

were losing money with a better selling price. He states that the miners had become a privileged class, receiving from eight to twelve shillings a day, and privileges in the way of rent and fuel equal to fifteen pounds a year. In the pits labourers performed equally severe work and were paid three and sixpence a day, without being allowed by the miners to join their ranks. Sometimes the miners took an apprentice who by the payment of a fee attained the standing of a miner, but the employer could not send a single man among them. He concluded by reporting that if the management would inaugurate a system of strict economy, put out more of the work to contract, and abolish the exclusive tactics of the miners, much better returns would be received.

The association, threatened with the loss of their most important market, did retrench as far as possible, having completed their railway, and their new colliery enjoyed for some time a somewhat improved condition.

The second colliery was commenced in 1837 to the north of the first, or Store pits, a barrier of one hundred feet of solid coal being left. The shallowest pit next the barrier, used for ventilation, was 240 feet deep. From this point there were seven other shafts sunk over a space of 253 yards, the deepest being 455 feet on the Seam. The cost of sinking and equipping this colliery was £18,178. It was worked on a system similar to that adopted in the Store pits, and enjoyed an immunity from serious accidents for many years. This colliery was equipped in accordance with the best mining practice of the day, and proved very efficient. The pumps were of the Cornish pattern, the boilers in part of the "wagon" or "balloon" type. In 1855 much damage was caused by the crushing of part of the workings owing to the weakness of the pillars left to support the roof. At this date the practice of sinking a new pit whenever the coal within easy reach of a shaft became exhausted, was changed, and slants were sunk from the pit bottom running obliquely across the dip of the coal seam. Engines were used to bring the coals up these inclines, when they were raised to the surface through the vertical shaft. In 1861 the coal in the slant running to the eastward took fire from a blast igniting the coal, and it had to be filled with water. In the year 1867 the other or western slant took fire, and the mine was finally abandoned.

The westward extension of the Store and Bye pit collieries was limited by a band of inferior coal marked superficially by the course of Coal Brook. As the coal was proved to improve again in quality beyond this space, fresh workings were decided on, and in 1849 the Dalhousie pits were sunk. There were five pits, the main shaft being 234 feet deep. Shortly after a shaft was sunk through the outcrop of the main seam, a few yards from the Dalhousie colliery to the next underlying coal bed known as the Cage pit or Deep seam.