

CAUTION TO COLLIERY AGENTS AND OTHERS.—
At the Dewsbury Petty Sessions on Monday, before Mr. William Crowther, Mr. Charles Wheatley, and Mr. William Carr, John Hallan, underground viewer at Northorpe Colliery, Mirfield, Charles Hall, his deputy, and John Elsworth, banksman, were charged with several violations of the special rules of the colliery. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Skipwith, of the firm of Scholey and Co., of Wakefield, instructed by Mr. Wardell, Inspector of Mines, acting under the authority of the Secretary of State. It appeared that on Monday, the 14th of June last, an explosion of fire damp occurred at the colliery, by which a miner, named Joseph Richardson, was severely burnt. The accident was attributable, first to the neglect of the ventilating furnace by Hallan, and secondly, to the neglect of Hall in not barring off the working place where he had found the fire damp which afterwards exploded and caused the accident. These offences, and Hallan's omission to furnish one of the workmen with a copy of the colliery rules, formed the subject of five informations, upon three of which Hallan was fined 20s. and costs in each case, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment; and Hall was fined 10s. and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment, in each of the two cases against him. Elsworth, the banksman, was also fined 10s. and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment in default, for having neglected to test the ropes before the miners descended, as required by one of the special rules.