

"as an expert," which after two years he got to cut 5 inches, and then finding it a failure he speeded up the gear and with his own hand threw in the clutch which caused the gear to fly to pieces among the workmen!!; or that he was not interfered with when he got up a "patent" pit box which, however, he forgot to make to suit the pit track gauge!!; or that he was not "hindered" from making two zinc lined receptacles on wheels to run in the Foord pit and receive daily the foecal contributions of the pitmen. This "material" is to be seen on the coal floor to-day; or that he was interfered with in his management at the Vale under his imported pitman; and yet when this man was dismissed the disgraceful condition in which she then was is in evidence in the report of J.W.S., that man's successor.

The agent had no authority to interfere with Mr. Poole.* His instructions were conveyed in a letter from the President August 14th, 1891. "In carrying out the foregoing, I would ask you to consult with Mr. Poole as to details, and should any material difference of opinion arise between you to refer the matter to me."

Yes, at various times, Mr. Wills did "suggest working certain pieces of coal to increase the output, &c.," but was stopped, and yet in No. 16 he contradicts himself and says, "he could get no decided expression of opinion" from the agent.

And he suggested to work where no one who had a thought for the permanent working of the pit would have dared to do so. He wanted to drive a set of lords close below the mine bord back towards the Foord pit, which if done would have let down all the water to be again pumped at extra cost and permanent outlay of plant. Then he suggested (see his first report) working the rise east side of the English slope where the coal is very inferior and no appliances existed for its extraction, &c.

Then he proposed a slant direct from the centre of the Fan pit rising nine degrees up under old workings full of dump if not of fire.

Then robbing the shaft pillar temporarily to get out coal which the trade did not call for. What was wanted of him was to get the Foord pit in order for a future trade, as he undertook to do; he was not wanted to produce coal at any cost and increased risk.

Mr. Wills denies selecting his own men. He may remember he brought out with him, as head pitmen on high salaries, two men who were not steady; one had no certificate, although he knew his Nova Scotia laws required underground managers to have certificates; and one was notoriously dissipated, and, as an illustration that he did select his own pitmen, the case of Billy T—— may be mentioned. The agent, knowing the man, advised against his employment; nevertheless he, Wm. T—— was taken on. It is childish for him now to say proper men should have been found for him when he could and did select for himself.

*Wills?