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Seend Iron Works

Seend Iron Works Saga

1856

The newly discovered iron fields at Seend promise to produce far greater and more lucrative results than were at first anticipated. Ore has been proved to exist to a very considerable depth, and of a quality far superior to any which is found either in South Wales or Staffordshire. A large number of hands is about to be put on by two companies which have undertaken to work the mines, and a tramway is said to be already in course of formation from them to the canal.

The Mining Journal of Saturday last speaking of the discovery says:- "The mines are situated at the village of Seend, three miles from Melksham, and are bounded by the Kennett and Avon Canal to which a tramway is now laid. They are called "The Champion Ore Mines", and extend over 200 acres. The ore had been proved in depth to 30 feet, with every prospect of its being deeper. The supply is inexhaustible, and contains 46 percent of peroxide of iron, and free from sulphur. Large quantities are being used at the Tredegar works, and from its favourable position it will command a ready sale in South Wales and Staffordshire."

The Morning Post of Monday also alludes to the discovery. "It is stated (says a correspondent in that paper writing from Staffordshire) that a new field of iron ore has been found in Wiltshire, and should that be the case, a new access to that part of the country from South Staffordshire by the Great Western Railway is rendered easy, if not complete, important benefits in all probability will accrue to the trade of the district. At the present time immense quantities of iron stone are brought from the extreme north of England at charges much complained of by the iron-masters: supplies from the west which are now promised may have the effect of curing this evil."

The field in which the valuable discovery has been made is situated close to the Bell Inn on the Melksham side of Seend. Should the favourable anticipations which have been formed respecting it be realised, important results will accrue to the neighbourhood.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 13 December 1856

1857

The mineral treasures recently discovered at Seend, prove to exist to a far greater extent than at first anticipated. The whole of the village is situated on an outlier of the lower green sand, and it appears that the greater portion of this stratum consists of a ferruginous sandstone, more or less rich in peroxide of iron, yielding in some cases as much as 50 percent of pure metal.

Mr Holloway, of Christchurch, a gentleman largely engaged in the iron ore trade, who purchased a piece of ground near the Bell Inn, Seend, has already extracted 1000 tons of ore, which have been sent into Wales for smelting.

Mr Parker, of London, a connexion of Mr Sarl, the well-known silversmith of Cornhill, has recently purchased several fields, and is at present constructing a tramway from the pits to the canal (a distance of about half a mile), which is expected to be in full operation in the course of two or three months.

In order to afford encouragement to the works the Canal company have considerably reduced their tariff upon the tonnage of the ore. There is not the slightest symptom of the existence of coal in the iron fields at Seend.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 3 January 1857

To Barge Owners & Others.

Wanted estimates for the conveyance of 1000 tons per week of Iron Ore from Seend, Wiltshire, to Worcester and Wolverhampton.

Address J G Parker, Esq, Seend, Wiltshire.

Bristol Mercury Saturday 24 January 1857

We are sorry to hear that the ore sent from those mines to Wales has not realised the expectations of the exporters. In fact we have it on the best authority that, notwithstanding an advance in iron of nearly 30 per cent has taken place since the first contract was entered into by the smelters in Wales, which was we understand at 12s 6d per ton delivered to Newport, they will not now purchase at more than 9s per ton, and are very indifferent as to purchasing even on these low terms. It seems this ore is not well adapted for smelting with the Welsh ores.

Other destinations we believe are now being sought for the Seend iron stone. We have heard Staffordshire named; but the distance, coupled with its being nearly all land carriage, will we fear, leave no margin for profit by sending it there.

The statements which have recently appeared in several weekly papers that several furnaces were to be erected forthwith at Seend are too ridiculous to be believed by persons having the slightest knowledge of the iron trade. Should the present order of things be reversed and instead of requiring several tons of coal to smelt one ton of iron, one ton of the former should prove sufficient for smelting several tons of the latter – then and not till then will there be the slightest chance of seeing smelting furnaces in this neighbourhood.

