Lockwood .	Haigh, David	Accidental explosion of fire-damp. Deceased aware of it, and fetching his tools contrary to order.
38	..	Ditto . . .	Jephson, Joshua .	..	The like.
39	Sept. 15 .	Horton . .	Fieldhouse, Thomas	5	Accidental fall down a shaft, deceased playing near the pit in the absence of the workpeople.
40	Sept. 23 .	North Bierley	Worship, Noah .	11	Killed in pit by a corve running over him, deceased going before instead of behind the corve.
41	Nov. 2 .	Northowram .	Woodhead, John .	29	Accidental fall from a corve in ascending the shaft.
42	Nov. 17 .	North Bierley	Smith, James . .	13	Killed in pit by a corve falling on him.
43	Dec. 18 .	Ditto . . .	Brook, Jonas . .	38	Unexpected fall of earth from the roof of pit.
44	..	Wike . . .	Heaton, John . .	20	The like.
45	1841 Jan. 21 .	Tong . . .	Thomas, Benjamin	12	Explosion of gunpowder, deceased intending to secrete a portion.
46	..	Bowling . .	Hill, John	Accidental fall down a shaft in landing a corve.
47	Jan. 22 .	Ditto . . .	Sharp, Joseph . .	12	Ditto ditto ditto.
48	Feb. 26 .	Halifax . .	Sutcliffe, Jonathan	..	Accidental and unexpected explosion of fire-damp.
49	April 10	Northowram .	Smith, Mathew .	..	Fall down a shaft, deceased holding the clutch-irons without giving notice to draw up.
50	June 12 .	North Bierley	Kellett, David .	14	Fall down a shaft. Deceased drawn over the pulley by his uncle and grandfather.

Here are 50 deaths and of this number 34 have occurred to children and young persons under 16 years of age. On the perusal of the verdicts it will be seen that in a large proportion of these cases the fatal results might be obviated by precaution and care on the part of the proprietors and of the colliers themselves nor has this neglect subjected the parties guilty of it in any case to that reprehension and punishment which it appears to me might be employed with effect in diminishing their frequency. See Nos.3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 19, 21, 24, 31, 33, 34 and 50.

The most frequent accidents and injuries are productive of wounds and abrasions of the feet, legs and head.

In running continually over uneven ground without shoes or stockings, particles of dirt, coal and stone get between the toes and are prolific sources of irritation and lameness of which they often complain. The skin covering the balls of the toes and heels become thickened and horny, occasioning a good deal of pain and pustular gathering.

The upper parts of their heads are always denuded of hair, their scalps thickened and inflamed, sometimes taking on the appearance of *tinea capitis*, from the pressure and friction which they undergo in the act of pushing the corves forward although they are mostly defended by a padded cap.

It has been a source of satisfaction to find that their general health is remarkably good, as out of the many hundreds that have come under my observation I have never met with one solitary case of functional or organic disease as the result of their employment, the opposite condition obtaining in a marked degree as evidenced by their florid countenances and cheerful dispositions. The following tables will show an appreciable difference in their stature as compared with other classes which, a before observed, I believe to be attributable to the severe labour exacted from them during a period of infancy and adolescence.

But it has been the practice, and one no less singular than true, for parents unconnected with collieries whose offspring may have been the victims of constitutional disease to send them into the pits for "change of air," a change that has contributed to the restoration of many, more especially for those suffering from bronchial and pulmonary complaints and no wonder, since they have been removed from the cold and blighting winds of the moors to a more equal, humid and genial atmosphere.

The children that excite the greatest consideration are those who stand behind the doors to open and shut them for the hurriers to pass. They are called "trappers" who in the darkness, solitude and stillness as of night eke out miserable existence for the smallest amount of wages. In the best appointed pits the air is rarefied by a fire which is kindled at the foot of the upcast shaft, the atmospheric air being directed down another called the downcast shaft and then made to pass the remotest corners of the pit by doors placed at intervals in the main gates or byways.

