

NEIMME-JBA-10

NEIMME-JBA-10-1

26th July 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J. Smith, Secretary, Allendale Coal company, Workington, confirming that he has received notice of the company having cut the coal at the new faking (?) adjacent to Baggross (?) station.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Bradbury, Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, St. Stephens House, Westminster, returning a letter which he had sent claiming for travelling expenses to the Home Office, explaining that he could not return to Edinburgh on the evening of the 9th July(?) as there were no available trains travelling there until 7 a.m. the next morning. He argues that he had not heard of any regulation stipulating that an inspector needed to travel all night to get home after being engaged on public duty all day and that his claim had been charged in the way he had always charged before when visiting the Home Office with no previous objection.

NEIMME-JBA-10-2

26th July 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, arguing that the objections of the Secretary of State to spend more than £45 on the removal of his furniture from Edinburgh to Newcastle excluding the £8 and 10 shillings specified in Mr. Taylors' supplementary estimate is unreasonable, since he argues the extra money would not have been needed had he stayed in Edinburgh and has no connection with the special grant. He counters that he would have preferred to accept the estimate of £50,17 shillings and 7 pence made by Patterson and company for the same job that he previously submitted, since the company had been recommended to him as being careful and efficient as removal contractors and that he had managed to reduce their initial estimate by £5 through negotiation. He continues that he has tried to arrange for the cheapest possible method of efficient removal, and that he sees the £50 cost as eminently reasonable considering his previous removal from Glasgow to Edinburgh cost £29 and the removal on this occasion was more than twice the distance of that. He also remarks that his moving to Newcastle was due to the express wishes of the Home Secretary and that the considerable financial sacrifices of both removals so close together will not be more than covered by the special grant and that he certainly did not think that said grant would have to cover part of the ordinary expenses of removal.

NEIMME-JBA-10-3

29th July 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, suggesting that the option of using a Stones Form Case supplied to a Mr. Hedley rather than supplying another to his Assistant Inspector Mr. McLaren, as he had requested, would not be a good idea as its position in a recess in one of the rooms with wooden shelves would lead to much damage if it was removed. He adds that supplying Mr. McLaren with such a case would also help himself as his own case is not sufficiently large to hold the ever increasing numbers of different forms.

NEIMME-JBA-10-4/5 (See overleaf)

30th July 1902

Plan of the metalliferous mine of Elliscales at Dalton-in-Furness owned by the Elliscale Mining company Ltd, Whitehaven, which discontinued the working of the Red Hematite Iron Ore on the 30th April 1902 due to exhaustion of the ore using the true meridian process and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-6

30th July 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John H. Merivale, Broomhill colliery, Ashington, confirming the appointment of Charles Herman Merivale as the manager of Newburgh Colliery replacing Mr. W.L. Lishman.

NEIMME-JBA-10-7

30th (?) July/1st August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Green and sons, quarrymasters, Alnwick, supplying him with two copies of the abstract of quarries act for his A(?) and Alnwick quarries but advising him that in future he will not be able to supply such items, and that he should write to the address at the foot of the abstracts if he wanted anything more of this kind in the future.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell, dated 1st August, asking him to alter his expense account for July by leaving out the expense for hiring in the Woodburn inquest on the way back. He remarks that his account included charges for cab hire to Newcastle and then to Newbiggan via Morpeth but no hire at the other end. He adds that he charged for Newbiggan since he could not find the fare to Ashington.

NEIMME-JBA-10-8

1st August/2nd August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain saying that he will be located at the temporary address of Freelands in Alnwick until his new address at Devonshire Terrace in Newcastle is ready. He also asks that Mr. Bain arrange a meeting with mine owners (see letter below) so they can make some kind of settlement regarding differing Special Rules.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Durham, confirming receipt of Special Rules signed by Mr. Bain on the 19th April 1902 for Cartsbog colliery, Emmerton, Coalcleagh and the Langley Fireclay mine of Northumberland and the Barrule quarry of the Isle of Man. He asks if signed copies were sent to the various owners of said mines at the time.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to H.R. Simpson, quarrymaster, Lazonby R.S.O, Cumberland, dated 2nd August, enclosing a copy of the abstract of the quarries act for posting at his quarry which he suggests should be all that is legally necessary to post up since there does not appear to have any Special Rules established there. He adds that he will not be able to supply such copies in future and that he should take note of the address of the stationers at the foot of said abstract if he wishes such copies in future.

