

COLLIERY PROSECUTIONS AT DEWSBURY.—

Yesterday, at the Dewsbury West Riding Court-house, before Mr. W. Crowther, Mr. C. Wheatley, and Mr. W. Carr, John Hallas, under-viewer at a colliery belonging to Mr. Benjamin Barraclough, and situated at Northorpe, Mirfield, was charged at the instance of Mr. F. A. Wardell, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, with neglecting and wilfully violating a rule in force at the above mine, whereby it is required that he or his deputy shall see that the ventilating furnaces are properly attended to, and that they are constantly in operation. He was further charged with violating a rule whereby he was required to supply a copy of the rules of the colliery to every person employed in and about the mine. He pleaded guilty, and the bench ordered him to pay fines amounting to £3 and costs, or, in default, to be committed for three months.—Charles Hall, the underviewer's deputy at the same colliery, pleaded guilty to a charge of violating the special rules requiring him to personally warn the men and boys in case any part of the workings were found to be "fiery," to take up the rails as a danger signal, and to put boards across each other at the approaches to the dangerous workings. He was fined 20s. and costs, or one month's imprisonment.—Jno. Elsworth, engine-man, was fined 10s. and costs, on his pleading guilty to a charge of allowing persons to descend the shaft of the colliery before the ropes had been tested in the manner provided in the rules. Mr. Skipwith, of Wakefield, conducted the prosecutions. None of the defendants were represented by counsel or attorneys. It transpired in course of the hearing that through the carelessness of one of the defendants an explosion took place on the 14th ult., and a youth named Richardson was burnt somewhat seriously.