

correct, the following additional extracts from correspondence with him in June, July, and August, 1890, make it clear that work was proceeding under his direction in the summer of 1890, many months before the beginning of 1891, when he and the Commission say he took charge.

June 28th, 1890.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL, *New York.*

Dear Mr. Poole,—As I believe Mr. Clendenin informed you he has arranged for me to come out and act for two years as assistant manager to yourself, and he asked me to name any points which I thought should be attended to during the next few months at the Foord pit

I think the Fan pit should be geared up as soon as possible, so that roads can be started from that pit * * *

As regards the Foord pit itself, I think the roads should be driven as suggested (see sketch enclosed), and the main level and mine bored out at an inclination of 1 in 84 and lines put on. I think the temperature should be watched closely there, and if on the east side any inclination to heat is shewn, an inside lining of timber might be put from the arching to the big coal roads and filled in with sand or finely divided soil * *

Yours sincerely,

WALTER R. WILLS.

HENDON, LONDON, N. W.,

July 19th, 1890

Dear Mr. Poole,—I have just received your letter of 3rd, for which I am obliged. I obtained the figures 1 in 84 from the latest and best French work on mining which goes largely into figures. I have looked up the matter again to-day, and find another writer gives 1 in 111 as the gradient of equal resistance. If, therefore, 1 in 100 is taken, I should think it will not be far out. * * *

Yours faithfully,

W. R. WILLS.

Dear Mr. Wills,—

August 5th, 1890.

* * * * We are sinking the Fan pit, and are now down some 20 feet below the old opening which we barred off and stowed with fine soil up to the old barring, but we did not thereby cut off the damp which finds its way up through the broken measures to come out (occasionally) at a point some 80 feet up the shaft. To close effectually would then seem to require a brick lining for some distance up from the bottom. If there be anything I can do in preparation for your arrival it will give me pleasure to endeavor to meet your wishes.

Yours faithfully,

H. S. POOLE.

Compare this advice with Mr. Wills' answers to questions 12 and 15 of the Report and the following instructions received in reply :—

HENDON, LONDON, N. W.,

August 22nd, 1890.

Dear Mr. Poole,—I have received your letter of the 5th, and am much obliged to you. * *

I note your remarks about the Fan pit, if it continues to give off