MINING IN SHROPSHIRE.

SIR—With considerable surprise I noticed in last week’s Journal a letter signed “J. B.,” purporting to give a comprehensive sketch of mining in Shropshire, wherein the writer, who must evidently be but a superficial observer, states, amongst other inaccuracies, that the Borrowing Mine, which has been worked by several companies to a loss, owes its unproductive ness to its position—the strata being “uncongenial,” quoting at the same time by way of contrast the Smallshad Mine.

Now, it happens unfortunately for your correspondent’s case that the Smallshad Mine, which he lauds so highly, was also worked to a great loss by several companies before the present company, by their well-directed and practical efforts, brought its treasures to light; and also that the Borrowing Mine, which he pronounced so authoritatively to be so “many miles away” and so “uncongenial,” happens to be not more than three miles off, and upon the same lode as the Smallshad Mine. This latter fact can be corroborated by both the late and present agents of the Smallshad Mine, and by other practical and competent men who have carefully examined this mine, and whose reports are still in existence, stating that the Borrowing Mine, with but a small amount of capital judiciously applied, bids fair to become one of the best mines in the country of Salop, there having been already great quantities of sulphate (not carbones) of barites sold from it, as also from Smallshad and other mines in the district.

Happening to have known this property for the last 20 years, I lose no time in replying to “J. B.,” whom I challenge to substantiate his statement, and also solicit to append his name to any future communication he may make on this subject to the Journal, should he choose to enter into a correspondence on the matter.

JAMES RICHARDS.

South Van Mine, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire, April 7.
MINING IN SHROPSHIRE—No. III.

[Note: This series is continued in Feb. issue.]

The mining districts in the neighbourhood of the Roman walls, St. Asaph, the White Grift, and Shelve comprise a range of mineral evidences and prospects of wealth, which is generally little known to the tourist, yet one, nevertheless, of great variety of feature, and one which has for ages been associated with mining enterprise. It is situated upon the borders of the two counties, and on a clear broody day fine views are obtained of the Severn and Severn, gorge, gorge, and distant mountain ranges.

The Longmyndy is about 1690 ft. above the level of the sea, the rocks are 2000 ft. in thickness, and consist of two sedimentary strata, the upper one being composed of the Lower Lias, and the lower one of the Middle Lias. The former consists of a series of argillaceous layers, which are more or less alternating with bands of sandstone, and are very fossiliferous, especially in the vicinity of the village of Shelve. The Lower Lias is a series of argillaceous and conglomeratic beds, which are more or less alternating with bands of sandstone, and are very fossiliferous, especially in the vicinity of the village of Shelve.

In the 13th century it was held to be within the royal forest of Shelve, but it was not until the 16th century that it became a public forest. The forest was purchased by the Duke of Buckingham in 1605, and it was not until the 18th century that it became a public forest. The forest was purchased by the Duke of Buckingham in 1605, and it was not until the 18th century that it became a public forest. The forest was purchased by the Duke of Buckingham in 1605, and it was not until the 18th century that it became a public forest.

The present owner is Mr. Whittal, who has been holding the forest for many years, and has done much to improve it. He has also taken great care to keep the forest in good condition, and to make it as attractive as possible.

The forest is visited by many people, and is a popular place for a walk. It is also a good place for seeing a variety of wild flowers and birds. The forest is very extensive, and is a good place for a walk. It is also a good place for seeing a variety of wild flowers and birds. The forest is very extensive, and is a good place for a walk. It is also a good place for seeing a variety of wild flowers and birds.