NEIMME-JBA-10-9

2nd August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Calder, Broughty Ferry, confirming his receipt of Mr. Smillie's claim for expenses, and enclosing a duplicate claim of same which he has signed. He adds that his temporary quarters in Alnwick are very nice while he waits to move in to his new permanent address in Newcastle (see NEIMME-JBA-10-8, 1st letter above) and that he would be glad to see him at the Newcastle address if he wishes to visit.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell touching on two subjects- firstly, whether certain conviction returns are sent to the Home Office, if they are whether they are returned and if not, whether a Mr. Hedley keeps a copy. Secondly, he asks Mr. Bell whether he can clarify some of the details from his report from Dunston colliery on an accident injuring four people so he can send details for the Labour Gazette. He asks whether the burns incurred were due solely to the flame of gunpowder or due partly also to coal dust or gas being present which could extend the flame of a burnt out shot. He notes that it is very unusual for the flame of a burnt out shot to be able to burn three people by the flame of the explosive only unless it has exploded prematurely. He asks that this information be sent by return of post since he has deliveries on Sundays and the Gazette form on the subject has to be sent the next day.

NEIMME-JBA-10-10

2nd August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Townhead Mining company, Townhead Mines, Egremont, Cumberland, confirming that they have abandoned their no.1 shaft after not using it since the 17th June. He adds in a postscript that if the quantity of ore they managed to gain from the shaft is included in their return sent at the end of the year they do not need to send a return now, noting he has no copies of said returns by him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-11

3rd August 1902

Plan containing statistics for July 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-12

3rd August 1902

Plan containing statistics and a report on 7 accidents occurring at local mines during July. The first on 1st July occurred at Marley Hill colliery when the fuse of a shot in the pavement of a coal seam that had been lit in the previous shift exploded when the injured man was thought to be attempting to unram it with an iron scraper. The second occurred on the 8th July at Dunston colliery where purportedly three men were burned by a blown out shot. Mr. Atkinson notes that the accident occurred before he took over at the district and he is unhappy with the details of the report made and he is looking into them (see NEIMME-JBA-10-9, 2nd letter). The third accident occurred at Seaton Delaval colliery where an explosion took place while a man was separating a 4 inch cartridge of gunpowder into a hole in the coal. The explosion was thought to have been caused by the presence of braes or pyrites in the coal. The fourth accident occurred at the Loanwood quarry on the 16th July. The men involved were killed when they waited 15 minutes after the days work was over after pouring 30 pounds of gunpowder into a fissure and inserting a

fuse. Nobody but the deceased men were present at the explosion. The fifth explosion occurred at the Lindal Moor Iron Ore mine when the man who was injured, who was charging a vertical hole with a cartridge with cap and fuse attached with a wooden hammer, would seem to have used too much force with the hammer causing the charge to explode. The sixth occurred at Hazelrigg colliery on the 29th July when a worker appears to have lit powder in a squib instead of the match paper attached. The seventh and final explosion occurred on the 31st July at the Margaret Iron Ore mine leading to the death of the miner involved. The miner, believing the lighted candle he had put under the fuse of a shot had gone out, returned to it. When he saw that the fuse had indeed been lit, he tried to leap to safety only for him to fall down a slope fatally injuring himself. All of the explosions were related to gunpowder except the 17th July explosion involving gelignite and the final explosion in which gelatine dynamite was involved.

NEIMME-JBA-10-13

2nd August/3rd August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson, Freeland, Alnwick, to the Agent General for New South Wales, Westminster, London, inquiring whether the Government Inspector lost in the Mount Kemble colliery explosion is his brother.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Russell, secretary, Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, Westminster, enclosing the corrected proof of his evidence before the Commission.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to John Graham, dated 3rd August, expressing his opinion that the Government Inspector that Mr. Graham mentions in his quote cannot be his brother Ash, because his brother has assistants who do periodical inspections and that if the Inspector involved had been the Chief Inspector that would have been stated. He notes that he has wired a telegram to the Agent General Mr. Copeland to confirm that Ash was not the man involved (see first letter above). He adds that he has had some business with Mr. Spencer that year and that he will keep him informed as to what he says.

