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SUTTON COLDFIELD.

THE PROPOSED ART SCHOOL.—In accordance with a requisition to the Mayor (Alderman J. Conchar) from the Hill Ward Ratepayers' Protection Association, a public meeting was held on Monday night in the Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield, the object being to test the feeling of the burgesses in regard to the proposed expenditure by the Town Council of about £2,000 in the erection of an art school.—The Mayor presided over a crowded gathering.—Mr. George Barker moved a resolution disapproving of the erection of a school of art at the expense of the ratepayers. He contended that no case had been made out for the erection of a school at a cost of £2,000 and a yearly outlay of £90 by the Town Council.—Mr. King seconded the resolution.—Councillor Edwards thought it would be most unjust to impose such a cost on the ratepayers.—Mr J. C. Skelton was prepared to support an art school, but not at the expense of the ratepayers.—Alderman Walters, amid interruption, endeavoured to explain the position of affairs in the Town Council, adding that a body of gentlemen had guaranteed for five years against the school becoming a burden on the rates—(Question).—Councillor Mayes explained the rise and progress of the art school in Birmingham, which had 14 branches, 13 being carried on in the Board Schools. Why could not art be taught in the Sutton schools?—(applause). The expense in Birmingham was £3 4s. 7d. per head, while education in Sutton was 4s. 6d. in the pound on the rateable value—Sir J. Benjamin Stone spoke in favour of the encouragement of art, and strongly urged the meeting to adopt the proposed scheme.—Councillor Rabnett also addressed the meeting, after which the resolution disapproving of the erection and maintenance of the art school at the expense of the ratepayers was put and carried by an overwhelming majority, only some nine hands being shown to the contrary. There is now much comment as to the future action of the Town Council, who some time ago voted £1,500 for the purpose, the resolution not having been rescinded.

HAMMERWICH.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A LICHFIELD MAN.—An inquest was held at Hammerwich Cottage Hospital on Tuesday, before Mr. H. H. Jordan (deputy coroner), touching the death of William Wiggin, market gardener, Sandford Street, Lichfield, who died on Thursday from injuries sustained through falling from a cart.—The evidence went to show that deceased was in charge of a horse and cart on Thursday, and was driving from Burntwood in the direction of Lichfield. When near the Swan Inn, Burntwood, he was seen to fall from the side of the cart, where he had been sitting, on to the back of his head. He was taken to the Hammerwich Cottage Hospital by William Worthington and a man named Westwood, but he succumbed to his injuries about 4-30 the same day.—In answer to questions Worthington and Westwood said themselves and deceased had drunk together prior to the accident.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

BLOXWICH.

PEDESTRIANISM.—The concluding rounds of Mr. W. Pinfold's 137 Yards Handicap were brought off on Saturday evening, before a good company of spectators, at the Alexandra Grounds. F. Wilson, of Walsall, was greatly fancied for the handicap, but he was beaten in his heat, and J. Harrington, who won the last handicap, was made a warm favourite, but he, to was beaten in the final, after a splendid race, by S. Roberts. Previous to the running a somewhat serious accident befel the proprietor, who was handling a loaded pistol, when it suddenly exploded and nearly blew a part of his hand off. He was taken to the Walsall Hospital, and it is feared that his hand will have to be amputated. Details of the handicap:—Second round—Heat 1: R. Rounds, Smethwick, 26½ yards, 1; J. Perry, Brownhills, 31½, 2; W. White, Wolverhampton, 23, 3.—Heat 2: J. Harrington, Five Ways, Cannock, 29½, 1; R. Tisdale, Walsall, 31, 2; J. Phipps, Walsall, 31½, 3.—Heat 3: S. Roberts, Brownhills, 30½, 1; B. Warr, Coseley, 24½, 2; T. Wootton, Bloxwich, 34½, 3.—Heat 4: E. D. (alias), Walsall, 27½, 1; D. Timmins, Short Heath, 29½, 2; H. Cooper, Willenhall, 27½, 3.—Final: Roberts, 1; Harrington, 2; Rounds, 3; E. D. (alias), 4. Betting: Evens on Harrington, 5 to 2 agst Roberts, 4 to 1 others. A well-contested race was won by 12in.; same between second and third. Mr. W. Cockayne was starter, and Mr. J. Bullock referee.

The match arranged between the Tamworth Athletic and the Tamworth Swifts having fallen through the former club will on Saturday play Rose Hill, a Birmingham junior team, and winners last year of the championship of the Aston and Handsworth League.

