

From the New York Tribune.
The Coal-Fields of Penn'a.
HAZELTON, Luzerne Co., Pa.,
November 28, 1863.

Yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, we took the car of the Beaver Meadow Road at Mauch Chunk, bound for this place. The road is one of the most romantic and wild, so far as scenery is concerned, of any that I have seen yet. We wind in and out around the base of the mountains, following the course of the Lehigh all the way. From Weatherly on to Hazleton Creek Bridge, a distance of two miles, our course is steadily upward. Our good old steam horse ahead snorts and puffs most furiously. We are ascending a grade all the way of 144 feet to the mile—probably the heaviest grade upon any road in the country. At the Bridge we change, and take the Hazleton road going on to Eckley, where passengers going to White Haven or Wilkesbarre are again transferred. From Eckley we are backed down to the bridge again, and then run up to Hazleton. We pass all along the road large locomotives running down to the Chunk, drawing behind them cars holding from 6,000 to 10,000 pounds of coal. The passenger car of our train is full.—The passengers are nearly all miners or their families, or the parties leasing the mines. The entire population, not only here, but all the way from Easton, speak Pennsylvania Dutch, a language a New York Dutchman would never understand. I do not wish to be understood as saying that no English is spoken, because nearly all speak more or less of it, but simply that it would be almost fruitless in any town through here for a storekeeper, or one expecting to do business, to settle unless he could talk Pennsylvania Dutch.

At Hazleton we find the mines of A. Pardee & Co., the oldest, and probably the wealthiest firm in this section of the State. They have under their control, and are working at this time, some six mines.

At Jeddoo, some two or three miles beyond Hazleton, are the mines of G. B. Markle & Co.

These mines, with those at this point I shall consider and speak of in most instances as they being so to all practical purposes, the firm at Jeddoo being to some extent a branch of A. Pardee & Co.

These two firms will this year far exceed 40,000 tons from their mines; a large increase over last year. During the past summer they have shipped about 11,000 tons per week, and in no instance have they satisfied the orders of a single man.

The same causes have operated here as at Mauch Chunk, to hinder the full working of the mines.

The difficulties have at these points, however, been much greater than at any other portion of the State.

Strikes have been frequent, and in consequence thereof the productions have diminished about 50,000 tons from what they otherwise might have been.

Transportation has also been lacking.

Wages have been increased enormously.

At the Hazleton mines the miners formerly received from 35 to 50 cents per car for mining.

Each mine's car holds about a ton.

These men are now receiving from 75 cents to \$1 per car.

Laborers inside the mines are now receiving about double

from last year's prices.

At the Jeddoo mines 60 cents per car was formerly paid the miners, whereas they are now receiving \$1.45 for the same quantity.

Their wages have been raised some six or eight different times.

Some of the men are making from \$5 to \$10 per day.

Common laborers are averaging \$15 a week for simply loading the cars.

Such are some of the obstacles against which the owners have been obliged to contend, and yet these are but slight compared to those

I shall now consider. The miners are composed of Welsh, German and English, and Protestant and Catholic Irish—the latter class have been at the bottom of all the troubles, set on and abetted by the various outside small fry Democratic Copperhead politicians of the State. The men commenced by forming themselves into an organization styled, "The Buckshots," having for its avowed aim and purpose resistance to the draft. Arms were furnished them from Philadelphia, by a Copperhead politician of the State, at \$1.50 a piece, they giving security for the safe return of the pieces. Thank God that this man has lately been arrested by the military stationed here, and sent on to Reading, there to await the action of the authorities. I wonder if some of our politicians, and journals as well, won't soon be calling it an "arbitrary arrest?" Perhaps they have already done so. From a resistance to the draft they soon assumed the position that none but men of their own nationality and religious faith should be allowed to work in the mines at all, and at the same time demanded an increase of wages. Seeing the state of affairs, the owners at once commenced discharging, one by one, these men. As each man was discharged, all the "Buckshots" would quit work, and not a thing was touched until the man was returned to his position. Not only this, but they drove by force all others from their work, thus completely paralyzing all operations. The consequence was that the men discharged had to be again reinstated, or all operations were at an end. Men belonging to the "Buckshots" were often sent for to proceed to other mines, sometimes eight or ten miles distant, and help there to carry out the same programme. Strikes then became the order of the day, and came frequently. Their demands were obliged to be acceded to, or no work could be done. Threats were made against the lives of the owners. Some of them were shot, some killed, others fired at wherever they appeared. The lives of the owners and overseers were unsafe, and also those of their families. The daughters of Mr. Pardee were overtaken upon the road and stopped by these men who demanded \$5 from each. After much entreaty, and informing them that they had no money with them, the ladies were allowed to proceed a short distance, but were again stopped by the same parties, who insisted upon having the amount. The young ladies finally escaped them, and the men were arrested. Upon being taken before the Luzerne county court then sitting in the vicinity, the Grand Jury declined to find an indictment against them, and they were released. I presume it is needless to add that the Jury was Copperhead to the core. The men, when arrested, were defended by small shyster Democratic lawyers. In fact, the plan was one simply to obtain control of the mines, drive away the proprietors, and such of the workmen as were not mem-

