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**EXTRACTS FROM AN
ABSTRACT OF THE COAL MINES REGULATION ACTS 1887 - 1896**

Issued to the employees of the Yorkshire Iron and Coal Company Ltd.
West Ardsley Collieries, Leeds.

N.C.& M.R.S. Records.

INSPECTION Every mine is in the district of an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The District Inspector and the Inspectors appointed to assist him are authorised to make examinations and enquiries and to exercise such powers as may be necessary for carrying the Acts into effect.

MANAGER Every mine in which (1) more than 30 persons are employed below-ground, or (2) the inspector by notice requires it, must be under the control, management and direction of a manager, who may be the Owner or Agent or some other person nominated by the owner or agent, and must be registered as a holder of a first class certificate. Notice in writing of the name and address of a manager so appointed must be sent to the Inspector of the District. Under certain circumstances a temporary appointment of an un-certificated person may be made. (Section 20).

An Under Manager must hold either a 1st or 2nd class certificate, In absence of the manager he will have the same responsibility and be subject to the same liabilities as the manager; but the nomination of an under-manager will not affect the personal responsibility of the manager. (Section 21).

A Contractor for mineral, or a person in the employ of such a contractor is not eligible for the post of manager or under-manager. (Section 22).

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No person is entitled to a certificate unless he has had practical experience in a mine for at least five years, and gives satisfactory evidence of sobriety, experience, ability and general good conduct. (Sections 23 to 26 and Schedule 2).

ACCIDENTS The owner, agent or manager of a mine shall, within twenty four hours of the occurrence, send to the Inspector notice in writing of any accident, whether above or below ground, which causes to any person employed in or about such mine (1) loss of life (2) serious injury, or (3) any personal injury whatever in the case of an accident by explosion of gas or of any explosive material or of any steam boiler, and shall specify in the notice the character of the explosion or accident and the number of persons killed or injured respectively. (Section 35).

EMPLOYMENT OF BOYS, GIRLS and WOMEN.

“Boy” means a male under the age of 16.

“Girl” means a female under the age of 16.

“Women” means a female of the age of 16 or upwards. (Section 75).

A “Week” begins at midnight on Saturday and ends at midnight on the succeeding Saturday. (Sections 6 and 7).

A “Period” of employment underground, begins at the time of leaving the surface and ends at the time of returning to the surface.

If the age of a boy or girl is misrepresented by et parent or guardian, the parent or guardian, and not the owner, agent, manager or employer, is liable to a penalty. (Section 64).

BELOW GROUND

Girls and women under 13. May not be employed or be for the purpose of employment. (Section 4 and 1 of the mines prohibition of child labour underground Act 1900.)

Boys over 13. Not for more than 54 hours in one week.
Not for more than 10 hours in one day.
8 hours must elapse between the period of employment on Friday and that of Saturday and 12 hours between other periods of employment.

WAGES:

Place of Payment Wages may not be paid on any premises used for the sale of intoxicating liquor, or in any place contiguous to such premises. (Section 11).

Payment by weight Where the amount of wages paid to any persons employed depend on the amount of mineral gotten by them, these persons shall be paid according to the actual weight gotten by them, of the mineral contracted to be gotten, and the mineral gotten by them shall be truly weighed at a place as near to the pit mouth as is reasonably practicable. (Section 12).

Deductions The owner, agent, or manager may agree with the persons employed that deductions shall be made in respect of stones or substances other than the mineral contracted to be gotten, which shall be sent out of the mine, with the mineral contracted to be gotten, or in respect of [12] any tubs, baskets, or hutches being improperly filled, in those cases where they are filled by the getter of the mineral, or his drawer, or by a person immediately employed by him.

Check-Weigher, Appointment and Duties: The persons employed who are paid according to the weight of mineral gotten by them, may station at their own cost a check-weigher at each place appointed for the weighing of the mineral; and at each place appointed for determining the deductions in order that he may, on their behalf, take a correct account of the weight of mineral or determine correctly the deductions. (Section 13)

The owner, agent or manager shall give proper facilities for the holding of a meeting for the purpose of appointing a check-weigher; and shall not interfere with or improperly influence such appointment (1894 Section 1)

SHAFTS and OUTLETS: Two shafts or outlets must be provided in communication with every seam for the time being at work, capable of affording separate means of ingress and egress to the persons employed in the seam.

The shafts or outlets, shall not in any point be nearer to one another than 15 yards; and there shall be between them a communication not less than four feet wide and four feet high.

Proper apparatus for raising and lowering persons at each shaft or outlet shall be kept on the works belonging to the mine; and such apparatus, if not in actual use at the shafts or outlets, shall be constantly available for use. (Section 16).

VENTILATION:

Rule 1 An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases.

Rule 2 Where a fire is used for ventilation in any mine newly opened after the passing of this Act, the return air, unless it be so dilute as not to be inflammable, shall be carried off clear by means of a dumb drift or airway.

Rule 3 Where a mechanical contrivance for ventilation is introduced into any mine after the commencement of this Act, it shall be in such a position and placed under such conditions as will tend to ensure its being uninjured by an explosion.

SHOT FIRING:

Rule 12 An explosive substance shall be used in the mine below ground as follows: -

(a) It shall not be stored in the mine.

(b) It shall not be taken into the mine, except in cartridges in a secure case or canister containing not more than 5 lb.

WATER:

Rule 13 Where a place is likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water, the working approaching that place shall not at any point within forty yards of that place exceed 8 feet in width, and there shall be kept at a sufficient distance, not being less than 5 yards, in advance, at least one bore-hole near the centre of the working, and sufficient flank bore-holes on each side.

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Rule 20 Where the natural strata are not safe, every working or pumping shaft shall be securely cased, lined or otherwise made secure.

Rule 22 Where the timbering of the working places is done by the workmen employed therein, suitable timber shall be provided at the working place, gate end, pass bye, siding or other similar place in the mine convenient to the workmen, and the distance between sprags, or holing props where they are required shall not exceed six feet or such less distance as may be ordered by the owner, agent or manager.

(55) **The Banks Man** MUST not let a stranger go into the mine without order from the manager, and shall not allow an intoxicated person to descend. The Banks Man, or other competent person appointed for the purpose, must give the signals at the pit top, and must not allow inexperienced persons to land the corves, or put them into the cages, and must listen at the pit top when a person is in the shaft, and instantly signal the Engine Man to stop the engine in case of alarm; and must remain at the pit top until all men and boys are drawn out,

(61) **The Hanger-On** shall have full control of the drawing pit porch, and all persons therein (subject to the Manager and Under-Manager). He must be in the pit at such times the manager and under-manager may appoint, and go down before the miners. He must be in the porch and attend carefully to his duty when a person descends or ascends the shaft, and remain there to see all the men and boys safely into the cage and up the pit at the close of the shift, or until another Hanger-On takes his place. The signals must be given by him, or by some other competent person appointed for the purpose,

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