NEIMME-JBA-10-14

2nd August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Mr. Flint, manager, Newburgh Colliery, Acklington, noting that he will be visiting the colliery on the 5th August at about 11a.m. to enquire about the accident to a Mr. Common.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the Postmaster, Newcastle upon Tyne, asking if it might be advisable for him to have a Registered Telegraphic Address now that he has come to his new home at Devonshire Terrace (see NEIMME-JBA-10-2 etc.) He asks him to provide the Post Office Rules on the matter and his opinion as to whether there would be any practical advantage in having such an address.

NEIMME-JBA-10-15

4th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Swallow, East Castle colliery, County Durham, asking him to explain, as the managing partner of the Shipley Coal company, why the Shipley colliery is being worked with only a single shaft when the manager Mr. Woof has stated he knows of no exemption being granted to allow them to do this. He adds that there is no sign of a copy of an exemption, should there be one, being posted at the pit. He adds that he is not aware that Special Rules have been established there also, which would need to be established for the colliery to comply with Section 52(i) of the Coal Mines act 1887, a duty he says of the collieries' owner, agent or manager.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell, noting that the papers sent to him by Mr. Bell are not enough to cover the current year. He asks whether he has any others that are relevant adding that he does believe that those prior to Mr. Hedley's death will lie in some of the boxes he has at his new home in Devonshire Terrace. He asks also whether a Mr. Bain might have some of the missing papers. He also asks if his belief that the accidents on the list he sent him are those coming under the Mines or Quarries act is correct, and also whether a separate list was kept of deaths from natural causes or fatalities that had not been confirmed. He concludes by thanking him for a copy of the Blyth newspaper.

NEIMME-JBA-10-16

6th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Gerrard telling him that he has another collection of fossil fish found in the Curly Oil Shale seam of the Calciferous Sandstone found in the Roman Camps mine of Broxburn, Linlithgowshire. He adds that he will be glad for him to have the 10 fish, and notes that he has sent them on to him that day by passenger train. He also asks about the Foster case ridiculing the stupidity of the Home Office in blaming Mr. Foster, and adding that the idea that Coal Mine Inspectors are not fit to advise the Home Secretary in such cases without calling in a Metalliferous mine man must be disputed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-17

6th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to James Constable, Roman Camp Works, Broxburn, Linlithgowshire, thanking him for the collections of fossil fish he sent him, noting that two of his friends would find it a particular treat to receive them as they are collecting material for museums (see NEIMME-JBA-10-16 above). He adds that he is not yet settled at his new home in Devonshire Terrace, but he has very nice Summer lodgings at Freelands in Alnwick, adding that he will be happy to provide him with information about the area if he wishes.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Kirkly, Leven, Fife, saying that he talked to a Mr. Leach about his position with the Fife Coal company and his new position there. He adds that the company is a good one to be with, while noting that he is aware that he might have preferred the position that Mr. Atkinson has taken.

NEIMME-JBA-10-18/19/20

6th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, referring to points of importance brought up at the adjourned inquiries made on the 31st July relating to an explosion of firedamp at the Woodhorn Colliery in Northumberland which led to the deaths of three workmen. The explosion occurred on the 4th

July and the colliery was owned by the Ashington Coal company. The major bone of contention related to the practices of examination of working areas in the pit, in particular the convention that on what was called Fortnightly Pay Saturday, the length of time between the shift of repairers finishing their shift and the hewers taking over in the area being only one hour, there was seen to be no necessity for an inspection to be made between the shifts. On the occasion of the firedamp explosion involved, it was argued that had an inspection been made between the two shifts the buildup of dangerous gas would have been noted by any competent person making an examination with a Safety Lamp. He adds that General Rule 4 requires that the inspection before commencing work must be made within such time immediately before the commencement of a shift as fixed by Special Rules made under the act. In this case, the collieries' special rules only referred to the shifts of the hewers, not the repairers and set the time as two hours beforehand. Mr. Atkinson adds that he can see no part of the act which would suggest that only the hewers, as in this case, should be included and that the Rule should be assessed on this point. He added that this anomaly meant that when or if any magistrates asked what the fixed interval was in connection with the case of a repairing shift, no satisfactory answer could be given. The managers' argument that where the interval between two shifts was less than two hours no examination was necessary was, however, also seen as reasonable by Mr. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson asks for instruction from the Home Secretary as to how to proceed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-21

