

GS398

GENERAL
AND
SPECIAL RULES
FOR THE
Conduct and Guidance of the Persons acting in the Management
OF THE
SEATON DELAVAL COAL MINE
OR COLLIERY.
BELONGING TO
MESSRS. LAMB, BURDON & CO.,
AND OF ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN OR ABOUT THE SAME.



Newcastle-upon-Tyne :
PRINTED BY M. & M. W. LAMBERT, GREY STREET.
1861.

1872

1872

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS

GENERAL RULES.

To be observed in every Colliery or Coal Mine and Ironstone Mine, by the Owners and Agents thereof, as required by the 23rd & 24th Vic., cap. 151, sec. 10.

1.—An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in all coal mines or collieries and iron stone mines to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the pits, levels, and workings of every such colliery and mine, and the travelling roads to and from such working-places, shall, under ordinary circumstances, be in a fit state for working and passing therein.

2.—All entrances to any place not in actual course of working and extension, and suspected to contain dangerous gas of any kind, shall be properly fenced off so as to prevent access thereto.

3.—Whenever safety lamps are required to be used, they shall be first examined and securely locked by a person or persons duly authorized for this purpose.

4.—Every shaft or pit which is out of use, or used only as an air-pit, shall be securely fenced.

5.—Every working and pumping pit or shaft shall be properly fenced, when operations shall have ceased or been suspended.

6.—Every working and pumping pit or shaft where the natural strata, under ordinary circumstances, are not safe, shall be securely cased or lined, or otherwise made secure.

7.—Every working pit or shaft shall be provided with some proper means of communicating distinct and definite signals from the bottom of the shaft to the surface, and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft.

8.—All underground self-acting and engine planes on which persons travel are to be provided with some proper means of signalling between the stopping-places and the ends of the planes, and with sufficient places of refuge at the sides of such planes at intervals of not more than twenty yards.

9.—A sufficient cover overhead shall be used when lowering or raising persons in every working pit or shaft where required by the inspectors.

10.—No single-linked chain shall be used for lowering or raising persons in any working pit or shaft, except the short coupling chain attached to the cage or load.

11.—Flanges or horns of sufficient length or diameter shall be attached to the drum of every machine used for lowering or raising persons.

12.—A proper indicator to show the position of the load in the pit or shaft, and also an adequate break, shall be attached to every machine, worked by steam or water power, used for lowering or raising persons.

13.—Every steam boiler shall be provided with a proper steam guage, water guage, and safety valve.

14.—The fly wheel of every engine shall be securely fenced.

15.—Sufficient bore holes shall be kept in advance and, if necessary, on both sides to prevent inundation, in every working approaching a place likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water.

SPECIAL RULES.

1. In every part of the said Colliery, where the pillar working or broken is in operation, Stations will be fixed upon by the Viewer, where each Workman's Safety Lamp will be examined and securely locked.

From those stations no Workman is to take a Safety Lamp for use in the pillar working or broken, without its having been examined and securely locked by the Overman, Inspector, or Deputy.

The Overman and Inspectors to have full power to direct the Workmen how to use their Safety Lamps during the time of working; and it is particularly enjoined that every Workman strictly attend to such directions. No lamp to be used on which there is not a tin shield. None but the Overman, or similar Officer in authority, to be allowed to carry a lamp key.

2. Should any accident happen to a Lamp whilst in use, by which the oil is spilt upon the gauze, or it be in any other way rendered unsafe, the light to be immediately extinguished by drawing the wick down within the tube with the pricker; such Lamp to be directly taken out to the station where the Lamps are examined, and not to be again used until after having been properly examined by the Overman, or other responsible person, on the in-by side of which station towards the broken workings, no candles are to be taken.

3. Should any Workman using a Safety Lamp, detect, by the usual indications, the appearance or presence of fire-damp, he is first to pull down the wick with the pricker, as before-mentioned, and then to retreat to the Lamp Station and give information of the same to the nearest responsible person, it being strictly forbidden for any Workman to continue to work in a place where such indication has been observed by him; and should the flame continue in the interior of the Lamp after the wick has been drawn down, the Lamp then to be cautiously removed, and no attempt whatever to extinguish the flame by any other means to be adopted by the Workman.