In 1803 the king appears to have had these lead mines in his own possession, and if not reported to have conveyed the king's lease of Lead to Shrewsbury, at a cost of 380l, as certificated by

witnesses. He had, it appears, also further purchased 110 cart loads of ore from the king, at 4s. 6d. a load, which lead appears from the description to have been designed for the Wilhamite colliery of Amcott, which had been dissolved in 1777, on the ground of depression, and was afterwards united with a lead mine near Clun, and became the retrace of members of the aristocracy. The lead from Shelve doubtless, therefore, furnished the material for the roof of that conventual establishment, which was opened to Shelve, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishops of Exeter and Norwich, the latter of which, in Hugh Pantufft, the sheriffs above referred to, also show the same difference in lead from lead to lead. In 1183 thirty cart loads cost 10s. 10d., and the carriage there 24s. 6d. In 1183 the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from Shrewsbury, had cost 12s. 8d., and the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from the mines, had cost 21s. 8d. for carriage. In 1183 the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from Shrewsbury, had cost 12s. 8d., and the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from the mines, had cost 21s. 8d. for carriage. In 1183 the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from Shrewsbury, had cost 12s. 8d., and the carriage of 30 cart loads, sent from the mines, had cost 21s. 8d. for carriage.

In Robert Corbet's grant to Shrewsbury Abbey (about 1220), it gives the tithe of this as only half the produce of the Shelve mines, while Thomas Corbet's grant of 1270 contains no such limitation. Thus we find that the rich endowed Norman monastery of Shrewsbury, founded by Robert Corbet, derived a portion of its income from the lead mines of Shelve.

Mr. Robert Jasper More, who before the last general election represented the Southern Division of Shropshire, would do great service to those interested in mining operations in the district which shows, as stated in the Mining Journal some five years ago by the agent, Mr. Whittal, that 11 mile of the Shelve hill, which is on the western side of the parish, is in the Girt set, and the remainder of the hill, which is 2 miles long altogether, in the Roman Gravel set. The Girt set appears to be intersected by 13 various mineral veins, and these two mines, have, it is calculated, produced altogether 120,000 tons of lead within the last 20 years. The Bog, Penuil, and Diddlebich Mines, however, in the same district, are represented as tine depth not greater than 80 feet, and have produced 9000 tons of lead within 20 years. The numerous great arsents, veins, and cross-courses which intersect this rich mining district are very instructive and remarkable. There is a strong cross-course, for instance, passing through the district, and giving rise to a marked contrast in the 

J. ROLLALL, F.G.S.

Midday, May 18.
MINING IN SHROPSHIRE—PERKINS BEACH.

SIR,—Having had occasion during the past week to visit Shropshire, I was glad of the opportunity thus afforded me to see a mining property in that county of which I am a shareholder, so that I might judge for myself whether the reports which have from time to time appeared in the columns of your paper respecting the success attending the reopening of the mine would bear a careful examination of an impartial nature.

The mine I refer to, now known as Perkins Beach, is situated on the north-west bank of the Stiperstones, a range of hills which forms the eastern edge of Shropshire, on the north-south east, west, and southwest, is adjoining by mines of known reputation and great productivity.

Perkins Beach Mine was successfully worked many years ago, when three shafts were driven, at different elevations, and an engine-shaft sunk to the depth of 600 ft. from which it was intended that a further加大the depth to 800 ft. Several attempts have been made to bring the Veins to the surface, and in 1870 it was worked for a time, but it has since been abandoned. The mine is now worked by the late Mr. J. H. Perkins, who has sunk a new shaft, and is making experiments to bring the Veins to the surface.

I now give you a brief description of what I saw, my visit being made in company with the chief agent of the new company, whose name is Mr. J. H. Perkins. The mine, which is situated on the north-west bank of the Stiperstones, is worked by a company of limited liability, the directors of which are Messrs. J. H. Perkins, T. J. Jones, and T. F. Smith.

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MINING IN SHROPSHIRE—ANCIENT AND MODERN.

The members of the Severn Valley Naturalists’ Field Club had a two days’ meeting last week, which proved unusually successful, both in regard to the general interest which fell along the line of the selected route. When the party arrived at the Gravelly Mine they were met by Messrs. T. Wright and Messrs. Cooper, who conducted the party as far as the last two of the ore bodies. The party then proceeded to the Corndon and the other to Linley. The latter under the guidance of Mr. H. J. More and Mr. T. Wright.

LEAD MINING IN SHROPSHIRE.—THE DOG MINE.