7th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Cullercoats, stating that he found some papers while at Devonshire Terrace which may complete the list of accidents he needed but he still could find no list of deaths from natural causes etc (see NEIMME-JBA-10-15, 2nd letter). He asks if Mr. Bell can provide some such details from memory as he needs such information for his report in book form. He adds that he has still not received from him the short weekly report he wanted.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. D. Nicholson telling him that he is arranging all the papers of the district relating to the current year and asking him to provide him with any papers referring to matters previous to his appointment (see letter above etc). He asks him to adjust his reporting on accidents so that all his notes are written on the back of his reports and none on the face of the notices. He also asks him if he has a list of fatalities from natural causes and those not comprised under acts and if these had been reported (see also letter above). He also remarks that he has notified a Mr. Leek (see letter below) that Mr. Nicholson will be going to the Isle of Man the first week in September.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leek asking him if he has any papers relating to the period before he took up his new position as he is arranging all the papers for the current year and, if so, to send them to him. (see both letters above). He also thanks him for the Home Office letter which he describes as very good, noting it has been sent off.

NEIMME-JBA-10-22

7th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Coxon, Contractor, Alnwick, arguing that because Suableases (?) colliery is more than 20 feet deep it should be covered by the Quarries act of 1894 but it does not appear to be on the list of quarries covered. He encloses an abstract of the act to be posted at the quarry and promises to send him a form to fill in on the subject at the end of the year.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to F. Jefferson, manager, Whitburn colliery, South Shields, asking him to send him a copy of their Special Rules by return of post.

NEIMME-JBA-10-23

7th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Dr. Storey, coroner, Millon (?), asking him if it would be convenient to send telegrams of notices of inquests on persons killed at Metalliferous Mines and Quarries in his district not only to himself but also to Mr. Leck of Cleaton Moor, another Inspector assisting in the district, as he is resident in the West. This would be advantageous, he argues, since then an arrangement could be made between himself and Mr. Leck as to which would be able to attend said inquests. He promises that the cost of the telegrams would be reimbursed if, as anticipated, the Home Office does not object to such an arrangement. He asks that, if this goes ahead, the coroner could send in an account of the cost of said telegrams, say every quarter, to save the needless trouble of transmitting stamps monthly.

NEIMME-JBA-10-24

7th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Peele, coroner, Ulverston, asking him if an arrangement can be made to send notices of inquests on persons killed at Metalliferous Mines and Quarries in his district both to himself and his Assistant Inspector Mr. Leck to make it more convenient to work out which Inspector could attend each inquiry (see NEIMME-JBA-10-23 above).

NEIMME-JBA-10-25

8th August 1901 (sic) (1902)

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, forwarding an application from his Assistant Inspector W. Leck for a leave of absence for a period not exceeding 21 days some time between the 18th August and the 31st October. He adds that should his request be granted, he and his fellow Assistant Inspectors Mr. Bell and Mr. Nicholson will be able to attend to the work of the district adequately.

NEIMME-JBA-10-26

7th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Gordon Falcon, coroner, Workington, asking if it would be possible for him to send telegrams providing notices of inquests on persons killed at Metalliferous mines and quarries in his district not only to him but also his other Assistant Inspectors Mr. Leck and Mr. Nicholson who are resident in the West so they may more easily determine which Inspector would be able to attend which inquiry (see NEIMME-JBA-10-24 etc). He promises that the costs of these telegrams will be reimbursed if the Home Office does not object to the arrangement.

NEIMME-JBA-10-27

8th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, confirming receipt of a letter which allowed him a grant of 100 pounds in respect of the expense and inconvenience of his two recent removals (see NEIMME-JBA-10-2). He asks that, before furnishing the Home Office with a detailed statement showing the several items of expenditure for which he claims repayment of any expenses beyond those met by the usual allowances up to the 100 pounds under the authority given by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, he wants to be informed of the nature of the items that would be allowed to rank.