4. Every Hewer, Putter, or other person, to whom a Safety Lamp is intrusted, is hereby strictly prohibited from interfering in any way whatever with the Lamp, beyond the necessary trimming of the wick with the pricker. The Lamp in no case to be hung upon the row of props next the goaf or old work, and not to be nearer the swing of the gear, on any occasion, than two feet.

5. Should any Hewer, Putter, or any other person whatever, in charge of a Safety Lamp, in any case lose his light, he is to take it himself to the station where the Lamps are examined, to be relighted, examined, and locked by the Overman, or some other responsible person, before being again used.

6. It is expressly directed that any person witnessing any improper treatment of the Safety Lamps by any one, shall give immediate information to the Overman in charge of the Pit, so that a recurrence of such conduct may be prevented, by the offending party being brought to justice.

7. Any person found smoking tobacco in any part of the said colliery where the Safety Lamp is used, or a tobacco pipe found in their possession, will be liable to be taken before a Magistrate. No matches, under any pretence whatever, to be taken down the pit.

8. No Putter, Pony-driver, Helper-up, or other person, is, under any pretext, to carry a Lamp during his work, except in special cases, where the parties have leave to do so from the Viewer. Lamps will be hung along the going-roads, to afford sufficient light for the performance of the work.

9. Every person using a Safety Lamp to receive the bottom part of the same himself from the hands of the Lamp Keeper then in the pit. The gauze to be taken home at the end of each shift, by the person using it, for the purpose of having it properly cleaned before being again used.

10. Any person acting contrary to the above instructions will be liable to be taken before a Magistrate, in order that the lives of the Workmen employed therein may be duly protected. And any person informing against any offending party or parties will, in every case, be handsomely rewarded. No riding on loaded Cages except under special arrangement. Signals, see Act of Parliament.

11. The Hewer that keeps his Safety Lamp in the best order for a quarter of a year, will be entitled to a premium of 5s.; and for the second best 2s. 6d. The Putter to be entitled to 2s. 6d. for the same length of time.

OFFICERS' DUTIES.

OVERMEN.

THE Fore Overman to give all necessary instructions to the Men and Boys in the pit respecting their work, and to see daily that due respect is paid by the same to the Rules and Regulations in force upon the colliery. To visit every working place at least once a day, commencing at the starting of the pit. To examine daily all the various air currents of the colliery, also all stoppings and air brattices connected with the same; and should any deficiency in the main or separate air currents at any time be observed, notice of such deficiency to be immediately given to the Resident Viewer. Also, in the event of any sudden discharge, accumulation, or indication of inflammable gas in any part of the workings, the same to be immediately reported to him, such workings to cease working until the said gas be removed.

The Overman in the meantime, to the best of his judgment, to adopt such means as will effect the same. To examine carefully each day, with the Safety Lamp, the edge of all the goaves in the broken workings, and to see that due attention is paid to the Lamps by the Men whilst at work, giving them at all times suitable directions respecting them, according to the situation in which they are placed.

To see that a sufficient quantity of timber, of all requisite sizes, is daily supplied to the workings, such being the earnest wish of the Owners, so that every possible

protection may be afforded to the lives of their Workmen, it being at the same time their particular desire that a proper care of all materials should be taken, and none whatever, on any occasion, wilfully wasted.

To see that all tramways and rolleyways are kept in a safe and working state throughout the colliery.

The Safety Lamp to be used whilst examining all workings; also any old or suspended workings.

To examine first thing every morning the state of the barometer, it being provided for the purpose of shewing when the presence of inflammable gas may, more or less, be expected, and particularly at the edge of the goaves in the broken workings.

To see the Resident Viewer every night after the pit has ceased work, and report to him the general state of the workings of the colliery and to receive directions respecting the same.

BACK OVERMAN.

The Back Overman to have full charge of the pit in the absence of the Fore Overman, exercising in everything the same authority and attention as the Fore Overman whilst in the pit.

To report to the Fore Overman every night the state of the pit, and what may have transpired through the day, whether of a usual or unusual nature. Not to leave the pit at night till all the day-shift men and Lads have ridden, and to examine the main air currents and the barometer last thing every night before leaving the pit.

DEPUTIES.

The Deputies to go down the pit every morning two hours before the Men, for the purpose of examining the state of the workings previous to the Men going in. To examine the state of the barometer, first thing, at the bottom of the shaft. The face of every working

place to be carefully examined, and on every occasion with the Safety Lamp.