THE BROWNHILLS AND PELSALL MINERS.

RUMOURS OF A THREATENED RIOT.

On Monday morning a mass meeting, attended by fully 2,000 miners, was held at the back of the Station Hotel, Brownhills, under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Southall.—Prior to the meeting the Brownhills Brass Band paraded in the street and marched at the head of the large body of miners to the meeting place.—Mr. Southall was elected chairman in the absence of the Rev. Harvey Roe, who had been announced to preside, but who, through some misunderstanding, failed to attend at the time appointed for the meeting.—The Chairman said the chief object of the meeting was to contradict misleading statements which had been circulated in that district to the effect that the miners were going to start a war or rather a riot that morning. Some of the people in Brownhills had been getting very uneasy and several had spoken to him about the matter. He had heard also that the police had been getting somewhat uneasy, but he thought there was no necessity for this commotion, and that the men had made up their minds to fight the battle honourably. (Applause). He was glad to observe that up to the present the police had never put in an appearance at their meetings, and he gave them great credit for not coming near them, because their attendance would only make people think that they were there in anticipation of a disturbance. (Hear, hear). If they wished to win the battle they must behave in a straightforward and upright manner and also be loyal to the Federation. As far as he was concerned he believed the men would in the end prove victorious, as public opinion was on their side. (Applause). Again referring to the statements which had been made the speaker said that one rumour was that the police and the military were to be called out, but he thought if they behaved themselves and hung together they could do without either police or military. (Hear, hear, and a voice, "We shan't want them.") The miners in that district had been very quiet and peaceable up to the present time, and if they would only continue to remain so he was sure the public would sympathise with them and help them. Supposing the men in the district did break out there was not a tradesman's doorstep they could tread upon for everyone had contributed towards the relief fund. (Applause.) This was a clear fact and a proof that they had no chance to start rioting. (Hear, hear.) They must try to raise money for food in an honest manner as long as they possibly could, then start borrowing, and added the speaker "God knows what next." As for himself, he would sooner starve than give in. (Applause.) In Brownhills they were starting a fund to supply the school children with food. They were going to try to provide them with soup and he trusted their efforts would meet with success, as he thought that it was a shame for the poor children to suffer. (Hear, hear.) It had also been suggested that a number of collectors should attend Lichfield Races and get what they could from monied gentlemen who attended there. (Laughter.) They might be able to wrench a bit out of them. (Renewed laughter.) The Rev. Harvey Roe had given them very valuable assistance and he had promised to devote one whole day to collecting. He was also contributing 2s 6d per week to each of the following places, viz.: Brownhills, Walsall Wood, Norton Canes, and Chase Terrace. (Applause.) In conclusion, the Chairman said he hoped that all who could, would after the meeting follow the band and march through the district to Pelsall and make it known throughout the neighbourhood that it was not their intention to create disturbances but to fight the battle honourably and in a way they need not be ashamed of. (Applause.)—The Rev. Harvey Roe, who had by this time put in an appearance, proceeded to address the meeting. He explained his absence at the opening of the proceedings, as due to a misunderstanding, he being under the impression that his services were required at Pelsall only. There had been some rumours afloat that some of the excellent, intelligent and well conducted miners of Brownhills would be rioting and making a scene that morning, but when people had mentioned such a thing to him he had assured them that it was "all bosh." (Hear, hear.) The men of Brownhills, Pelsall, and Cannock Chase had got too much good sense to begin rioting and they were satisfied that if they could not gain the victory by peaceable methods they could not by rowdyism. (Applause.) Those miners who had been and were rioting were the greatest enemies to the cause. The sympathy the public had shown with them in that district, during the lock-out, had been remarkable, and really he should think they had never before experienced anything like it in any previous struggle. (Applause.) The public, as well as the miners, were convinced that the cause they were engaged in was a righteous one, and that the demands of the employers were unjust. The sympathy of the public was entirely on the side of the men, and they had only to wait and conduct themselves in a calm and peaceable manner, and then they would win the struggle. The speaker went on to refer to the kindness shown by private persons in the district, and also the generosity of the schoolmasters and mistresses in respect of the children, whom they were frequently supplying with food. (Applause.) This benevolence was the outcome of the good behaviour of the men, but in the event of their becoming riotous or indulging in rowdyism, public sympathy would at once be alienated. The speaker next referred to the settlement in North Staffordshire, which he said had been brought about on condition that the men resumed work at the old rate of wages, and that they should accept the terms of any settlement that may be arrived at between the federated coalmasters and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. Concluding, Mr. Roe said it was his intention to help the men in the district in every possible way he could to fight what he considered was a righteous battle. (Applause.)—The meeting then terminated, and the men, as well as several of their wives, marched in a body, headed by the band, to Pelsall, by way of Shelfield, Walsall Wood, and Heath End.