The trappers are therefore made to stand at the back of these, holding a cord in their hands all day long. I can never forget the first unfortunate creature that I met with. It was a boy of about eight years old which looked idiotic, like a thing, a creeping thing peculiar to the place. On approaching and speaking to him he slunk trembling and frightened into a corner under an impression that I was about to do him some bodily injury and from which neither coaxing nor temptations would draw him out. Happily but few children are sacrificed here as their services are not much needed in the thin seams of the district.

Gin drivers whose services are required to follow the horse round the circle upon the pit's bank with a whip are amongst the youngest employed, their strength giving them but little command over the horse that may be disposed to be restive. Their hours of labour are regular and their wages are paid weekly.

Trub packers work also upon the banks of the ironstone pits. Their duties are to separate the loose shale from the metallic ore with which it is found in contact and then pack it in heaps in readiness for the mines or kilns. The hours are also limited to twelve and their wages paid weekly.

The moral condition of these classes of children taking them as a body is as bad as it is possible to be. They are schooled from infancy in darkness, ignorance, profligacy and vice. How can it be otherwise, when they are taken from their homes almost as soon as they can walk alone and are shut out from that moment from ever association and intercourse save that of the loathsome and disgusting sensuality?

In an examination at the pit's bottom of 219, I found only 31 that could read an easy book and of the same number 15 could write their names. These had been taught, before they commenced work, in some day school. The rest were wholly incapable of connecting two syllables. They seldom or never attend places of religious worship as it is only on the Sunday, for six months in the year, that they catch a glimpse of the sun light when they are little disposed to the ordeal of a Sunday School. See Evidence of **Thomas Mitchell (No.68.)** aged 13, whose condition would be a

disgrace to the savage tribes of the most savage nation for they had at least their gods in some shape, whilst he has no knowledge of the name. He says:-

I have hurried four years for Thomas Mitchell (uncle). I don't know what you mean by uncle, I have never heard of Jesus Christ. I don't know what you mean by God. I have never heard of Adam or know what you mean by Scriptures. I have heard of a Bible but don't know what 'tis about. I tell a lie I don't know whether 'tis good or bad.

Again Henry Jowett (No.71) says:-

I don't know who God is.

And Anna Hoile (No.70) says:-

I have heard of God and Jesus Christ but I can't tell who they was, If I died a good girl I should go to heaven &c. They told me the school yesterday. I did not know it before.

Mr. James Wilcox, a proprietor of mines (No.69.) states:-

You have expressed some surprise at Thomas Mitchell not having heard of God. I judge [he continues] that there are very few colliers here about that have. There is a Sunday School in the village at which some of them go but it does not advance them in learning much. It keeps them from idleness on the Sunday and doing mischief from beating the fields and destroying hedges, but very few colliers care much about it. If the Government established day schools it would do some good, That is, if parents would send their children but I do not think they would unless they were obliged.

Before entering the pits some few children attend day schools but they are of the most inefficient and ordinary kinds and presided over by some goodly dame of the village. The education therefore does not extend beyond spelling and "Reading made Easy." No provision of any sort is made for religious instruction or moral training neither are there any means imparted to the girls for acquiring habits of modesty, prudence, domestic economy or forethought.

On Sundays there are schools in abundance in every village but their paramount efforts appear to be directed at the assemblage of the greatest number of pupils by holding out all sorts of temptations and inducements in the shape of jubilees, tea parties and the like with the view of proselytising to their own peculiar doctrines. At all events, the profaneness and almost mental imbecility of the youthful population would lead me to the conclusion that there is great want of system, order and competence both in respect of secular and religious instruction throughout the whole district of the coal field.

Girls from five to eighteen perform all the works of boys. There is no distinction whatever in their coming up the shaft or going down, in the mode of hurrying or thrusting, in the weights of the corves or in the distances they are hurried, in wages or dress, Indeed it is impossible to distinguish, either in the darkness of the gates in which they labour, or in the cabins before the broad light of day, an atom of difference between one sex and the other.

They are to be found alike vulgar in manner and obscene in language but who can feel surprise at their debased condition when they are known to be constantly associated and associated only, with men and boys living and labouring in a state of disgusting nakedness and brutality while they have themselves no other garment than a ragged shift or in the absence of that a pair of broken trousers to cover their persons?

