

DEAR SIR,—

Denniston, 22nd July, 1890.

According to instructions that we have received from the secretary of the A.M.L. Association *re* the increase of more miners and the increase of the output, this is to request you not to employ any more miners pending the Brunner dispute; and we will take the average number of days we have worked per week for the last six months, and also the average tonnage that has come out of the mine per week for the last six months, and we intend to work accordingly to what the average gives, pending the Brunner dispute, as we will call a general meeting of our members for to-morrow at 11 o'clock a.m., and if you have any communication to put before them on this question it will receive careful consideration.

PS.—We do not intend to take any action in reference to you re-employing the men that you have discharged within the last two weeks.

I have, &c.,

W. TORRANCE,
Miners' Secretary.

Thomas Brown, Esq., Manager.

DEAR SIR,—

The Westport Coal Company (Limited), Westport, 23rd July, 1890.

In reference to your letter of yesterday's date, will you kindly defer consideration of limiting output until to-morrow.

Yours, &c.,

THOMAS BROWN,
Mine-manager.

The Secretary, Miners' Association, Denniston.

DEAR SIR,—

The Westport Coal Company (Limited), Denniston, 23rd July, 1890.

In reply to yours of this date in reference to limiting the output: We do not intend to limit it, but we must take our instructions from the executive of the A.M.L. Association, and I fail to see where we would be putting a limit on by giving you the average that you have had for the previous six months. But I am of the opinion that the committee would consider the days that the mine has been idle through breakages in connection with the works. But an average we are compelled to carry out during the Brunner dispute, and as soon as we have the average number of days and tons per week drawn out we will supply you with a copy of the same. I may also inform you that there was a resolution passed, at a general meeting on the 5th July, to the following effect: that when a member dies the members of this Association will remain idle on the day of his funeral: so James Hazeldine's funeral will take place on Friday, the 25th instant.

Yours, &c.,

W. TORRANCE,
Miners' Secretary.

Thomas Brown, Esq., Manager, Westport Coal Company.

DEAR SIR,—

The Westport Coal Company (Limited), Westport, 26th July, 1890.

Referring to the question of your Association restricting the output to the same as last six months, I beg to submit a copy of reply from the company's managing engineer.

You may not be aware that one of your committeemen—viz., John Allen—went into the mine, after your last meeting, and instructed Mr. Harris, the overman, that he was not to put any person on to fill loose coal in the mine. Kindly intimate to me, at your earliest, whether he was acting from instructions issued by your Association or otherwise. Unless this resolution be rescinded to-day I will give orders to the weighman to book the actual weight only that passes over the weighbridge, and will not pay the average for boxes that may have been tipped up.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS BROWN,
Mine-manager.

The Secretary, Miners' Association, Denniston.

(Enclosure.)

DEAR SIR,—

The Westport Coal Company (Limited), Westport, 25th July, 1890.

In reply to your communication of this day, I beg of you to inform the Denniston Miners' Association that—

1. The company cannot submit to any reduction of the output, or to waive their right to engage more hands if required, as during the winter months the demand is always better than in summer;
2. The company cannot relinquish the right to fill loose coal in the mine, and cannot pay the same for filling as for coal that needs preparation;
3. Any person interfering with the Mine-manager's instructions, or giving orders to workmen on the works without his instructions, will be liable to instant dismissal, be the consequences what they may.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS J. WATERS,
Managing Engineer.

The Mine-manager, Coalbrookdale.

DEAR SIR,—

Denniston, 29th July, 1890.

I here forward to you the average that has been taken for the last six months; and, according to this, the miners will only require to work nine days per fortnight, but owing to us only working eight shifts last week we will work ten shifts this week. So this is to notify you that the miners will be idle on Saturday, 2nd August, if the Brunner dispute remains unsettled to this date.

I have, &c.,

W. TORRANCE,
Secretary.

Thomas Brown, Esq., Manager.