Equally absurd and foolish stories too have been of late promulgated that coal lies under this district. An anecdote has been related to us as having occurred at Poulshot a short time since, at which place there is a field called "Coal Pit Heath". Some gentlemen upon visiting the spot in question, and eliciting all the information they could, were gravely informed that just 85 years ago a shaft was sunk and to the infinite pleasure of the explorers a beautiful bed of coal was met with: - that this delightful news spread like

wildfire, and that during the night a whole regiment of colliers came up from Radstock and fill the shaft completely up to the surface, and gave strict instructions that it should be never again opened, and that this was the reason of its now being closed; and (gravely said the informant) “ It is as true as the Gospel; and old John - , now living in the village (a witness to the fact) will tell you the same”.

We feel it to be our duty to call attention to those absurd rumours to prevent idle and ruinous speculations. High prices, we understand, have been offered for land at Seend. These things generally take place upon the announcement of mines having been discovered. The whole neighbourhood is to be rolling in riches. The mania subsides: excitement dies away: hundreds are ruined: and the old order of things returns. This we believe will be found to be the case at Seend, and fortunate are those who have already disposed of their land in that neighbourhood. To those who have not, our advice is – sell- “strike the iron while it is hot”.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 29 January 1857

The discoveries of iron in the neighbourhood of Seend, Wiltshire, go on and several furnaces are about to be erected at once. Various persons are testifying their belief in the value of these discoveries by offering fabulous prices for land at Seend and the neighbourhood. The Duke of Somerset and the trustees of the late Mr Ludlow Bruges own about half the land at Seend where the richest ore is found.

Sherborne Mercury Tuesday 3 February 1857

On Monday last. As several men were engaged in undermining at the Seend Iron Works, a founder of the earth took place, burying the whole of them beneath it. One poor fellow was so much injured as to be obliged to be sent to the Bath Infirmary: the others were not seriously hurt.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 25 June 1857

Great Western Iron Ore, Smelting, and Coal Company.

A company under the above title has been formed for the purpose of converting into actual metal (by means of blast furnaces to be erected upon the spot) the rich iron ore which has, within the last twelve months, been found to exist in such abundance at Seend, near this town.

A meeting of about 20 gentlemen favourable to the undertaking was held at the Bear Hotel on Saturday last; and so satisfied are they that the project is capable of yielding a large profit, that the whole of the £50,000 was at once subscribed, and the share list closed. The undertaking is to be worked in connection with a large coal field at Ruabon. There can be no doubt that the establishment of these works at Seend will not only open a considerable field for remunerative labour, but cause a very large amount of capital to be circulated in the neighbourhood.

Royal Cornwall Gazette Friday 4 December 1857

1858

A fine specimen of iron (in the shape of an immense pig) made from the ore extracted from the Seend quarries, was exhibited in our (Devizes) market today. We are informed that the quality of the iron made from this ore far exceeds the most sanguine expectations originally formed by the promoters of the undertaking.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 13 March 1858

Great Western Iron Company.

We understand that the preliminary proceedings for the registration of this Company are now finished, and that at a meeting of the shareholders, held at the Bear Inn, Devizes, on Tuesday last, the Articles of Association were signed, and that the company will be registered forthwith; and we hear that the erection of blast furnaces, both at Seend and Ruabon will be actively prosecuted so as to get them into blast in the course of the ensuing autumn.

Our readers will remember our stating that this company had taken the lease of a valuable coal and iron stone field at Ruabon, in North Wales, the coal of which is particularly well adapted for smelting purposes, and this will be conveyed to the Seend furnaces under a favourable traffic arrangement with the Great Western Railway Company, and a corresponding quantity of the Wiltshire ores will be taken, as back carriage, to Ruabon to mix with the clay iron stone of that district. The company anticipate the production of a superior description of pig iron from the mixture of the two ores. In fact the quality of iron which similar ores to that of the Seend Hill will produce is clearly shown by referring to the high value of the produce of the Cleveland districts of the North, as a first class production; to attain the same success. The supply of ore at Seend is immense, and from small samples smelted in Mr Brotherhood's factory at Chippenham, furnishes a remarkably pure metal, and we hear that on a larger scale the quality of the pig iron is very satisfactory.