It is not my intention to indulge in any display of fine feelings in direction your attention to their employment in these dens of darkness but I should be a traitor to my countrymen if I did not by every means in my power attempt to excite in you and through you, a desire to rescue them from a state of moral degradation and suffering to which they are doomed and that too to may be affirmed much against their inclination.

In almost every instance I have found that their introduction has been compelled either by avarice or improvidence of their parents who as colliers receive better wages than most other labourers and they will work and are less liable to the fluctuations of prices of what they do.

Susan Pitchforth (No.10) says:-

I would rather set cards or do anything than work in a pit. I have one sister going of 14 and she works with me.

Fig. 10



The father of these children was a middle aged man who sat smoking his pipe in the cabin whilst I was taking their examinations.

Margaret Gomley (No.9) says:-

I would rather set cards at 5d. a day than work in a pit.

Patience Kershaw (No.26) says:-

I wear a belt and chain at the workings to get the curves out. The getters are naked, excepting their caps. They pull off all their clothes. I see them at work when I go up. They sometimes beat me if I am not quick enough, with their hands. They strike me on my back. The boys take liberties with me sometimes. They pull me about. I am the *only girl* in the pit, There are 20 boys and 15 men. All the men are naked. I would rather work in the mill than the coal pit.

A deplorable object, barely removed from idiocy. Her family receiving £2 19s. 6d. per week.

Ester Craven (No.75.) says:-

I have cried a time afore now from coming into pit but I have got used to it and think nought about being brayed by the getters a bit.

Mary Barrett (No.72) says:-

I do not like working in the pit but I am obliged to get a living. I work without stockings or shoes or trousers. I wear nothing but a shift.

Ruth Barrett (No.73), her sister says:-

I come down into the pit workings in lining of old trousers which I take off. I wear an old waistcoat and shift. I do not like working in the pit. I would not do it if I could help it.

Selina Ambler (No.79) says:-

I wear breeches shirt and nothing else.

But the colliers themselves, almost to a man, condemn the practice of introducing girls.

John Hepworth (No.16) says:-

I do not think it a proper occupation for them. They are not so strong as boys. It “mashes them up.” It is also very indecent that they should work in pits but parents cannot support them without.

Samuel Well (No.27) says:-

We have no girls in our pit. I should be sorry to see them there because it is unnatural, indecent and uncalled for. I would under no circumstances have a daughter of my own there.

Mr. John Ambler, (No.60), an individual who has taken an active interest in the welfare of factory children in Halifax states:-

I have been a resident of Halifax and Ovenden 30 years and have always taken an interest in Sunday School education. I am therefore capable of forming an opinion as to the comparative difference of the several classes of young labourers and am fully convinced that the young miners are the most ignorant and profane of all others. The consequence of girls working in the pits is that they turn out deplorably bad in after life. I have known some whose characters have been worse than the worst. They make bad wives, inasmuch as they appear degraded and dejected creatures and bring up their children in a state of ignorance and depravity in which they lived before them. I know enough of the children employed in factories to be enabled to say that there is a striking difference between them and miners and that morally the latter are incomparably worse.

Mr. John Sharp, the steward of Bowling states:-

We have no girls on the establishment. We would not allow of it by any means. It would be wrong to do so because they would frequently have to mix with the men naked. It is, in fact, not their labour and ought to be entirely prohibited.

The estimation of the sex has ever been held a test of the civilisation of a people. Shall it be said that in the very heart of our own country, from which missions are daily sent to teach God's law, and million upon millions have been generously poured forth for the manumission of hosts on a distant lane, that there shall exist a state of society in which hundreds of young girls are sacrificed to such shameless indecencies, filthy abominations and cruel slavery as is found to exist in our coal pits? Chained, belted, harnessed like dogs in a go cart, black, saturated with wet and more than half naked, crawling upon their hands and knees and dragging heavy loads behind them, they represent an appearance indescribably disgusting and unnatural.