Sir,—When my statements were impeached by an anonymous correspondent in the Journal, I considered it my duty to give my reasons for drawing the conclusions I held with respect to the sufficiency of the company’s available capital to sustain the shift of this mine; but how Col. Corbett can say that I have made no peculiar advantage to those who are somewhat as I am in understanding, as I have always had the same unbiased the mine the agents for the purchase of the shares of the Dog Mine, is, that I have not been able to discover the ordinary mode of working. Now, by an exceedingly ingenious piece of machinery, the shaft is caused to be thrown away in which is supplied with the mud at the apex, and the heavier material, or the lead, being too ponderous to be borne away by the stream, collects around the centre, where it is comparatively free from all foreign matter. The lead thus obtained, which is in a state of very fine powder, amounts to many thousands per month, and is under the superintendence of the proprietors. Boards of conservators and lead mining companies are somewhat antagonistic in their operations now, but when silence is pronounced, the very small percentage of lead which is now left to pollute the stream, as all the ground in between will still find a still further augmentation of their annual income. After being properly washed the ore is piled in heaps, which are naturally rubbed down, and the very many accidents which were to be seen, all of which, it was understood, had been ordered by smelters beforehand. The mine is exceedingly rich in ore, and the company is now, for the first time in the history of the industry, realising the highest prices in the market. After a stay of about an hour in the woods the party climbed to the summit of the Blaufen a hill close at hand, which is a "visioned poet" and enthusiastic naturalist, and when he came to the point devoted to a point where a number of deep cuttings, the remains of Roman mining operations, extend up the side of the hill. At this point, Mr. Thomas W. B. Taylor, made a few observations. He said they were at that time in the middle of a district which was one of the greatest mining districts in the island. The Romans came to this point, and when they left, they had not left a trace, for the iron they procured in Wales, and there were remains of their copper mines at Llanymynech. It was well known that the Romans did great value upon this province for its metals, and no doubt they visited that part of the country at an early period to get possession of its valuable mineral treasures. Around that part of the country there were not only remains of Roman mines, but of iron roads, so that there must have been continual communications between the two and the others, and these, with other excavations, were perfectly apparent. Of course, in all such operations the Romans were very imperfect workmen, as compared with miners of the present day. Their great difficulty was that they had no machines to get the water out of the mines when they went to any depth, consequently they did not cut deep, and had left all the mineral wealth below for the miners of the present day, who took every advantage of the imperfections of their predecessors.

Miners of the present day had gunpowder for blasting, the Romans had not. They (the Roman miners) adopted another plan. The men dug in the mine, and the pond it, but as possible, then that was water over it, and so cracked the stone and got out the ore. Roman miners used to break the rock by means of the present day, and the pieces of rock were often found in Roman mines. Some were in a seen at Mr. More’s, at Linley. They were sometimes found by the workmen of the present day, and thinking them old candles, had made fruitless efforts to light them. The tallow has now gone quite hard, and altogether changed its character. Among the pieces of rock were also found a curious case, that some of them would also be seen at Linley. There was another of some interest which might be mentioned, in relation to the soil. Some were easily mined at the mines, but we were aware that any remains of a small-house would have been found then. A house was sometimes found at the old mine, but being taken home by the workmen of the present day, they found, bearing the name of the Roman Emperor, and it had to doubt, been dropped at the place where it was found, the small house being on Church bar. This picture also be found at Mr. More’s. Near the entrance to Linley were remains of an extensive Roman villa, which had been discovered by the late Rev. T. F. Moore, and he (Mr. Wright) was of opinion that the person who had resided in it was the head officer over that mining district by verifying the notes then made, he made those that would enable those present to understand the ancient workings that lay around them.

Mr. Cooper, the house and the other to Linley. The latter under the guidance of Mr. H. J. More and Mr. T. Wright.

The party then divided into sections, one proceeding to Corndon and the other to Linley, the latter under the guidance of Mr. H. J. More and Mr. T. Wright.


