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rolling stock, (though the incompetency of the new drivers), the directors have the unanimous voice of the proprietors, and at least the passive acquiescence of the public.

"We hope this will not always be the case; but until the engine drivers and firemen of the United Kingdom combine together in an alliance to defend their industrial right; no attempt, and they can make against their oppressors will ever succeed.

"We therefore make bold to call your most serious attention to this fact; that by combining together we may year by year ourselves, and the world do not we are sure to fail. On the contrary, if we do prove to the railway capitalists, and the world at large, that while doing our duty as such valuable public servants should do, we are determined to be treated as such valuable public servants deserve.

"Believing we have urged this appeal to a body of men who see the urgent necessity of combining together for our mutual welfare, we beg to suggest the "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED TRAINERS," as a fit society for the furtherance of our views. It is founded upon the 6th Glna IV., cap. 129, which enacts that it is lawful for any body of men to combine together to keep their wages up, provided they do not use threat or intimidation to others, to induce them to do so." S. S. Duncome, Esq., M.P., is chairman of the above society, a gentleman of known honour and integrity.

The expense of joining, contributes

The secretary, Mr. William Paul, 230, Tottenham Court Road, London, will feel pleasure in forwarding any information you may require, upon application. Hoping you will take this into your most serious consideration,

We remain, yours in unity and fraternity,
THE ENGLISHMAN'S BANNER
In connection with the "National
Association of United Trades."

MEETING OF COAL-MINERS.

A meeting of the miners of Halesowen and the surrounding neighbourhood was held last week in the yard of the Black Horse public-house, in Halesowen Moor; the meeting was well attended, as there could not be less than 1,000 present; the miners from Lever and Radcliffe were accompanied by a band of Music and a banner with appropriate inscriptions.

GEORGE LOMAX, a collier from Radcliffe, was called upon to preside. He opened the business of the meeting by stating that their object in meeting was to lay their grievances before the public.

Mr. CLEAVORTH proposed and John Lyon seconded the first resolution:—"That this meeting is convinced by dear-bought experience, that most of the evils under which the miners are now suffering have been brought on by the divisions and dissensions so prevalent amongst the miners." (Mr. Lyon.)

ing cannot too strongly deprecate themselves. This meeting of the miners' representatives and the coal owners and coal colliers contracting to get coal at less than the regular field price, the underbidding of each other in the taking of pits to sink, driving of tunnels close to the surface, and the other practices of the coal owners also proved very injurious to the interests of the miners. In these districts the coal owners now present, therefore, are desirous to refrain from such injurious practices for the future, and hope that all miners will follow their example. The second and third resolutions were also adopted. The second, as recorded by working miners, was as follows: second, "that the opinion of the miners is that while almost everything is improving in the condition of the miners is getting worse; and being convinced that they cannot protect their labour by their own efforts, they have agreed to join together and to form a spirit of friendship and love towards each other, and to support the same, and pledges itself to support the Miners' Association, and being convinced that that society, if properly carried out, has a tendency to benefit both masters and men, and to remove all injury no one. We are the more determined to support that society as one of its objects is to settle all differences between the masters and men by fair argument, instead of having recourse to disastrous strikes, which are alike injurious to both masters and men." The third resolution was as follows: third, "that the rate of payment to the society for the use of the coal is to be determined by the rate of the market price of the coal."

Mr. SWALLOW, the miners' agent for three districts, proposed the fourth resolution:—"That is the opinion of this meeting that engine coal is selling at such low prices at the present time, that if the present system of underselling each other the market is not abandoned, a great many of the coal masters will be ruined thereby. As there is no class of capitalists who deserve to receive

[illegible]

averaged 198 p. per week, and that many were working twelve hours a day for that scanty pittance; whereas, he remarked, the miners demand 4s. a day for eight hours' labour. He then referred to the efforts the workmen had made with the view of inducing the masters to advance their wages. The men had sent in statements to the masters on the 18th of November last, soliciting an advance of 25 per cent., which would have averaged about 4d. per

ton; but the masters did not appear wishful to give such advance; so that they (the minors) sent a deputation of two men to visit each employer, to ascertain which of them were willing to give the required advance. After a great deal of trouble the masters at some places gave an advance of about 1½d. per ton, instead of 4d. On the 1st of January a circular was sent to the masters effect: to the remainder, but without any good effect; consequently another deputation was sent to visit all employers. The deputation was very kindly received in every instance except one. All masters admitted the necessity of advancing

men's wages, and every one expressed their willingness to advance if the others did so; but this could not unless others did so first; so that when the commencement was to be made was the next question. As no one appeared to be willing to take the lead in the matter, they were left in exactly the same position as at the latter end of December last. To remedy this state of things the next day was issued a circular convening a meeting to be held, to be held on the 10th of January, at the Three Crowns, Deansgate, Bolton.—A number of the employers attended the meeting, but a

mature deliberation, they unanimously agreed that they could not do anything in the matter; they expressed a strong feeling of sympathy for the men, and admitted that at the present time it was impossible to do more than to say that, if anything were to be done, it must be by the men. Mr. Swallow then, at some length, showed that the present state of the markets, the increased and increasing consumption of coal, warranted them in demanding an increase of wages. To prove this he adduced the following statement:

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Total tonnage shipped	1,639,735	2,335,325	1,821,900	2,050,500	2,755,500
Coal	1,439,235	2,038,325	1,585,100	1,800,000	2,435,000

The above figures show that the demand for shipment of coals for home consumption has increased in the same ratio; during the last five years the coals shipped in one cirent alone have grown from 2,612,388 to 7,838,380. The fuel consumed for the working of railways and the increased number of steam-engines for manufacturing purposes have also swelled the demand for coals.

Mr. Swallow then proceeded to show that the market would not stand the competition prices

As a matter of course wages would be advanced for it was here seen that the demand for coals was daily and hourly increasing, yet wages were to be reduced.

At the conclusion of his address Mr. Swallow presented a beautiful and valuable silver medal and chain as a token of respect for his services to the miners of these districts.

The resolution was seconded, and then unanimously adopted. The other resolutions were agreed upon; one to the effect that their agents instructed to put up a memorial to the managers on the subject of the matter; the other, that they were determined to resist any further reduction on their present rate of wages, and to continue before attempting to reduce wages, the men to send up a statement for an advance of 1s. per man after using all reasonable means to get their wages raised to the desired advance, if he should refuse, then the men to come working at half colliery until he does give in.

The miners now present pledged themselves to support such men during their struggle.

Mr. MATTHEW SHAW, the weavers' agent, addressed the meeting, pointing out the advantage to be derived by the miners being firmly united together.

After a vote of thanks had been given to

Chairman, the two agents, and three cheers for the union, the meeting separated. A delegate meeting was afterwards held to carry out the resolutions of the meeting.

Assize Intelligence

ards had been lying before the learned counsel on the barristers' table, but during the short time occupied in the learned counsel's remarks to the jury, some one sitting near him had shuffled the cards, so that when he proceeded to deal them out he found them disarranged, and great was the merriment of the court at the learned counsel's discomfiture.—The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to six

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who, however, was person he applied to the trial court in order to run off the Russian nobleman he refused to under what he wanted, but a *fixed duty*, in the trial court, the respondent, driven to man, who was with Russell, taking the train to the court house, the of the counsel for having been gone has substantiated the *traveller's* family and the respondent, who understood that the intention of taking of his sentence, as thought he was not

COLLAGE. — We occur in the wardrobe the statutes of the of the name of twenty-one years of

Imperial Parliament