NEIMME-JBA-10-28

8th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren asking him to return to his old address of Merchiston Gardens to pick up a brim hat he needs for an upcoming wedding. He gives him authority to get the keys from the House Agent Mr. Brins and tells him that the hat case with the hat inside can be found under the bed in the bedroom opposite the drawing room. He encloses the key to the hat case and asks if he can put his bath sponge from the adjoining bedroom inside the hat. He also asks him to open the monoched or desk in his office with another key he has enclosed and take three wire arrangements for shammon(?) binding cases and three of the cardboard cases themselves which he thinks are in the cupboard or closet in his office. He ends by asking him to send the keys back and professes hope that he is liking his new position.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to F.W. Wakefield, Portadown, stating that he does not entirely understand Mr. Wakefield's problems with (figures for) the annual return of Iron Ore at the Askam mine which had been sent to Mrs. Hedley, the wife of the late Mr. Hedley, his predecessor (owner/manager?) at the mine. He says it is too late to change the returns now as the figures have been written up and published, but promises to take care that accurate figures are written up in future.

NEIMME-JBA-10-29

8th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to James Gilliland, Lintz colliery, Lintz Green, promising to look further into the question of ventilation at the colliery after receiving his letter as forwarded by his Assistant Mr. Nicholson.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Swallow, Annfield Plain, apologising that, as his home in Newcastle at Devonshire Terrace is not yet ready to be occupied, he is staying at an address in Alnwick and is not often in Newcastle, meaning he cannot arrange to meet him there this week. As for his enquiry regarding getting an exemption from 2 shafts at Shipley colliery, Mr. Atkinson remarks he is quite prepared to recommend that it is granted under Section 18 (iii) (a) of the Coal Mines act provided no more than 20 people are allowed to work underground in connection with the one shaft at any one time, no fire is used underground for ventilation or any other purpose, the second shaft is completed as quickly as possible and the exemption will last for approximately six months. He recommends that Mr. Swallow apply immediately directly to the Secretary of State for an exemption providing no details and then the application will be sent straight to Mr. Atkinson for his report on the matter. He emphasises that work must be started on providing a second shaft otherwise he will have proceedings brought against him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-30

8th August/9th August/10th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware asking him to hurry up and send him the rubber stamp for marking the date and receipt of letters he asked for in the demand he numbers no.15. He confirms that the other sheets he asked for in the demand had arrived some time ago.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the West Mickley Coal company, Eltringham, Ovingham-on-Tyne, Northumberland, dated 9th August, confirming receipt of the plan of the Brockwell seam at Eltringham colliery which he returns as he remarks it should have been sent direct to the Secretary of State in London with a covering letter. He adds that once this is done, it will be returned to him to report on. He adds that the letter does not need to be stamped to the Home Office.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leek, dated 10th August, enclosing a draft memo of which he wants 6 copies made, one in copying ink to transfer to his letter book. He adds that he made very good copies of the previous letters he sent thanks to the cloth sheets.

NEIMME-JBA-10-31

Undated

Report of charges under the Coal Mines Regulation act made against shifter James Husband for carrying matches at Tawfield Lea colliery owned by James Joicey and company under(?) Edward Hughes of Lanchester on the 31st July 1902. The report mentions charges of ten shillings and eight shillings, the latter presumably made out to (the solicitor?) J.A. Ornsley of Durham. The report is signed by W.A. Swallow.

NEIMME-JBA-10-32

Undated

Report of charges under the Coal Mines Regulation act made against shifter William Kelly for carrying matches at Tawfield Lea colliery owned by James Joicey and company under(?) Edward Hughes of Lanchester on the 31st July 1902. The report mentions charges of ten shillings and eight shillings, the latter presumably made out to (the solicitor?) J.A Ornsley of Durham. The report is signed by W.A. Swallow.

NEIMME-JBA-10-33

Undated

Report of charges under the Coal Mines Regulation act made against shot firer Charles High for leaving a detonator in a workman's place in an unlocked box contravening the Explosives in Coal Mines Order Section 4(b) at the Backhill pit at Great Broughton owned by the Allendale Coal company under (?) James Gilchrist of Cockermouth on the 21st July 1902. The report mentions charges of twenty shillings including costs, some of which presumably made by Edward Lamb Waugh, the solicitor at Cockermouth. The report is signed by James Gilchrist.

NEIMME-JBA-10-34

9th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Charles Johnson, Newton Coal and Lime company, Newton-on-the-Moor, Felton, confirming that the Newton colliery will be abandoned in a few days.