We may congratulate the promoters of this and the Westbury Company, in having so successfully brought their energies to bear on a new branch of Wiltshire industry, which we hope may prove remunerative to themselves, as it will be beneficial to the county. To facilitate the transit of ore from the mines at Seend, the Messrs Sarl are constructing a railway to connect their works with the Great Western Railway; this, and the Kennet and Avon Canal, which forms the boundary of the fields on which the furnaces are to be erected, will afford unusually easy means of access both to the furnaces and iron mines, and will greatly facilitate the transit of the raw material and manufactured articles both ways.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 17 April 1858

The New Smelting Works at Westbury

Yesterday being the day appointed to commence the operations of this important undertaking, the Directors and their friends met at the Works at two o'clock pm.....

The scene at the works was very imposing;- the substantial building, the splendid machinery, the nice and critical arrangement of every department, added to the bustle of the trains passing at the time....

We sincerely hope that the expectations which are entertained of the success of the undertaking will be realised, and that those who have invested their capital in it will reap a large return for their spirited outlay. The result will be a pretty correct index as to the success of similar furnaces which are now in course of construction at Seend.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 15 July 1858

1859

....That the Westbury ore is of a superior description is amply proved by the splendid iron which is now being made at the smelting furnaces near the station. Should Seend ore prove equally valuable – and it is said to be precisely similar – the large furnaces which will be in blast in that locality in the course of the next six weeks, will, we anticipate – notwithstanding all the misgivings which have been expressed –

make a handsome return to those who have been spirited enough to invest their capital in the undertaking.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 29 January 1859

The Great Western Iron Company

Those among our readers who are in the habit of running their eye over our advertising columns have no doubt discovered that the Company which was formed about two years ago for the purpose of converting the rich ore which abounds in the neighbourhood of Seend into iron, has already been forced into the Bankruptcy Court; and that at the very time when two large blast furnaces have been erected upon the spot, and when nearly every appliance, in the way of machinery &c has been completed, for the purpose of realizing the handsome returns which the enterprise promised to those who had embarked their capital in it.

The causes which have led to this unfortunate result will doubtless be made apparent in the course of the ordeal which the affairs of the Company will have to undergo before the Commissioner in Bankruptcy; but we may safely say that the scheme has fallen to the ground, temporarily, from no untoward discovery with regard to the quality of the ore. The same high opinion which was originally formed of the mineral properties of the soil at Seend, and which induced the erection of the furnaces at that place, is still entertained; and there is little doubt that, although the present Company has failed in carrying its object into effect, owing to circumstances which could not have been contemplated, the smelting works at Seend will, sooner or later, be brought into operation, and we trust will ultimately prove remunerative to all who may hereafter be connected with them.

In the meantime, however, the original Company will have to be "wound up" at a most serious sacrifice to all the shareholders; and as a preliminary step in this process, a meeting was held in the Bankruptcy Court at Bristol on Friday last, for the purpose of appointing liquidators and receiving proofs of debts due from the Company....

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 28 July 1859

Great Western (Seend) Iron Company

An adjourned meeting with reference to the winding up of this unfortunate Company took place in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court on Monday last, when the official liquidator announced that he had concluded an arrangement for the sale of the Company's property at Ruabon for £600! Mr Josiah Harris who was instrumental in selling the property, originally, to the Company for something like £10,000 objected that £600 was not its fair value. The property (he said) was worth £1800....

....There is yet, it was stated, some property at Seend to be sold – property which was bought by one of the promoters for £500 and sold to the Company for £2,500.

What it will realize the shareholders will before long learn.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 8 December 1859

1860

....Works: Ironstone mines of Seend – two blast furnaces at Seend; one in blast; make from 130 to 140 tons per week....