The practice is also condemned by proprietors and this lead me to the consideration of the absolute indifference too frequently manifested by that class of persons whose care would be bestowed upon the improvement of the youthful population rising up about them. In proof of which it is only necessary to refer you to the evidence of Mr. Emmet and Mr. Rawson, junior, whose desire we to make known to me that they knew nothing, literally nothing, about them. It was enough that they aid the “getter” so much per ton or dozen who found the children. As to the time when children came to work in the morning or left in the evening, whether they stopped to eat a meal or had any at all, whether they were educated or debased, they professed to be profoundly ignorant and appeared to attach to themselves neither responsibility or care so long as they enjoyed the comforts and affluence that their daily toil brought them.

I met occasionally some girls that were the daughters of hand loom weavers, spinner and combers. Their presence led me to inquire into the circumstances that induced them to follow an occupation so dissimilar to anything they must have been accustomed to without having brothers or fathers to protect them from ill usage. With this view I paid a visit to a number of families in the neighbourhood of the collieries and elicited from them an account of their several incomes and expenditures and took an inventory of the goods and chattels of which they were possessed and the accompanying tables (Appendix A) being a faithful record. Their houses are generally well built of respectable exterior forming a great contrast to their appearance within. They consist of two rooms, without back let or garden. The first being used for all purposes and the one above for looms and a sleeping apartment in which the old and, males and females, were crowded indiscriminately together with rarely a bed to lie on or blanket to cover them being ample testimony of extreme want and wretchedness.

By the tables referred to it will appear that the weekly means of ten families taken indiscriminately from amongst the inhabitants of the villages near the collieries amount to £11 4s. 6d., which divided by 77. The number of individuals included, gives to each $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. per diem for rent, clothing and subsistence. Payments for medicines, medical attendance and schooling being altogether out of the question.

In closing this Report I beg to say that I have endeavoured as far as practicable to follow the instructions address to the Sub-Commissioners, carefully avoiding remarks upon isolated statements with the view of creating undue prejudices.

In my progress through the collieries I have made no selection of persons or parties, masters, men, young persons, and children, each and all have received my best attention. If they therefore (having ample opportunities) have hesitated in making me the humble instrument of recording their grievances, the fault is theirs and not mine.

My best thanks are due to Mr. James Holroyd, the certifying surgeon of Halifax (whose persevering and zealous services in the cause of the factory children deserves high commendation) for the unremitting attention and assistance both he and his good father rendered to me during my stay in the town, as also to the several coal proprietors whose works I visited.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

S.S. SCRIVEN. Sub-Com.

*9, Park Place,
Gloucester Gate,
Regent's Park.*

APPENDIX to Mr. Scriven's Report on the Collieries in the West Riding of Yorkshire

Appendix A

No. 1.—TABLE showing the AGE, HEIGHT, and CIRCUMFERENCE, EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION, and PHYSICAL CONDITION of ONE HUNDRED and TWENTY-FOUR HURRIERS Employed in the Low Moor Company's Coal Pits, Bradford.

Name.	Age.	Height.	Circumference.	Physical Condition.	Can Read.	Can Write	How Employed.	Time employed.	Where Employed.
	Yrs. Mo.	Ft. In.	Ft. In.					Yrs. Mo.	
Laycock, John	9 6	3 10	2 4	Muscular . .	no	no	Hurrier	1 2	Engine Pit, depth
Laycock, William	12 8	4 1½	2 2	„ . .	„	„	„	2 2	
Ellis, Joseph	9 8	4 2½	2 1	„ . .	yes	„	„	1 1	
Best, William	11 6	4 2½	2 2	At par . . .	no	„	„	2 0	
Burnett, George	17 0	5 2	2 8	Very muscular	„	„	„	7 0	
Sugden, Francis	17 8	4 7	2 5	„ . .	„	„	„	6 0	
Dickenson, Peter	10 0	3 11	2 0	At par . . .	„	„	„	3 0	
Brook, Joseph	17 7	4 1½	2 1	Muscular . .	„	„	„	6 0	
Emmett, John	14 6	4 4	2 1½	„ . .	„	„	„	3 0	
Toadorf, Joseph	15 7	4 6½	2 5	Very muscular	„	„	„	4 0	
Varley, Abraham	11 0	4 1½	2 2½	Muscular . .	„	„	„	4 0	