Sir,—So many inquiries have been made respecting this case that, I should be obliged to you to allow the following facts to appear in the Mining Journal. The Grit Mine was let by the late Mr. More, with the lease and the lease of the Ladywell Company, who have worked the Ladywell alone, and have consequently forfeited their lease, which bound them to work both sets together, because Messrs. Taylor and Co., who formed a company to work both sets, were unable to work the other set. More considered giving both sets together to the present Ladywell Company, who would have paid in all three years, but the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease. Ladywell is south of Ladywell, and the chief part of the property has been carefully looked to in this case, and the present company have been able to make the payment of the lease.
LEAD MINING IN SHROPSHIRE.

Sir,—Although very adverse to noticing anonymous correspondents, I feel that the present occasion requires the publication of the annexed document, as it is of considerable interest. A letter from a gentleman, who is evidently a man of considerable knowledge, states that the quantities of lead mined in Shropshire are very small, and that the quality is not of the best. The gentleman further states that the lead is obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and that the veins are not of a very rich kind. He also states that the lead is obtained by means of underground workings, and that the mines are not of a very large extent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Editor of the Shropshire Observer.

MINING IN SHROPSHIRE—TANKERVILLE.

Sir,—In my last letter, I alluded to the lead mining in the neighbourhood of Tankerville, and I stated that the lead was obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and that the veins were not of a very rich kind. I also stated that the lead was obtained by means of underground workings, and that the mines were not of a very large extent. I cannot help thinking, however, that the gentleman who wrote to me is mistaken in his statements, as I understand that the lead is obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and that the veins are of a very rich kind. The lead is obtained by means of underground workings, and the mines are of a very large extent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Editor of the Shropshire Observer.

LEAD MINING IN SHROPSHIRE.

The great success which has attended lead mining operations in Wales during the last two years, especially in the district of the Principality, has been attributed by some to the efforts of the Welsh miners, who have succeeded in raising the price of lead to an unprecedented height. The miners have been successful in this respect, not only because of the increased demand for lead, but also because of the improved methods of mining. The lead is obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and the veins are of a very rich kind. The lead is obtained by means of underground workings, and the mines are of a very large extent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Editor of the Shropshire Observer.

MINING DISTRICTS OF SHROPSHIRE—No. 1.

Sir,—In my last letter, I alluded to the lead mining in the neighbourhood of Tankerville, and I stated that the lead was obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and that the veins were not of a very rich kind. I also stated that the lead was obtained by means of underground workings, and that the mines were not of a very large extent. I cannot help thinking, however, that the gentleman who wrote to me is mistaken in his statements, as I understand that the lead is obtained from veins lying under the surface of the ground, and that the veins are of a very rich kind. The lead is obtained by means of underground workings, and the mines are of a very large extent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Editor of the Shropshire Observer.

J. R. HARRIS.
THE MINING DISTRICTS OF SHROPSHIRE—NO. II.

Str.-Since writing the letter which appeared in the Supplement to last week's Journal, another application, one by Mr. Gladstone, of Liverpool, cousin to the President, has been made for mining ground in the Shelve district; so that attention is evidently being directed to the Shropshire mines by others than natives of the county, and by men, it appears to me, of larger enterprise than many who have hitherto worked them. Several gentlemen interested in Cornwall mines are among those with whom an interest has been created, and some of the managers of the mines also are Cornish men, like Capt. Waters, who in addition has had experience both in Australia and in America. It is not infrequently the case that a run is made upon a district in consequence of some professional puff, put forth for the purpose of raising the value of the shares in the market, or that of keeping them up when at or above par, and that many care about the riches of an El Dorado here or there whose theories and speculations are as visionary as if the places where they are to be found were fixed in the moon; and, as a natural consequence, the rational and steady-going portion of the community come to their own conclusions as to their availableness, and, excepting youngsters and old women, there are few who will have anything to do with them. As I have already said, I neither have any interest myself in any mine, nor am I influenced by anyone who has, and I simply seek to place a few general thoughts and impressions with candidness before the reader.

