

MEMOIRS

1973



Lawson, J. 1973
“Statistics of Mineral Production of the Pennines”
NCMRS, Memoirs Vol.2 No.3, pp.119-122

Published by the

THE NORTHERN CAVERN & MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
SKIPTON U.K.

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STATISTICS OF MINERAL PRODUCTION OF THE PENNINES
Part 3. Staffordshire & Cheshire

J. Lawson

In this article the ore production figures for the counties of Staffordshire and Cheshire are given, with details of the mine owners and agents.

The ore production figures are arranged as follows:

Table 1. Lead ore production 1859-74

Table 2. Copper ore production 1857-77

Table 3. Zinc ore production 1868-71

The previous two parts of this article have been already published and deal with the Central Pennine area and Westmorland with the Lake District.¹

The details are taken from the 'Mineral Statistics of Great Britain and Ireland' published annually between 1853 and 1882 and covering the years 1848 to 1881 inclusive. They were compiled by R. Hunt and published by the Geological Survey.

Table 1. Lead Ore Production 1859-74 (Tons)

Mine	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
Alderley Edge	100.1	60.85	106.85				
Bincliffe						15.8	
Dale	36.25	115.0	40.0	60.1	136.0	460.0	296.0
Ecton						26.45	
	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872
Alderley Edge							
Bincliffe							
Dale	202.3	63.1	55.07	526.05	173.0	70.0	239.0
Ecton		20.0			20.0	47.0	1.1
	1873	1874					
Alderley Edge							
Bincliffe							
Dale							
Ecton		2.85					

Table 2. Copper Ore Production 1857-77 (Tons)

Mine	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862
Alderley Edge	820.85	8007.0	10271.0	227.6	335.7	303.11
Ecton						
	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868
Alderley Edge	300.0	14686.0	14904.0	15040.0	15152.0	15016.0
Ecton					12.0	25.35
	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874
Alderley Edge	13240.0	6836.0	8608.0	6248.0	8128.0	8184.0
Ecton		4.0		1.7	1.6	0.05
	1875	1876	1877			
Alderley Edge	8336.0	7328.0	6288.0			
Ecton						

Table 3. Zinc Ore Production. 1868-71 (Tons)

Mine	1868	1869	1870	1871
Dale	43.4	339.9	76.0	45.0

Notes

The Alderley Edge lead ore was very poor when compared to the ore from Dale mine e.g. the ore raised at Alderley gave only 69.05 tons of lead, or less than 50% recovery, in 1859, whilst the ore from Dale in the same year gave 20 tons of lead.

The poor production figures from Ecton mine are remarkable in view of the work carried out at this mine during the period.²

The Alderley Edge copper ore production figure for 1860 must be copper concentrate as the copper derived from it yielded 155 tons of copper. The ore at this mine averaged only 1% copper and only with the acid leaching process could the mine be worked. This involved leaching the carbonate ore with hydrochloric acid and precipitating the copper from the liquid with scrap iron. It may also be noted that during the period the mine yielded as much copper as Coniston Mine, in the Lake District, and as such must be one of the largest copper mines in Britain outside Cornwall/Devon. The 1864 copper ore figure for Alderley Edge includes some ore from Mottram St Andrew Mine, estimated at 100 tons.

Details of Mine Owners and Agents

Alderley Edge

From 1860 to 1864 the owner is noted as Lord Stanley of Alderley and the agent as T. Mitchell. In 1864 Jonathan Down became agent and the owner is given as Alderley Edge Mining Co. In 1865 John Lawton became agent and in 1871 the company became a Limited one. In 1873 John Lawton became manager and the agent was George Leman. In 1877 the company is stated to be in liquidation.

Dale

From 1860-to 1862 the mine is owned by Fitzgerald & Co. with R. Niness as agent, W.J. Dunsford as secretary, and the office is at Adams Court, Old Broad Street. In 1862 the name changes to Dale Mining Co. with R. Niness as manager and W.J. Dunsford and Rankin as agents. This continues up to 1868 when the mine name is changed to New Dale Mine and W. Ward is the secretary. The last entry is in 1873.

Ecton

Between 1860 and 1867 the location is given as Alton with W. Bonsall as agent. In 1868 the mine is noted as Ecton S., with the owner as the Ecton Co, Samuel Bonsall as agent, and the location as Warslow. In 1869 Bonsall is noted as deceased; this does not

agree with the note in a recent paper that he died in September 1870.³ Perhaps at this date he was so ill that he could not manage the mine effectively. In 1870 the company now called the Ecton S. Clayton and Waterbank worked by the Ecton, Clayton and Waterbank Co. with John Berisford as manager. In 1871 Colin Mather is secretary and Berisford is still manager. (Mather was associated with the firm of Mather & Platt).³ The next change is in 1874 when the mine is noted only as Ecton S., producing copper and lead, situated at Warslow, with John Mather as secretary. This is the last entry.

Ribden

The location is given as Alton, and the owners as Fitzgerald & Co. with R. Ninnis as agent from 1860 to 1865. Then details as same as Ecton Mine until closure in 1867.

References

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MSS Received 9th February 1972