

1111. Then no fresh survey of the submarine works was made subsequently to the date of the original plan, from which this tracing was taken?—The surveys followed on from the time the work started; and as the bords progressed were plotted then on the plan.

1112. You knew when Mr. Twining visited the mine?—Yes.

1113. Do you remember the exact date?—I do not.

1114. He told us that he started on the 1st February and remained there ten days; do you remember his visit?—Yes.

1115. Were you present at the mine?—Yes.

1116. Did they tell you what they had come for?—Yes; Mr. Binns wrote to me and told me.

1117. Do you remember Mr. Taylor being present?—I do.

1118. What was he?—He was a mining surveyor.

1119. What was his duty there with reference to the survey?—He went through the mine to take measurements and help in the survey.

1120. He took notes, did he not?—He did.

1121. Did you see those notes?—Not all of them.

1122. Did you at any time see them after they were finished?—No more than the note-book in his hand; except when he called my attention to the bord that I spoke of in my evidence.

1123. Did you ever give him instructions to prepare a plan from his notes?—No; Mr. Taylor asked me if he should make one, and I said he might go on with one; but that I should not take his plan until I had seen the Government one—that is, Twining's plan.

1124. Did he ever make a plan from his notes?—He started to make one directly afterwards.

1125. Who stopped him?—He left for England, and never finished it.

1126. When did you first see the Government plan?—After Mr. Denniston put it on his map, in August, 1883.

1127. Did you ever apply for it before?—I applied for Mr. Denniston to get a copy of it. He had applied to Mr. Binns and was unable to get it.

1128. Did you get a copy of it?—Mr. Denniston got a copy, or the map to copy from.

1129. Mr. Taylor did not leave for England till four or five months after the survey was made?—No.

1130. You knew that Mr. Twining's object was to make a special survey of the mine?—Yes.

1131. How was it you did not instruct Mr. Taylor to make a plan from his notes, seeing that you had the material to hand?—I did not want him to make one.

1132. You had a nice plan already, with regular bords, &c., and did not want to spoil it with irregular ones, I suppose?—I do not know of any irregularities. I was waiting for the Government plan, and then I was going to take his notes to see if there were any inaccuracies.

1133. Did you get the Government plan before Mr. Taylor left?—I do not know exactly when he left.

1134. Did he not, before he left, tell you any particulars from the information he had got on this survey, or did he give you any idea of the results obtained from the measurements?—Mr. Taylor told me that when the Government plan was produced I should find that the measurements were all much too wide, as against his notes; that they had been taken in all the widest parts and made the most of.

1135. Did you know that Mr. Taylor was going away?—No; not till the day before he left.

1136. Why did he leave?—He had a letter from the captain of a vessel in Lyttelton, who knew his people, and who offered him a free passage.

1137. Did you ever communicate with him with a view to get a copy of a plan from him?—I wrote to him to ask him to lend me the notes he took. I received no answer.

1138. When was that?—Some few months ago. There has been time for an answer.

1139. Then, you got no plan from Mr. Taylor's notes, although you were informed that the measurements taken by Mr. Twining were exaggerated?—I was not aware that Mr. Taylor had taken his field-book with him.

1140. What was the object of your having Mr. Taylor at the mine?—It was not for checking the measurements; neither Mr. Binns nor Mr. Twining would have taken any opposition from Mr. Taylor.

1141. But, if he was there to make a check survey, would he not take measurements of his own to point out any errors?—He did take them, and took notes of where they were wrong.

1142. And, notwithstanding that, you got no plan made?—No; I was waiting for the Government plan, and was quite satisfied with my own plan.

1143. Do you know the average size of the bords and pillars as shown on Bishop and Taylor's plan?—The bords average about 14ft.; the pillars vary.

1144. Can you show me a 16ft. bord on that plan?—No; they are all about 14ft.; some 13ft.

1145. Mr. Denniston has told us that the pillars are from 25ft. to 35ft.: can you show us any on this tracing of that width?—Here is one that scales over 7 yards.

1146. What is the width of the newest part?—At the cross-cut it is 5 yards; another is 24ft.; another is a little over 16ft. In the underground workings, in the 3ft. 6in. seam, there is a pillar varying from 9ft. to 21ft. in width.

1147. It is a very difficult thing to take an average, I suppose, the measurements varying so much?—Yes.

1148. Will you compare this tracing (marked A 2), taken from the original plan, with the corresponding part of the tracing (Bishop and Taylor's) before you, and say in what respects they agree?—They do not agree at all. A bord which has been taken out is not shown in the larger tracing.

1149. The small tracing (A 2) shows a later survey?—Yes.

1150. It shows, therefore, more coal and less support?—Yes.