NEIMME-JBA-10-35/36 (see overleaf)

23rd July 1902

Plan of the Upper Coal seam at Newlands colliery in Belford owned by the Belford Coal company which was discontinued on the 10th April 1902 as it had become unprofitable. The plan was made by Alexander Ledger, a manager with a 2nd class certificate, and was signed by R. Donald Bain.

NEIMME-JBA-10-37

9th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Johnson, Miners' Association, Durham, remarking that in his opinion the deputy manager was not within his right in sending the trapper boy John Dunlavey to the face of Whitburn colliery with a plank, an action which presaged the death of Mr. Dunlavey. Despite this, he can find no legal precedent in the mines act which could lead to a prosecution, emphasising that he is not a lawyer and his opinion should not prove decisive, and also remarks that a Mr. Bell who was privy to the inquest into the death and heard the evidence thought the deputy was justified in his actions. Mr Bell, however, had advised the deputy that in future he should refrain from asking trapper boys to do such work. He refers to Special Rules 55,60,100,102 and 139 in the copy he encloses to help explain his opinion.

NEIMME-JBA-10-38

10th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson telling him that he has been asked to write a paper on Coal Dust, Mine Gases, Explosions and Barometer Readings etc and that he should send a Mr. Brown the draft on the 28th August. He adds that he has asked for six proofs, of which he promises to send him one. He makes reference to the fact that he has written sections on rescue work and gases from underground fires, and in the former case emphasises he has referred to the papers on the question. He suggests that "Bill" might confine himself to writing on Underground Fires and Spontaneous Combustion as there are a number of papers on the question. He encloses a list of the papers he himself has referred to and asks "Bill" to return them when he has referred to them. He adds that he has received a letter from a Mr. Gerrard about the Foster case which referred to Bill's draft on the matter and Martins' also. He notes that he has suggested some slight alteration to the former and that with that taken into account his draft could be used as a basis to represent the general feeling on the case through Gerrard's small committee which he chairs. He concludes that he has heard that a John Cadman (?) has been appointed (Head?) Assistant in his old district from Mr. McLaren.

NEIMME-JBA-10-39

10th August/12th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Gerrard on a number of subjects- he says he does not think it worth joining (a fishing club?) since he has already joined the Northumberland Angling club which has salmon fishing on the North Tyne; he remarks that he has had a very pretty days fishing in the Aln for trout and that he is going again on Friday; that he will be glad to spend a day shooting with him and that he hopes there will be more birds than depressing accounts have made out; that he has received his letter on the general advice question and the drafts by Bill and Martin on the subject, recommending that the formers' draft with a few amendments he has made be used to represent the General view of the Inspectors through his position as chairman (see NEIMME-JBA-10-38 above); that he would be glad to receive photos of fishes and that he is glad he is pleased with them and that the family are enjoying themselves immensely at Alnwick, remarking that he likes to cycle down to Alnmouth where there is very good golf to be played and he is playing well suggesting that the English air is agreeing with him.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Tom Thompson, Gillhead Coal, (Firebrick and Gannister?) Company, Himby, Maryport, dated 12th August 1902, regretting that a prior engagement means he will not be able to attend the final competition involving the members of the Himby ambulance class.

NEIMME-JBA-10-40

12th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Simpson, Heworth colliery, Felling, County Durham, confirming that the owners of the colliery are now the Heworth Coal company whose registered office is based at Watergate buildings in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

NEIMME-JBA-10-41

12th August 1902

Letter from J. B. Atkinson to W(illiam?) Watson, Carron Coy, remarking that he has been informed by his assistant, Mr. Leck, that the plans of the Jackaree mines are not being kept up to date as required by Section 19 of the Metalliferous mines Regulation act 1872, which states that the office at the mine should keep an accurate plan of the workings of said mine, showing the workings for at least six months previously. He asks that adequate steps are made to rectify this to comply with the statutory requirements.

