

COLLIERY ENTERPRISE IN LEICESTERSHIRE

Sinking of Two New Pits commenced at Newbold.

Lady Beaumont Turns The First Sod.

An important ceremony performed by Lady Beaumont on her husband's Coleorton estate at Newbold, on Friday morning was the turning of the first sod in connection with the sinking of two new coal pits by the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd.

The event had created the liveliest interest in this part of the Leicestershire colliery district and was witnessed by a good number of villagers.

Sir George Beaumont accompanied his wife, and also present were: Mr W J Hardy (Managing Director), Mr R D Hardy (Chairman of the Company), Mr Ronald Johnson (Mining Engineer), Mr Wm Taylor and Mr J Bamborough (Colliery Manager), Mr Caldicott (Coleorton Estate Agent), the Rev. H Moore (Vicar), Mrs Moore and others.

In a conversation with Mr Hardy, the managing director, just before the proceedings commenced, our reporter was informed that two pits are being sunk, and they will each be about 400 yards deep. The presence of some half dozen good seams of coal has been proved, these varying in thickness from 3ft to 5ft, and there are also valuable seams of fire clay, which Mr Hardy declared to be the best in the country.

"Is it correct" he was asked, "that within about two years from now you expect to be employing from 1,000 to 1,500 miners?"

"Well, I think you can say quite a thousand," replied Mr Hardy. "The winding engines we are putting down will be capable of turning 1,500 tons of coal in 7.5 hours, and we expect to reach that output." He added.

"You think there is plenty of coal" was another question, to which the managing director replied. "Oh yes, or we should not be here. "We have a 35 years lease and there is more than sufficient coal to last the life of the lease."

The importance of the enterprise to the locality from the employment point of view is too obvious to need emphasis. The same company also owns two pipe works about half a mile from the proposed new collieries, and these works just now are very busy.

An interesting feature is that one of the earliest railway lines to be laid in England by George Stephenson, which has now been in disuse for many years, is to be re-opened.

This is a continuation of what is known as the old Swannington Incline. It runs close by the proposed new pits, which will thus be connected with the Ashby and Melbourne branch of the L.M. and S Railway, not far from Worthington Station. The site of the new collieries is on the high ground 2 fields from the Newbold School, on the left-hand side as approached from the Coalville direction.

THE BEST OF LUCK

Introducing Lady Beaumont to perform the ceremony, Mr W. J. Hardy said they were very obliged to her Ladyship and to Sir George Beaumont, for coming to give a start to that big industry. "We have had our difficulties," he said, "but we think we have got over them, and are looking forward now to a prosperous time. We think it will be a good thing for ourselves and for the district."

Lady Beaumont said, "I am very much honoured to be asked to turn the first sod of the new pit, and I hope the company who have started it will have the best of luck all through, and that it will bring much work to the district. Again I wish you all the best of luck."

Her Ladyship was presented by the directors with a beautiful silver spade bearing the Beaumont family crest and the motto:- "Erectus non elatus." under which was now the following inscription:-

"Presented to Lady Beaumont by the directors of the Leicestershire Colliery and Pipe Company Ltd. On the occasion of the turning of the first turf of the New Lount Collieries, February 8th 1924."

Extract from the Coalville Times, 22nd February 1924.