(From an article on Iron Stone in Wiltshire)

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 24 May 1860

Quote from "The Wolverhampton Spirit of the Times"

...It would seem that some years ago a small knot of Jews in London got possession of a piece of land, containing, as it was supposed, a considerable amount of mineral wealth, near a village called Sciend (sic) in Wiltshire. With a craftiness, however, proverbial in the race of Israel, they preferred transferring to a public company of "limited liability" the burden of working the unseen treasures of the earth. They, of course, retained a large interest in the way of shares in the concern, and after £80,000 had been expended in the works, plant, tools, &c they contrived, under a clause in the agreement, to swallow up the entire concern. They then turned their attention to the establishment of a new company, the prospectus of which we have now lying before us. It is called "The Sciend Iron Company", the programme of which contemplates the erection of three furnaces, in addition to the two built by the "spificated" shareholders of the former concern. - This prospectus assures the public that the establishment can make iron at fabulously low prices".

How far these remarks may be true, we will not pretend to say. We are told that iron is now being made at Seend at a profit; but the lesson which certain gentlemen in this neighbourhood have learnt from searching after hidden treasures in the parish of Seend, will, we suspect, make them at all events, cautious how they again meddle with iron.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 27 September 1860

In the extract from a Wolverhampton paper, which we inserted a fortnight ago, it was stated that the shareholders of the late Seend Iron Company had expended £80,000 upon the works. We have since found that this is a gross exaggeration – not more than about £25,000 having been expended. Besides other inaccuracies, the paragraph contains personal and offensive allusions, of which we were not aware at the time, or we should not have inserted it.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 11 October 1860

In reference to the paragraph which we inserted a few weeks ago from the Wolverhampton Spirit of the Times, we have authority for saying the Seend Iron Works never belonged to a "knot of Jews" as is there stated; that the Messrs Sarl of Cornhill (who are not and never were Jews) are the principal proprietors, and that the property was never leased to a Company to work. By that the Mess Sarl worked it themselves and contracted to supply the ore to the Great Western Iron Company (which was formed for the purpose of making iron) who agreed with Messrs Sarl to build furnaces on the property, on certain conditions, involving on the part of the latter the expense of their making a railway on the broad gauge from the furnaces to the Great Western line, and incurring a large annual liability for 42 years in obtaining additional land.

In this Company Messrs Sarl never held a share. They built the railway at an outlay of several thousand pounds, and obtained the additional land when the Company failed. This led to legal proceedings between Messrs Sarl and the Company, which were settled by the Company giving up the Works. We understand also that the Messrs Sarl have since completed the furnaces, and are now manufacturing pig iron largely which is sent into Staffordshire.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 18 October 1860

For sale at Seend, near Devizes, Wilts, several good farms upon which are valuable Lodes of Iron, well situated for Carriage, whether by Railway or Canal. - For particulars, apply to Messrs Festing, Maiden Bradley, near Frome, Somerset.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 13 December 1860

1861

Seend Iron Works: Operations will be re-commenced at these works in the very short time., and there is every reason to believe that they will be carried on a much larger scale. Arrangements are being made for the immediate erection of additional furnaces.

Bristol Mercury Saturday 20 July 1861

1862

Locke v The Seend Iron Company and Sarl & Williamson.

The plaintiff in this case is Mr Wadham Locke; the defendants the occupiers of the unfortunate piece of land upon which so much money has already been spent in an attempt to turn the iron ore with which it is said to abound into gold.

Sarl & Williamson, following the example of the original Seend Company, have, it appears, gone to the dogs, and it was now, not to get the money due to him (for £5,000 is not easily obtained under such circumstances), but to get his land once more into his own hands, that Mr Locke brought the present action.....

Two of the leases, however, it appeared, were at present held by a new Seend Iron Company, and these Mr Locke had no wish to interfere with; but as far as regarded Messrs Sarl & Williamson, he wished to have a definite understanding, so far at all events as the possession of his land was concerned.