To have full charge of the workings; also control over the Men and Lads in their respective districts, in the absence of the Overman. At all times to report to the Overman in the pit any deficiency that may be detected in the ventilation, also all appearances of danger from any other cause. To examine frequently through the day the condition of the edge of the goaves in the working juds, and should inflammable gas at any time be observed, the working of the jud to be immediately stopped until the gas has been cleared away—giving notice of such immediately to the Overman in the pit. To put in, on all occasions, a sufficient quantity of timber in every working place, putting in the same in the best possible manner, for affording the greatest Safety to the Workmen therein employed. The Safety Lamps always to be used whilst drawing props, both in the whole and in the broken workings. The Fore-shift Deputies to see the Fore Overman the last thing every night, and the Back-shift Deputies to see him every morning in the pit, both for the purpose of receiving instructions relative to the workings of their various districts.

MASTER WASTEMEN.

The Master Wasteman to go down the pit every morning two hours before the Hewers. To examine first thing the state of the barometer, and next the principal intake air currents. To examine in the course of the day all the various return air currents.

To see that all the working returns are kept properly open and of a sufficient size, none of which is to be under 60 feet area where the whole pit's air is in a single current, 70 feet area for two, and 80 feet where the current has three distinct air courses. The Safety Lamps, on all occasions, to be used in the waste, all of which must be examined by the Master Wasteman before being used.

All doors separating the fresh and return air current, to be fit up with proper locks, which must be kept constantly locked, and only opened by persons authorised by the Resident Viewer. To see that proper attention is paid to the furnaces or steam jets. To report daily to the Resident Viewer the general state of the waste, also to give to the Overmen any information they may at any time require respecting the same. The Overmen and the Deputies to travel with the Master Wasteman the whole of the air courses, at least once every three months, in order to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the same.

LAMP KEEPERS.

The Lamp Keepers to keep in a clean and orderly manner the bottom part of each man's Safety Lamp, and to supply the same daily with a sufficient quantity of oil and wick. To keep a correct account of who receives the Lamps, and to report to the Overman every man who in any way injures his Lamp; also, those who return their Lamps by any other person to the Lamp Cabin after being done with the same. To see that no oil, wick, or anything connected with the Lamp is wasted. To allow no Lamp bottom to go out for use that is the least out of repair. Any man persisting to take it, to report him immediately to the Overman in the pit.

ONSETTERS.

The Onsetters to allow no person to ride, during work hours, without having sent to bank the token, as a signal for such, on the previous cage. Not to allow more than 8 men, or 6 men and 4 lads, to ride at one time, and on every occasion the tubs to be taken out of the cage. To allow every person sufficient time for getting safely into the cage, before rapping away. To have a stated number of raps, which must be three when Men are going to ride. Two Onsetters to remain at the bottom of the pit after the pit has done work, to

see that all the Men and Lads are safely sent away. To work the rapper themselves, and on no account to allow any other person to touch it. To assist in repairing the shaft, taking charge of the rapper on every occasion—to pay the same every possible care and attention. Having a clear and distinct understanding with the Men employed in the shaft and the Banksman, in order that accidents may be avoided.

BANKSMEN.

A Banksman to attend at the top of the pit, every morning, to see that the men and lads are sent safely down the pit and that not more than the specified number descend at one time in a cage. To give the directions to the brakesman when all is right, and to tell him that men are in the cage, and to tell him also when men are going to ride. To request the men, when going down the pit, in the absence of the on-setters, to rap one after having got safely out of the cage. To examine the pit ropes frequently through the day, and last thing every night. To examine also the cage chains, and cages, and on every occasion when any apparent deficiency in the ropes, chains, or cages, is observed by them, to report the same immediately to the colliery engineer. Never to allow during work hours, when men are going to ride, any man to take his picks, drills or any other gear, down the pit in the cage with him, but to see that such are sent down in the tubs.

BRAKESMEN.

A brakesman to be constantly in attendance at the machine, the good and safe working order of which he must at all times attend to. Not to leave the handles when men are riding in the shaft, or working in the shaft.

Not to lift the cage from the bottom when men are going to ride, without being told to do so by the banks-

man, being, at the same time, certain himself that the regular number of raps for such have been given by the onsetters.