bers of their organization, and then by force of arms prevent all work being done, and thus by stopping the coal from being furnished to the Government, these poor, deluded creatures, the tools of men cringing to them for their votes (and here let me say that, if needed, satisfactory evidence can be obtained that from 100 to 200 illegal votes were cast in the town of Hazleton alone, at the recent election), hoped to obtain exemption from the draft. Truly, the fools are not all dead yet. One more instance, and I will drop the subject. G. B. Markle, Esq., the proprietor of the Jeddoo mines, while riding on the road in his carriage, was several times shot at in broad daylight. Several balls were put through the top of his buggy, and three passed through his hat. This gentleman was particularly marked by the "Buckshots," owing to his firm refusal, in many instances to accede to their demands. Such, very briefly, was the state of affairs when a company or two of the 10th New Jersey were ordered here. Previously the men controlled the mines, but now the proprietors are once more gaining, although very slowly, the ascendancy over them.—Strange, indeed, is the respect these "Buckshots" have for our veterans here. A company of fifty men at any one point is sufficient to awe them at once into submission. Some one or two hundred arrests have been made, and hundreds have fled from the mines through fear. At Jeddoo, where formerly the Catholic Irish outnumbered the other nationalities there to one, the others are now in a majority. It will, however, be necessary to keep troops on hand throughout the district during the entire winter. By so doing hundreds of these men will be forced to leave for other regions in order to obtain a livelihood, and their formidable organization will, it is hoped, thus become broken up and disbanded.

A few words now as to the cost of getting the coal to market. The net cost for the labor of mining, at the Jeddoo mines, is about \$1.25 per ton. The net cost of a ton delivered in the New York market, is from \$3.75 to \$4. The average price obtained for their coal is about \$5. At the Hazleton mines not a ton has been sold for over \$5.50. Thus I think it will be readily seen that the coal operators here are free from all charges of combining to keep the price of coal up. If any such combination exists, it lies with the middle men, as they are termed, to whom the producers sell. No one who has not been here and seen and learned of the difficulties that are in the way of the owners of the mines, can have any idea of the state of things as they exist. The owners have lost all control of their mines and over their men, and it is the sincere prayer of many, ay, most of them, that the price of coal may fall in order that the price of wages may with it decrease, and that they may thus regain their past control. They feel intensely the delicateness of their position. The care and anxiety of mind that they possess is dragging them down very rapidly. They all go heavily armed, not knowing when they leave their families in the morning that they shall ever return to them again alive. I said in my last letter that I would endeavor to state here, for the benefit of inquires, whether there was any hope that the price of coal would fall, and if so, when; so I must not close without noticing it. I can only say that on this question the coal men are divided. No one can tell anything definitely about it. The present price is an unhealthy one. It is one which I have shown has been brought about by an unhealthy state of affairs. The demand is far greater for it than is the supply that can be furnished. It is the natural result of this fact, together with the state of affairs at the mines. It is something that at present seems beyond control. A large proportion of the advance is chargeable to the teachings of the so-called Democratic party, who have been instigating the miners and laborers to assume their present position, in hopes (vain men) of materially "aiding the Government in a vigorous prosecution of the war," by stopping its supply of coal, and preventing the enforcement of the draft. Some seem to think that it will not be long ere coal will fall if they are allowed to work their mines to their full capacity. Others seem to think that the demand is so great that it may be months ere they will be able to supply it. All, hail with satisfaction the recent low sales at auction in New York.

GEN. BANKS IN MATAMORAS.—After the capture of Brownsville, Gen. Banks paid an official visit to the American consul at Matamoras. The Mexicans, having previously learned of his intention to do so, decided to give him a public reception, of which we find an account in the New Orleans *Times*. A deputation was dispatched to invite him to the public hall. The military were paraded, a salute was fired, and all the enthusiasm of a galaxy was manifested. Speeches were made by Srs. Argues, Cortina and others, expressing their sympathy with the Federal cause in the United States, and their belief that the result would be favorable to the cause represented by Gen. Banks. General Banks replied, hoping that Mexico would come out of her present troubles triumphantly; and after a great many mutual expressions of friendship and sympathy, the party adjourned to the office of the American consul.

FORTESS MONROE, Dec. 14th inst.