MEETING AT PELSALL.

The procession reached Pelsall about one o'clock and was preceded by the Rev. Harvey Roe, who had driven from Brownhills in his pony carriage. The miners subsequently gathered together in a very large number on the common, near the Schools, and the speakers addressed them from the Rev. H. Roe's conveyance. Mr. Joseph Southall was again elected chairman and after several hymns had been sung and prayer had been offered by Mr. Roe, the speech-making part of the proceedings commenced.—The Chairman prefaced his remarks by saying that he hoped their prayers would reach the hearts of the "hard-hearted" coalowners. Referring to the poverty in the district he said they must keep begging as long as they could and let the children be the first to to receive. (Hear, hear). He hoped it would not come to stealing, but they must move in a different way. They must catch hold of what they could, take it to the children, and tell the people they were only borrowing it. (Laughter). The colliery proprietors and others were in the habit of calling their leaders "paid agitators" but they did them a great injustice, for they were really good men, and men whom they should follow and by whom they should be advised. (Hear, hear) Their leaders had stuck to them and were doing all in their power to raise funds for them and it was not likely that they were going to desert them now. (Applause). The speaker afterwards referred to the rumours, which they had come to contradict and as before said that the miners in the Pelsall District wanted neither police not military to keep them quiet. They would fight their employers honourably, and would not strike below the belt. (Applause).—The Rev. H. Roe, in the course of a long address, commented upon the position of master and servant in years past and said that working men were much better off than they used to be. This, he considered, was in a great measure due to increased education among the poorer classes, a state of things which masters were, as a rule, adverse to. He was sure that education was the means of bringing about more order and discipline in the country and that the throne of Great Britain was far more safe in the hands of an educated people. (Hear, hear). Turning to the coal crisis the speaker said that since the lock-out had commenced he had carefully considered everything and had come to the conclusion that it was his duty to hold the men in what he deemed was a righteous battle against an unrighteous reduction. He had had all sorts of things said to him about the course he had taken, and some persons had blamed him for it, but still he did not care for that. (Applause). As he had said before he thought the men should have a fair share of the profits, because they produced capital by their muscular strength. The men had now commenced the seventh week of the struggle, and he hoped they would soon defeat the shameful action of the masters. (Applause). They wanted to take 5s out of the £, in fact to take just a fourth part of the men's wages from them. He maintained that they could not afford to lose a quarter of their wages. ("We can't.") He had talked to gentlemen of good position with respect to the financial condition of the country, and it appeared that just as things were beginning to look brighter the masters made the unjust demand for 25 per cent. reduction. Mr. Roe referred to an interview he had had with a gentleman at Brownhills, which has already been mentioned, and asked his hearers whether they thought they had their share of the profits produced by their labours—or he might say their capital? ("No.") All the masters had to risk was £ s. d., but the men had to risk their lives and their health. (Hear, hear). When they went down the pit in the morning they did not know whether they should ever come up alive again to see their wives and children, and where they had to undergo such risks he held that they were entitled to a full share of the profits. (Applause). Touching on the behaviour of the Pelsall and Cannock Chase men since the commencement of the strike the rev. gentleman said that their conduct had been exemplary, and had been commended by the Press and also by the general public. He deprecated any riotous conduct and the use of any violence. Those men who had committed acts of violence in the country had injured the cause greatly, and their conduct was much deplored by the peaceable miners. (Hear, hear). His advice to them was to never strike a blow, but to stick together and wait patiently. In his judgment the temperate spirit of the men had gone a long way to convince the masters that they would in the end have to give way, and if they would retain this calm, steady and good-humoured feeling, and fight and hold out like true Englishmen, he felt satisfied that they would win. (Applause.) Things looked to him that morning very much brighter and better, and he thought the coalowners themselves were very much more tired of the struggle than were the men. If the masters could only have heard them singing in such a hearty manner there that morning, he thought it would give them the impression that the men could hold out a bit longer. (Cheers.) The good-tempered way in which they had fought the battle had gained for them sympathy from all parts, and as long as they continued to act on such good behaviour he, himself, would only be too pleased to help them in every possible way in his power. (Hear, hear.) The tradesmen continued to support them, and were as anxious for them to win as they were themselves. (Applause.) Their leaders had also done their level best for them, and if they had made mistakes sometimes, it was no more than others did. He besought them to let no one come between them and their leaders, all of whom, he was sure, were trustworthy men, and by whose efforts that they would gain the victory. If they could get the best of this struggle their position would be improved, and it would be not only for the better condition of the miners, but also their wives and children. (Applause.)—Mr. Southall again rose, and said that if they found any blacklegs at the collieries it would go hard with them, and neither "bobbies" nor soldiers would keep them from having a "dib" at them. (Laughter.) However, he hoped there would be no cause for such action, and that the men throughout the length and breadth of the Federation of Great Britain would behave themselves, and do nothing but what they were justified in doing. (Applause.)—The Rev. H. Roe then moved the following resolution:—"That this very large meeting of miners assembled here to-day, pledges itself to preserve good order and kindly feeling towards all parties concerned to the end of the strike."—The resolution was seconded by a miner and carried unanimously.—William Birch, a miner, afterwards addressed the meeting, and proposed a resolution pledging their loyalty to the Federation, which was passed with unanimity.—Votes of thanks to Mr. Southall for presiding, and the Rev. H. Roe for his attendance, were passed, and the proceedings terminated.

MASS MEETING AT NUNEATON.

On Tuesday at noon a mass meeting of miners was held in the open air at Nuneaton. Mr. C. Scutchlow, of Courthouse Green, was called to the chair.—Mr. W. Johnson, C.C., who addressed the meeting from a pony trap, said that after the dispute had lasted for about five weeks, he heard that the employers were desirous of seeing him. He went to see them on Monday, the 4th inst., and learned for the first time that Mr. Reuben Smallman was really acting for the owners, instead of Sir Alfred Hickman, who, he believed, had more to do with the matter in the first instance than now. He (the speaker) found that the colliery managers were very anxious to get to work, though they did not, at the interview on the 4th inst., suggest any terms for the men's consideration. He again met Mr. R. Smallman, by appointment, last Friday morning, and had some conversation on the dispute, and the next he heard of the matter was a report which appeared in a Birmingham evening paper to the effect that there had been a meeting at the Bull Hotel, Nuneaton. On Saturday night Mr. Ashwin, a colliery manager, called on him (the speaker) and asked him to meet Mr. Smallman on the following morning (Sunday). (Voices: "A fine day for work.") Yes, and better work than some of them engaged in on the Sabbath when they got drunk. (Hear, hear). He saw no harm at all in endeavouring to settle a dispute of this kind on a Sunday, because he was acting in the interests of a lot of suffering men, women, and children. He (the speaker) would not tell the meeting what Mr. Smallman really wanted them to do, because he knew they would not accept it. Therefore he point blank refused what was offered by the employers. It was just possible that he might ask the men to do certain things, and that he might meet the employers and tell them that a lenient hand must be extended to the men, but he promised them that there should be nothing settled except by the vote of the men themselves. (Cheers.) He told Mr. Smallman that he could not propose anything to the men in any shape or form with regard to a settlement at present except on the basis of the men returning to work at the old rate of wages. (Voices: "We shall do nothing else.")—The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Johnson.

RELIEF IN THE CANNOCK CHASE AND PELSALL DISTRICTS.

During the week strenuous efforts have been made by the strikers and their supporters to raise funds for relief, and in a great measure they have been successful. On Monday evening the relief committee of Chasetown met at the Crown Hotel, where a private room has been set apart for their use, and the business was transacted under the presidency of Mr. T. S. Morris. (Chairman).—The balance sheet for the week ending September 9th showed the amount of subscriptions to be £49 11s 9d, whilst the expenditure had reached £16 15s 8d, this including donations of £2 to Burntwood Relief Committee, £2 to Chase Terrace, and £1 10s to Boney Hay. The balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands was £32 16s 1d, as against £26 1s 9d at the end of the previous week.—It was decided to distribute 700 loaves of bread at Chasetown on the following day. Similar distributions have taken place in other parts of the district during the week.—At Walsall Wood on Wednesday 200 wives of the strikers were provided with tea, by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Smith, the meal being partaken of in the Primitive Methodist Schools. — Next Sunday, at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Brownhills, collections will be made solely for the relief fund, and it is stated that arrangements are being made for making collections at the whole of the chapels in the Lichfield Primitive Methodist Circuit.

MR. P. A. MUNTZ ON AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

Speaking on Wednesday at the dinner of the Rugby and Dunchurch Agricultural Association at Rugby, Mr. P. A. Muntz, M.P., who presided, said they might congratulate themselves upon its growth during the past two years. Formerly it was a comparatively small undertaking; now it was much larger and had a larger exhibition, and he hoped to see it yet more distinguished than it was. He expressed a hope last year that the show at Rugby would be as large and important as that at Peterborough. There was no reason why it should not be so, and he still maintained the hope that it should be as worthy of the district as the Peterborough show had been of that district for many years past. He coupled the names of Mr. Parnell, Mr. Brierly, and Mr. Townshend with the toast. (Hear, hear). Proceeding, Mr. Muntz said that he would tell Mr. Tindall, if the prosperity of agriculture was to be increased or restored to what it was in former years, when the farmer could hunt and enjoy himself as well as work hard and speed the plough—if those days were to be restored agricultural produce would have to fetch higher prices. Agriculture must continue, and he believed that it would be found in the future that it was most profitable to breed from the very best stock.

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The Editor of the *Medical Annual*, 1890, points out that potash is largely used to add to the solubility of many of the Cocoas at present sold, but that, is marked contrast, MESSRS. CADBURY supply an absolutely pure Cocoa of the highest quality; and thus the name of CADBURY on any packet of Cocoa is a guarantee of purity.

THE LABOUR MARKET.—As the hair turns grey it becomes difficult to get employment. Many are keeping situations by using Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer, a wonderful, inexpensive colour wash.

ANALYSIS OF SUICIDE.

Who among us does not feel pity, if not horror and contempt, for those who have so lost all regard for law, human and divine, as to premeditatingly take measures for self-destruction?

Want of self-reliance; lack of self-mastery; antipathy to existence, and a longing to escape life's responsibilities are the frequent excuses offered by those who in "fits of temporary insanity" rudely cut the thread of life.

While there may be some excuse for these, there is none for so-called criminal carelessness; for those who cultivate a disregard for kindly advice, and under-estimate admonition. When life seems a burden, when the nights are long and sleepless, when the continual strain threatens life, many recklessly turn a deaf ear and cold shoulder to a friend's proffered advice. Why should prejudice and arrogance so often prevent one following the dictates of conscience? "Fortunately," says Mr. John Slater, Green Lane, Walsall—"I accepted the advice of a friend and took Warner's Safe Cure, and my only regret is that I did not escape all these months of cruel torture by commencing sooner, for my life, which was a constant burden, is now a pleasure. About three years ago I was seized with terrible pains in my stomach, chest, and heart, and it seemed as if I would die during these attacks. I was in the Birmingham General Hospital, but could not get relief. All these painful symptoms have entirely disappeared. I can do my work, and feel better than I have done for seven years. £10 per bottle for Warner's Safe Cure would have been cheap to me in view of what it saved."

RUGELEY LOCAL BOARD.

A special meeting of this Board was held on Friday morning last at the Town Hall, when there were present: Messrs. J. W. Gardner (chairman), J. Tompson, C. Lees, H. T. Gilbert, W. Hislop, W. Toy, G. Brown, J. Barkley, and R. Tunnicliffe, with Mr. R. Landor (Clerk) and Mr. W. E. Rogers (Surveyor).

THE WATER QUESTION.

Mr. Radford attended the Board for the purpose of consulting with the members respecting the carrying out of the experimental works at Fair Oak.

The Chairman then explained to Mr. Radford what had been lately done by the Board and the position in which they found themselves, adding that they had a tender before them from Mr. Child, of Hednesford, but the feeling of the Board was that the opportunity should be given to the unemployed of the neighbourhood of doing the work. There was also the difficulty of the money, and the Board did not see its way to doing the work for the amount sanctioned by the Local Government Board. Mr. Child's tender came to £209, Isler's to £95, and the Iron Company £35. The Board, seeing that the loan would be insufficient, had asked him to come and discuss the matter with them and see how they could get out of the difficulty.

Mr. Radford said that supposing the work did cost more, supposing that it cost £400, this would be the only risky part of the work of the whole contract. If there were any difficulty in the way of carrying out the work it would be at first, but the other part of the work would be straightforward. In this work of finding the water they had to be prepared for differences in the estimate and the actual cost. He could not see, however, where the difficulty came in. The Local Government Board had sanctioned the principle by granting the loan, and the only difficulty appeared to be to obtain another £100. If they borrowed that amount from the bank, and became liable for the interest for £5, he believed the Local Government Board would sanction the amount when they sanctioned the larger sum. It would be unwise to ask them now for the money, because they would say "You have not yet spent the £500." As they had sanctioned the principle they would not be particular about the cost. They would not care how much was spent so long as the Board did the necessary work.

The Chairman said that if the Board employed a number of men they would have to pay them week by week as the work went on, and the banker would not find any extra amount without the sanction of the Local Government Board. Whenever the Board had overdrawn their account the Auditor had surcharged the Treasurer at once.

Mr. Radford observed that the Local Government Board would afterwards remit. In regard to this sum, however, he was ready to become personally responsible for the interest on this amount, as he was perfectly certain that the Local Government Board would allow it. If the Local Government Board refused to allow it they could do it by an extra rate. It was not a large sum and would not ruin the town. Supposing that the whole thing were a failure, and the Local Government Board would not sanction the amount, the only thing would be that they would have to make a rate.

The Clerk: If the whole thing is a failure you will have to pay it out of the rates.

The Chairman: I have no fear of that; it is only the question of the cost.

Mr. Radford: If you cannot get the water there you can somewhere else. The only risk is that you may be personally liable for the interest on the £100. It is a frequent thing to go on without the sanction of the Local Government Board after they have approved the principle. He instanced a case where this had been done affecting a large amount.

The Chairman: Supposing we pay away this £500 and still find ourselves short you don't think the Local Government Board will raise any objection to another £100?

Mr. Radford: No. On the principle they adopt for other places, I should have to send them the estimate and they would send down authority for the extra loan.

The Chairman: With regard to the estimate, are you still of opinion that this work should be done for the amount you originally stated?

Mr. Radford explained that he had left a fair margin in his estimate for contingencies of this character. If it had been a straightforward job a lump sum tender would have been sufficient, but owing to the circumstances he thought the other plan the better one.

Mr. Barkley: Do you think we could do it cheaper ourselves than paying a contractor £209?

Mr. Radford: I think so; I was rather startled by the amount for timber, but if it were done in short drifts we should save a lot of timber and so reduce the cost. I could not say what it would cost within £50. You have a lot of figures before you which I had not in making the estimate.

Mr. Barkley: If they do it for £209 they take all the risks.

Mr. Radford: Yes.

Mr. Lees: Which would you give the preference to, tunnelling or open trench?

Mr. Radford explained why he preferred the open trench.

A long conversation ensued in respect to the details of the scheme, and the difference in cost between tunnelling and making a trench.—Mr. Lees suggested that they should commence by tunnelling, as he thought it would be the cheaper way, to which Mr. Radford agreed.—The Chairman pointed out that if the Board accepted Mr. Child's tender the work would be done by local men.—Mr. Tompson was strongly of opinion that they should employ local labour, as there was great distress in the district at the present time.—The Surveyor was afraid that if the colliers were employed and the strike came to an end, they would leave the work when they wanted to.—Mr. Lees said he had a better opinion of the colliers than that.—Mr. Tompson also did not think they would run away.—Mr. Lees pointed out that if they gave the tender to Mr. Child they would not be employing local labour.—The Chairman suggested making an arrangement with Mr. Child that if he had the contract he must employ local labour.—Mr. Radford pointed out that if Mr. Child refused to do this they could accept the next tender of £225.—Mr. Hislop said Mr. Child would do the work, but he wanted the time extended to five weeks, as three were too short.—In the course of further conversation, Mr. Radford said he had a large sum for contingencies in his estimate.—Mr. Gilbert: When you give an estimate like that we don't know whether your £6,000 will not become £8,000 or £9,000.—Mr. Radford replied that he had several items down at more than they would cost. The Board could not tell so well the cost of this part of the work as the remainder, and this was shewn by the great difference in the tenders. He further urged that there should be no further delay in doing the work, so as to ensure a fair test.—After a long discussion, Mr. Hislop moved that Mr. Child's tender be accepted, subject to his employing local labour.—Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried, and a sub-committee was formed, consisting of Messrs. Lees, Tompson, Hislop, and the Chairman, to arrange with Mr. Child as to the carrying out of the work.—This concluded the sitting.

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