The country is one where mining operations have been carried on from very remote periods, as indicated alike by the form of the mines themselves, and by the primitive character of the tools found in them. You see heaps of dead stuff on the surface piled up, and looking like rude earth works, which show the direction the burrowings of human beings in search of lead have taken. The direction, of course, is that of the lode or vein, or opening in the rock, the result of the convection that created it, and in which rent or crevice Nature has usually irregularly deposited its mineral wealth. These ore veins or lodes are variously formed: seen, if ever, filled with the ore itself, which is generally distributed and scattered in veins or lenses, where it lies associated with quartz, shale, or other substance. It is, of course, impossible to point out the exact direction a lode might take, but experience and the general character and appearance of the ground are sufficient to enable experienced miners to find their way. The peculiar character of the ground and the search in many instances have been wanting.

The fact is the principles by which the accumulation of ore in lodes or veins have been regarded are little understood; and the presence of mining enterprises can now be seen in the same ore in nearly 2000 years ago. There are great exceptions, for some of our present supplies appear to be thoughtless and intelligent men of natural shrewdness and great experience, men who have gained more of knowledge in other districts, and who can collar what they find in them with those who have witnessed similar scenes. The science of mining will never be complete till a proper system of technical education has been established in every knowledge has been learned, and many of these useful mineral have been formed and may be obtained. It is quite true that, although a combination of geology and mineralogical knowledge is necessary, it is not always the case that the phenomena of these lodes, with their hues and dislocations, and forest appearance, their boundaries, etc., can be understood.


tony, March 1. — JOHN RANDALL, F.R.

LEAD MINING IN SHROPSHIRE.

Str.-The lead-bearing ground in shropshire is in the Mansfield blast, the lead and copper ore is near the surface a tin, the oldest of the Shropshire mines: has been in operation about 70 years, and is now being worked by the Government at the depth of 400 yards. Gravels—Central Statshead, the Borach, Stiperstones, Roman Graves, and Oven Pipes—are of an old origin, though lead ore is said to have been worked at a depth of 600 yards. Gehwiler Central Statshead, here at the latter part of the 17th, the ore is taken down to the 90th level, and the pumps also. The bearing ground is worked chiefly from the 74, 61, and 53 ft. level. The ore from the two latter being raised by winzes such as from the level to another. The lead ore and material mixed with flint and sand are raised by one pit, sliding on deals in the inclined shaft attached to a single linked chain. The engines surface, about 30 yards from the pit, is a 15-in. cylinder, 28-in. stroke, 11½ shaft, 2 to 2 P.M., raises ore from 2 to 2 P.M., and pumps water from 5 A.M. There are four lifting sets of pumps from the 74 ft. level, the lowest 1 1/2 ft. per hour in the shaft. From the shaft to the surface a forcing set—7½ in. is used or required. The miners, about 50 all in, work in three turns in five days, and turn the stone and make deep shafts, for the work of 7½ ft. in the shaft. The shafts are almost vertically in the pumping division of the vertical and inclined in the part in between. The works are in nearly east and west, and the head or dip is northward. The ore from the lead ore is worked principally downwards, in slopes of 6½ per cent. from the entrance between the two shafts, the ore being boarded over for the tramway and the material from the shaft raised up to it by windlasses. Flints, from which sand is made, are cut off, and there is a considerable trade in it, and are all saleable articles.

After being brought to the surface, the galvan and stone, and ore with are separated from the barren material brought up with it, the mass are afterwards crushed separately with a pair of The crushed material is run on a rotary screen, and separated on the material being raised again by a large wheel, which throws it into the fine screens, to the rolls to be re-crushed. After being manipulated, and run into the pit, the material is treated in press machines, of which there are four, these being sizers worked on in water, by hand labour. The heavier portion, the lead, lies on the bottom, and the refuse, spar and stone, is east to from the top by preliminary hand. The material is further reduced in flat laddies, and treated again in two other jigger mills with finer sieves. The fine portion of the lead ore is washed in Riddles. The ore is then ready for smelting. There are four smelting furnaces at Pentile Bower, in connection with the Oven Pipes. The pig lead produced is of the soft quality, and a very small part of silver is included with it, which is not extracted. The chimneys for the smoking furnaces is 150 feet high. Previous to the construction of this chimney, the lead pig was used, but it proved so dangerous, and fatal to animal life in the neighborhood that they had to be abandoned, and the high chimney was the which has done away with this objection.