The case was undefended; and judgment was accordingly obtained without much difficulty – the only process to be gone through being proof that the formal requirements under the leases had been duly observed.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 3 April 1862

The Seend Iron Works are, we hear, likely to pass into the hands of the Westbury Company, if they have not already done so. The terms upon which the transfer is to be made have not transpired; but the Westbury Company are, we believe, very sanguine of success. Their own works have it is said, afforded them a good return upon their capital; and as the Seend ore has always been considered superior to that of Westbury, the profitable working of the Seend furnaces must mainly depend upon their bargain with Mr Locke.

We shall be glad to hear that somebody can work them to advantage. The Company by whom they were originally erected set out with a promise of something like 40 per cent; but before two years had elapsed they handed over the furnaces to the lessor for nothing, and finished off in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court. The next Company, we suspect, did not fare much better.

What the result of the Westbury management will be, we shall be anxious to learn. They go into the undertaking with experience to aid them; and if there really is any chance of a fortune from Seend iron, they, of all others, have it before them.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 20 November 1862

1863

The annual meeting of the Seend Iron Company (Limited) is called for the 28th inst, and will be made special, to consider a proposal for the purchase of the company's land, plant, and other property by the Wiltshire Iron Company (Limited).

Bristol Mercury Saturday 18 July 1863

1864

The Seend Iron Works. - In 1857 these works were started, with a promise of 60 per cent upon the capital embarked. There could be no mistake about it. The only surprise was that those who had lived in the neighbourhood all their lives, with iron ore daily before their eyes, should have remained so long blind to the splendid Eldorado that lay before and around them on every side. Sixty per cent was the very minimum that could be calculated upon; and the "plain unvarnished statement of facts" which the projectors (we use their own words) put forth was so convincing, that to doubt would have been ignorance of a commercial reality unworthy of the 19th century. Besides the projectors had put every doubt against themselves. Disinterested individuals!

And they were backed by such "competent authorities" - that come what would a fortune must be made by those who were lucky enough to seize the golden opportunity. The result everybody knows. About a dozen gentlemen put down about £20,000; somebody else took it up; and before they had even the satisfaction of seeing a puff of smoke issue from their furnaces, they found themselves in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court; from which they were extricated only upon relinquishing all claim to a single farthing of the thousands they had subscribed, and by forfeiting the furnaces which they had erected to Messrs Sarl, the Cornhill silversmiths.

'Twas a dashing affair, and soon over! Less than twelvemonths served to start the scheme; pay down the money - and lose it! Like a railway accident, it was done in a twinkling. Fortunately however there were few bones broken; and those whom it left with a whole skin, from that day determined, it is said, evermore to stick to the motto "ne sutor ultra crepidam". What had become of the affair since, concerns us little to enquire. Recent events, however, testify that all enterprise in the direction of Seend ore was not confined to Wiltshire. To wit, the following advertisement which appeared in the Times a few days ago:-

"The Seend Iron Company (limited). - Notice is hereby given, that an Extraordinary General Meeting of this Company will be held at the offices of Sir Robert Walter Carden, 2 Royal Exchange Buildings, Cornhill, in the City of London, on Thursday the 24th day of March instant, at 12 o'clock at noon, for the following object, viz. To consider a special resolution requiring the Company to be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Joint-Stock Companies Act 1862.

By order *John Overbury*, Secretary. London March 8 1864."

So that, we take it, the promised 60 per cent has not been realized. But the rich ore with which Seend is said to abound still remains - a field of adventure for a third company, which, it is said, has arisen out of the ashes of Company No 2.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 17 March 1864

1866

The Seend Iron Company has again come to grief – this time under the title of “The Wiltshire Iron Company”. How many thousands have been buried in these works since the original Company left their all there 9 years ago, we are not in a position to say. All we know is that another ‘winding up order’ was made in the Vice Chancellor’s Court of Friday last.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 22 November 1866

1867

Last week two men lately employed at the Seend Iron Works, which are now at a stand still till the affairs are wound up, being anxious to return to work, tramped to Bath and consulted an astrologer. The fortune teller pocketed his fee, and then gave the yokels information which sent them away light hearted and expectant, assuring them that when they saw smoke issuing from the chimney top they might make quite sure it was a sign of prosperity to them!