The following has been received, dated Fortkown, Va., Dec. 14.—To Major General Butler:—I have the satisfaction to announce the complete success of the expedition sent out under Col. West. All worked in successful combination. Our cavalry carried the enemy's camp at Charles City Court House, after sharp fighting, the enemy firing from their houses. We captured eight officers and eighty-two men, being the whole command (three companies) fifty-five horses, and three mules, besides many small arms, &c., left on the ground. The enemy's camp, with its equipments, ammunition and provisions, were all thoroughly destroyed.

Our loss is, Capt. Gregory severely wounded, one sergeant and one corporal killed, and four men wounded. All are entitled

to high commendation for gallantry and unflinching endurance, and Col. West especially, for his precise execution of the difficult combination, by which alone he could have accomplished my object.

Signed, J. W. WISTAR, Brig. Gen.

The American Citizen.



THOMAS ROBINSON, CYRUS E. ANDERSON, Editors.

BUTLER PA.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1863.

Ezra "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and inseparable."—D. Webster.

FOR PRESIDENT IN 1864:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Impending Draft.

As the time approaches which has been fixed for making the impending draft, those likely to be effected by it naturally begin to feel uneasy. This uneasiness is increased somewhat, by the knowledge of the fact that Congress is now in session, and is even now debating the propriety of making some changes in the law.

The present law, at the time of its passage, was generally believed to be fair, but when it was reduced to practice, many imperfections were thought to be discovered by some.

Amendments have already been reported by the Military committee of the Senate, and are now being considered by that body.

One of these proposes to strike out the distinction created by the present law, between the two classes,

and thereby placing all able bodied men

between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five, in the same class.

Another proposes to strike out the commutation clause. This clause, we believe, was opposed by the Democratic side of the House when the bill was on its passage.

It has been appealed to, to turn their back upon it; to withhold from it their confidence and their support, assuring them that it had violated all its pledges; had changed its policy, and was now "carrying on an unconstitutional war for the liberation of the negro;" that we could neither look for victory to our arms nor final success to our cause, save through the overthrow of the Administration, and the disorganization of the party that brought it into power.

Having succeeded in one campaign,

they at once began to prepare for another;

even in our own country, as elsewhere, the people who had but lately been addressed

by men of both parties, in behalf of unity and vigor in the prosecution of the war,

were now appealed to, to turn their back upon it; to withhold from it their confidence and their support, assuring them that it had violated all its pledges; had changed its policy, and was now "carrying on an unconstitutional war for the liberation of the negro;" that we could neither look for victory to our arms nor final success to our cause, save through the overthrow of the Administration, and the disorganization of the party that brought it into power.

On the other hand, the friends of the

Administration, and of the country, well

knowing the imminent danger that threatened us, determined to appeal once more to the people in behalf of their country and its cause.

The contest was a desperate one.

They had to bear the responsibility of every blunder in the field, or division,

or alleged division in the Cabinet

—the misdeeds of selfish contractors

—the imbecility or cowardice of unworthy officers, all these they had to bear.

The invasion of this State by Lee, was

an additional reason urged on behalf of

the opposition, the people should speak

out against the powers that be; "were the

election to come off now," say they, "we

would [redacted] you fifty thousand."

Lee's invasion however, was limited and brief.

Thanks to Gen. Meade and his patriotic army.

The draft was ordered—it is in

forement was discouraged by Gov. Seymour—his "friends" resisted it—it

was some twenty thousand from the army of

the Potowmac detailed for the purpose of

enforcing the law. In the Empire State,

whose people had always been loyal and

patriotic up to the advent of the Seymour

dynasty; here the people had a foretaste

of the workings of the policy of that par-

ty which was promising so much.

Orphan Asylums were burned; persons of

all ages and sex became the unfortunate

victims of the excited and brutal mob.—

The sight of a patriot wearing the dress

of a *Union* soldier was sufficient to arouse

their fury, which was only subdued when

the unfortunate victim lay helpless at

their feet.

Thus, the country was furnished with a

froth of the fruits of the change of

policy so eagerly insisted upon.

The enemies of the Administration still

pressed forward—they were confident—

even insulting and defiant, but to their

great surprise, they were driven from one

battery, then from another, until by a gen-

eral and final assault, they were driven

from the field.

The friends of the Government breathe

freely once more; the Administration feels

safe in the hearts of the loyal people, and

the gallant Union army turns itself to its

patriotic labor with fresh ardor, knowing

that the people are with it, and the result

is now before us. Everywhere the Union

cause is steadily advancing. Arkansas,

Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee,

and North Carolina, will all soon be en-

closed safely in the old Union, and beneath

the unsullied emblem of our nationality.

The political, as well as the military,

campaign of 1863, will long be remembered

by those who participated in it—upon it

hung the destiny of our country, and

thanks to the God of nations, the balance

turned in behalf of national unity, and

thus, while the present Administration has,

from the beginning, had to struggle with

a gigantic rebellion, covering about one