To report any deficiency of the machine immediately to the engineer, which, if considered of a serious nature by him, to stand until repaired. On all occasions to let down and draw the workmen with the greatest possible care.

ENGINEER.

The engineer to inspect first every morning and occasionally through the day, with a view to its proper working state, all the machinery and its appendages in use upon the colliery. To examine also, at least twice a day, the pit ropes and cages; also the chains belonging to the same, the renewing and repairs of which at all times to be according to his directions, and in every respect to his entire satisfaction, both in the joiners and smiths' department. To inspect and direct also, at all times, the repairs both of the engine and coal shafts; for which repairs, on all occasions, the best of materials to be used. The repairs of the coal waggons and coal tubs to be inspected by him, and done also to his entire satisfaction. A book to be kept by him, in which must be noted all particulars relative to the repairs or improvements suggested by him in the aforesaid machinery, its appendages, ropes, cages, chains, &c.; and in the event of any deficiency in any parts of the said machinery, ropes, &c., occurring at any time, the same to be by him immediately reported to the colliery officer, adopting at the earliest opportunity such means as will, to the best of his judgment, remedy the said deficiency. To see that all chains connected with the pit ropes and cages are annealed, or put through the fire at least once a month; and no riding permitted till all is in repair.

MINES INSPECTION ACT.

That the wages of each and every person shall be paid to him or his authorised representative, in money,

at the Colliery Office at Seaton Delaval, such Office, not being contiguous to any house where spirits, wine, beer, or other spirituous liquors are sold.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Any person observing any door standing open that ought to be shut, or stoppings injured, or brattice knocked down or broken, or any other thing, whereby the ventilation of the mine may be deranged or obstructed, is immediately to inform the Overman or Deputy, or other officer then in charge of the pit, so that it may, with as little delay as possible, be remedied.

No Hewer to commence working in any place until it has first been inspected by the Overman or Deputy, or some other authorised person.

No Workman to commence or continue to work in any place where he may consider the timber insufficient to support the roof of the mine, or any other cause that may render the place unsafe, until it is put right by the Deputy or other person in charge.

Any person wilfully or negligently injuring any Safety Lamp, or in any way obstructing or deranging the ventilation of the pit, or breaking any of the Regulations or Rules, shall be immediately discharged from his employment, or, at the option of the owners of the colliery, be prosecuted according to law.

LASTLY.

It is the particular desire of the owners and principal agents of the colliery, that the various officers, whose duties have been enumerated, will, at all times, report to the proper authorities every individual case of neglect or wilful disobeying of the rules and cautions herein set forth, in order that the safe and proper working of the colliery may be duly maintained.

PENALTIES UNDER THE ACT.

ANY Owner, or principal Agent, or Viewer, neglecting, or wilfully violating any of the General or Special Rules, which ought to be observed by him, such person shall be liable to a Penalty of not exceeding Twenty Pounds; and to further Penalties, in case the default or neglect be not remedied with all reasonable dispatch after notice in writing thereof given to him by an Inspector of Coal Mines. Penalties are also attached if the Special and General Rules be not painted on a board, or printed upon paper to be pasted thereon, and hung up or affixed in some conspicuous part of the principal office or place of business of the Coal Mine, or Company, and maintained there in a legible state, and a copy supplied to all persons employed in or about the colliery who shall apply for such copy.

Penalties are also attached if proper Plans be not kept up every six months; and if loss of life to any person employed in or about the colliery, or any serious personal injury from explosion, be not within twenty-four hours after loss of life, reported to the Secretary of State, and to the Inspector of Coal Mines for the district in which the colliery is situate, every person (other than the Owner or principal Manager) employed in or about a coal mine or colliery who neglects or wilfully violates any of the Special Rules, established for such coal mine or colliery, shall, for every offence, be liable to a penalty not exceeding Two Pounds, or to

be imprisoned with or without hard labour in the common Gaol or House of Correction, not exceeding Three Calendar Months; and every person who pulls down, injures, or defaces any Notice hung or affixed as required by the Act for the Inspection of Coal Mines (23 and 24 Victoria, Chap. 151) shall, for every such offence, be liable to a Penalty of not exceeding Forty Shillings.

Any person wilfully obstructing an Inspector in carrying out the Act, shall, for every such offence, be liable to a Penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds.