

Death of Mr. John Eaton.

A Colliery Pioneer.



In South Yorkshire mining circles the news has been received with great regret of the death of Mr. John Eaton, mining engineer, which took place at his residence, Belle Vue, Northfields, Thorne, on Sunday, at the advanced age of 81 years. Mr. Eaton practically died in harness, for he was superintending the sinking of a third shaft at Crigglestone Colliery, near Wakefield, when he was taken ill, and had to take to his bed about four months ago.

The deceased gentleman was one of the pioneers of the South Yorkshire coalfield. Born in Derbyshire, he became a mining and mechanical brickworks engineer, and was one of the first members of the Association of Colliery Managers, and was perhaps the oldest mining engineer in South Yorkshire. He was the first manager of the Hickleton Main Colliery, and had been manager of various other collieries, including Pilsley and Manners (Derbyshire), and Tibshelf. He had also had experience of lead mining in Cumberland. Sixteen years ago he began pit sinking and contracting as the head of the firm of Eaton, Walker, and Eaton, the name being altered about four years ago to that of Eaton, Son and Hinds. Amongst the pits he had been engaged in sinking were Manvers Main, Tinsley Park, Sherwood and Bentley. It was at the latter that the contractors experienced practically the first serious difficulties in the development of the coalfield towards the East Coast. Running sand and water were encountered, but by special processes, tubbing and freezing, this obstacle was overcome. Mr. Walker, one of the partners, having a great deal to do with this. Mr. Eaton's firm were also engaged to sink the Thorne pit, which work was stopped owing to the influx of water. Mr. Eaton's services had also been requisitioned for the sink-

ing of two pits in the Dover coalfield, and the firm are at present sinking a pit at Coalville, South Leicestershire.

Before going to live at Thorne, in order that he might the better supervise sinking operations there, Mr. Eaton lived at Thurnscoe, where he was for eleven years Rector's churchwarden under the Rev. Fleetwood Shepherd and the Rev. J. Brock. He was also the senior overseer for the parish, and vice-chairman of the Parish Council. He was a staunch Conservative in politics.

Mr. Eaton lost his wife several years ago, and he received another severe blow in October, 1911, by the death of his only son, Mr. John F. Eaton, who was in partnership with him. Since that sad event took place Mr. Eaton's sole companion had been his niece, Miss C. E. Rose, there being no children surviving.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at Thurnscoe on Thursday afternoon, amid many tokens of deep respect. The Rev. J. J. Littlewood, R.D. (Vicar of Thorne) officiated, being assisted by the Rev. J. Brook-Beard (Rector of Thurnscoe), and the Rev. T. T. Taylor (lord of the manor). The funeral cortege journeyed by road from Thorne to Thurnscoe, a motor conveyance being used for the purpose. The church was crowded when the cortege arrived. The chief mourners were Mr. Edmund Eaton (grandson), Mr. J. Eaton (grandson), Miss Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Keywood (Work-sop), Mr. Knox (Thorne), Mr. Fullwood (Doncaster), Mr. and Mrs. Hinds (Thorne), Mr. Fawcett (Sheffield), and Miss R. Crookes (Thorne).

There were also present Mr. N. B. Laidlaw (Mexboro'), Dr. W. Craik (Goldthorpe), Mr. E. Turner, Mr. J. Minnikin (manager of the Hickleton Main Colliery), Councillor W. Hazard (secretary of the Hickleton Colliery), Mrs. Toyne (Sheffield), Mr. and Mrs. R. Higginbottom (Thurnscoe), Mrs. G. White (High Melton), Mr. P. White (High Melton), Mr. W. P. Matthewman (representing Mr. G. Dunston, Thorne), Mr. G. Dunkerley (Goldthorpe), Mr. A. Gawthorpe, Messrs. I. Bateman, Peck and E. Amos (representing the Thurnscoe Working-men's Institute), Mr. G. Marsdin, Mr. J. Garwood, Mr. C. McKinning, Mr. T. Brookes, Mr. C. Sylvester (underground officials at Hickleton Main), Mr. R. Hann, Councillor G. P. Chapman (Thurnscoe), Mr. S. Hardwick, Mr. J. T. Hopkins, Mr. J. Cooper, Mr. B. M. Badger, and others.

Wreaths were sent by the following:—Brother, sister, and niece, Harry and Mrs. Livingstone (London), Mr. and Mrs. G. White and family, and Mr. & Mrs. P. White, the underground officials at the Hickleton Colliery, Thurnscoe Working-men's Institute, Mr. and Mrs. H. Brock and family, Mr. J. F. Archer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hinds, Major T. Hutchinson, Rector, churchwardens, and members of the congregation of St. Helen's Church, Thurnscoe, Mr. H. Greener, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Andrews, Mrs. C. E. Greaves and family (Sheffield), Mrs. Toyne, Mr. and Mrs. H. Fullwood, Miss R. Crookes, Thorne Colliery officials, sinkers at Crigglestone, J. Haldenby, W. Brunt, and F. Denby.

The deceased's body was enclosed in a plain oak coffin, with brass fittings, and was buried in the same grave in which his wife was laid to rest 14 years ago.

DEATH OF MR. J. F. EATON.

A Popular Gentleman.

BARNBURGH IN MOURNING.



The death of Mr. John Frank Eaton, which occurred early on Monday morning with tragic suddenness, removes from the village of Barnburgh probably its most popular resident, a universally esteemed gentleman. The deceased died in his fiftieth year of a complication of influenza and pleurisy, with heart failure supervening, and his death occurred only a few hours before he was to submit to an operation on the chest. On Sunday he was sufficiently well to shave himself, and he expired very suddenly. In general he was a strong, healthy man, very fond of outdoor pursuits, and a great sportsman who had shot and hunted on all the surrounding estates. He leaves a widow and six sons and four daughters.

Mr. Eaton was the only son of Mr. John Eaton, of Thurnscoe and Thorne. Mr. Eaton for many years was intimately connected with Thurnscoe, and was manager of the Hickleton Main Colliery when coal was reached in 1894. He and the deceased, Mr. John F. Eaton, were associated in the firm of Eaton, Son, and Hinds, pit-sinking contractors on a large scale, at present engaged in sinking Messrs. Pease and Partner's Colliery at Thorne, and upon other contracts. Mr. J. F. Eaton was born at Wingworth, Temple Normanton, near Chesterfield, and was educated for the mining profession at Morley Hays school, near Derby, after which he joined his father, who was then manager of Manners Colliery at Ilkeston. There he was engaged for eight years, after which Mr. Eaton undertook colliery sinking, and was assisted by his son, so that the two remained inseparable from the latter's school days to the hour of his death. They became partners twenty years ago, and the firm was then known as Walker and Eaton, but is now Eaton, Son, and Hinds.

Mr. J. F. Eaton came with his father to Thurnscoe, and took up residence at Barnburgh 13 years ago. He has been in residence at Fox House seven years. He speedily es-