Western Gazette Friday 25 January 1867

Seend iron Works, near Melksham, Wiltshire.

Mr I B Coombs is instructed to sell by auction, on the premises above mentioned, on Wednesday the 27th day of February 1867, a portion of the effects of the Wiltshire iron Company (Limited), taken under an execution by the Sheriff of Wilts.

Comprising about 1800 yards of iron rails and sleepers on tramways, drum and wire rope for propelling the ore wagons, 17 tip wagons, 10 iron slag and ash wagons, 20 tons of new gas and blast tubing, 35 new furnace plates for belts, 60 cinder stakes, 20 half-cwt weights, double and single crab windlasses, lot of new and old wrought iron twiers and tubing, wrought iron plates, furnace tools, coke and mine barrows, 2000 furnace fire bricks, old iron, &c, a large variety of smith's tools in smith's shop and a few lots of neat household furniture.

For further particulars see handbills in circulation.

Sale at 12 o'clock.

Bradford-on-Avon 20th Feb, 1867

Locke v Harrison.

This was an interpleader action to try the right to certain property at Seend which had been seized by the sheriff of Wilts under an execution at the suit of the defendant, Charles Harrison. Mr Cole QC and Mr Lopes were counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr Coleridge QC and Mr Montague Bere for the defendant.

The property in question consisted of an engine, boilers, some blast furnaces, a railway &c, recently worked by the Wiltshire Iron Company, which it was stated was now being wound up in the Court of Chancery. Mr Locke, it appeared, was possessed of certain valuable property at Seend, and in July 1861 he demised 42 acres to Messrs Sarle and Williamson, the erections in question being on a portion of that property. Sarle and Williamson subsequently assigned them to the Seend Iron Company and the latter to the Wiltshire Iron Company. This last named Company got into debt with Mr Harrison, the defendant, who obtained a against them and under it seized the property. For the plaintiff it was contended that the property being landlord's fixtures it could not legally be seized; but on the other hand it was maintained that though the defendant would not have power to sell those fixtures, he could yet seize the

lessee's interest in them. The facts of the case were not disputed, and the legal points were under discussion when the Court rose.

The case was postponed this morning for the production of a document, for which a messenger had been despatched to London.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 28 March 1867

1869

The Seend iron works which have been closed for the last two or three years, will, we hear, be again in blast in the course of the Spring, a new Company having just completed an arrangement for carrying them on with renewed vigour, and, it is to be hoped, with more success than has hitherto attended them.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 30 December 1869

1870

The Seend Iron Works.

In the hands of Messrs Malcolm and Company,, the new proprietors of these works, we trust that better fortune may attend the attempt to extract iron out of Seend soil than has hitherto accompanied it. We all know how severely the first company burnt their fingers; and how, ever since, the works have been set in motion only to be stopped again. But the Messrs Malcolm seem to see a mode of rendering the works profitable, and have not only obtained possession of them, but have purchased land adjoining, not before included in the property, at a price which nothing but the absolute conviction that it contained something which would turn to gold, would warrant. At present only one furnace is in blast, but it will not be long before two others will be ready for use, and the present number of hands employed (something like 100) will then be considerably augmented. An addition of a dozen cottages to those previously erected for the accommodation of the men is being made, and should the works succeed, of which Messrs Malcolm are very sanguine, they will give impetus to Seend which it has never before received.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 21 July 1870

1871

We publish in another column the prospectus of the Marbella Oron Ore Company (limited) – a company which comes before the public under most favourable circumstances, and with a guaranteed minimum dividend of 15 per cent per annum for five years. It is almost sufficient to say that the Messr Malcolm, the proprietors of the Seend Iron Works, are Directors of the undertaking and that the shares are already at a high premium. But our readers will gather for themselves the real work of the project by a perusal of the prospectus.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 14 December 1871

ALSO

Excerpt from the prospectus:

This company has been formed to purchase and take over as a going concern the iron Mines or Quarries now in full work, with the new Railway Pier, Plant etc. situate at Marbella in Spain, midway between

Malaga and Gibraltar, and within 3½ miles of the sea, the property of Messrs W and S S Malcolm of Glasgow.

1872

Partnership Dissolved.

W and S S Malcolm and Co, Seend Wilts, ironmasters – as far as regards J Humby.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 17 February 1872

ALSO

Partnership dissolved. Malcom, William Malcolm, Samuel Smythe and Humbey, James, Seend Wiltshire, ironmasters.

Bristol Mercury Saturday 24 February 1872

1873

Work has again resumed at the Seend Iron Works, and the furnaces are heated for full blast.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 6 March 1873

1874

Devizes Market February 12th 1874.

Mr Collet has received instructions from Mr Breach of Seend (in consequence of the Seend iron Company using an engine at the Seend Iron Works) to sell by auction, without the least reserve, 6 capital cart Horses and Harness, in the above Market on Thursday February 12 at 12 o'clock.

NB - The horses are capital workers and in good condition.

Keevil, Feb 5th 1874

Wiltshire Independent Thursday 5 February 1874

1883

David Ferris the caretaker at the Seend Ironworks was summoned for assaulting a man named Daniel Tucker on the 15th ult. Mr A G Smith of Melksham (Norris and Hancock, Devizes) represented the defendant. It appeared that Tucker some time ago received permission to cut rushes on the ground adjoining the ironworks, and about eight o'clock in the evening on the day the assault was committed he was returning from this occupation with a wagon and horse.

Owing to many depredations having been committed on the ironworks property, Ferris' suspicions were aroused and he stopped Tucker as he was moving off and demanded to be allowed to see what there was in the wagon. The request was refused and a tussle took place between the two men. Tucker alleging that without provocation he was violently assaulted by the defendant. Witnesses were called to

prove the nature of the slight injuries he sustained, and after the Bench had heard the evidence for the prosecution, they intimated that they had no doubt an assault had been committed, and stated that they did not think it was any use for Me Hancock to call his witnesses. Mr Hancock urged at length that the testimony of the complainant was entirely unsupported. He contended that his client had not done more than his duty, and he proposed to call witnesses as to character.

The Bench, however, did not think this necessary, and fined defendant £1, to include costs. They added that they thought that the permission given to parties to go on the premises would be withdrawn.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 13 September 1883

1885

Extract from the enquiry for settling the boundaries of Wilts under the Redistribution Bill.

Lord Henry Thynne: Corsham is manufacturing, and there are iron works at Seend. (A voice: "Twenty five years ago there were", and laughter).

Western Daily Press Thursday 1 January 1885

1889

Dismantling Seend Iron Works, near Melksham. - To engineers, iron founders, builders, lime and cement manufacturers, and others. - To be sold, cheap, for immediate clearance, the whole of the machinery and plant connected with the above works, engines, boilers, pumps. Steam and water fittings, iron bars, plates, &c, Also very large quantity of the celebrated Stourbridge Fire bricks, suitable for Lime and cement Works. Further particulars on application to Mr T W Ward, Fitzalan Chambers, Sheffield, or to the Foreman of the Works, Seend.

Western Daily Press Saturday 17 August 1889

1890

The Trowbridge Chronicle is urging a renewal of the iron works at Seend. So far as the employment it would afford we should be glad to see the works again in operation; but those who last engaged in a similar enterprise have hardly yet forgotten how they burnt their fingers and ended their career as a company in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 5 June 1890

There is a report being circulated to the effect that the iron works at Seend are to be re-started.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 10 July 1890