NEIMME-JBA-10-42/43/44/45/46/47

13th August 1902

Memorandum written by J.B. Atkinson on the subject of the examinations made on the workings of collieries before shifters and other workmen not engaged on the coal start work. He begins by citing the various parts of the Coal Mines acts and of the Northumberland and Durham Special Rules that relate to the matter- General Rule 4, Section 49 of the Coal Mines Regulation act 1887 which states that a station or stations shall be appointed at the entrance of each mine, or different parts of the mine as required, from which a competent person unconnected with contractors for getting minerals in the mine will be appointed by the owner, agent or manager of the mine to inspect every part

of the mine in which workers are to work or pass during their shift immediately before they begin that shift as specified in the Special Rules and check for the presence of gas, standard of ventilation, the condition of the roof and sides and the general level of safety within. Until said inspector has examined such areas using a locked Safety lamp (except in areas where there has been no sign of inflammable gas for twelve months or more) and found to be safe by the statement of the Inspector, No workers should be allowed into their place of work. The Inspector should also, without delay, record his findings after inspection if he finds any evidence of noxious or inflammable gas, any defects in roofs or sides or any other observed danger in a book which is accessible at all times to the workers and in the handwriting of said inspector unless it consists of printed matter. The rule also specifies that if a continual succession of shifts over 24 hours is maintained, only one such report will be necessary. The rule Section (ii) also specifies that a similar inspection of the areas being worked shall be held during a shift, but in this case no report will be necessary. Section 5(i) also specifies that such inspections will be made in any area in which work has been temporarily stopped but is still within the ventilating district within which the men continue to work. He also remarks on the Special Rules used in Northumberland and Durham regarding prior inspections (nos 43 and 58 respectively) which specify that such inspections occur two hours before work begins but also in which such inspections are only specified in terms of shifts made by hewers and not other workers. He notes that some have taken this literally and only had inspections before hewers' shifts, a view that he says is in no way supported by General Rule 4 itself. He suggests that the Special Rules are amended both to make sure all workers have prior inspections made and that the rule about inspecting relevant areas in which work has been temporarily stopped is also adhered to. As for the interval between inspections, he also suggests that the time should be no more than the time specified in the Northumberland and Durham Special Rules of two hours. He also states that rigidly applying said rules in cases where only one or two workmen are in a working area may not be necessary, especially as he notes in such cases the men involved are usually experienced and capable of looking after their own safety. He suggests that in such cases where men are working on returns away from the areas being worked by others an amendment of such rules are made, remarking that one man of two may be able to act as an examiner of a working area, checking the space alone before both begin work. In any case, he believes that the lack of specification made in General Rule 4 in these cases renders it defective and in need of separate rules, with the time between inspections being made separately from those previously made under Special Rules. He concludes that Special Rules can be added to in the case of timbering and that several of the Rules need to be updated to consider the new rules made regarding the employment of boys underground as specified in the Mines (Prohibition of Child Labour Underground) Act of 1900.

NEIMME-JBA-10-48

13th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Wilson M.P., secretary, Durham Miners' Association, enclosing a copy of his memorandum on examinations made prior to work in Mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-42-47 above).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Ralph Young, secretary, Northumberland Miners' Association, Burt Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne, enclosing a copy of his memorandum on examinations made prior to work in Mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-42-47 above).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R. Guthrie, secretary, Northumberland and Durham Coal Owners' Association, Newcastle Upon Tyne, enclosing two copies of his memorandum on examinations made prior to work in Mines, one for the Northumberland Coal owners and the other for the Durham Coal Owners (see NEIMME-JBA-10-42-47 above).

NEIMME-JBA-10-49

13th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George A. Stonier, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, Calcutta, explaining policies regarding the circulation of reports on Mine accidents. He firstly points out that there is no regulation forbidding Inspectors from sending copies of reports on mine accidents to mine managers although information acquired on their duties of a confidential nature is not allowed to be made known to mine managers under instructions from the Home Secretary. The Inspectors are also allowed to forward copies of printed reports such as annual or special reports only limited by the number supplied by the stationary office. He also points out that the Home Secretary can order the preparation and publication of a Special Report on any accident as specified under Section 44 of the Coal Mines act, pointing out that these are usually preceded by a formal investigation under Section 45 (of the same act). He points out that usually about six of these are issued yearly. He concludes that Inspectors report all important accidents directly to the Home Office although not all such reports end up being published with all fatal accidents being covered more or less fully in the Annual Report. He adds in a post script the news that he has been transferred from his previous Inspector post in the East of Scotland to the Newcastle upon Tyne district which explains his new address.

NEIMME-JBA-10-50

13th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Swallow, County Durham, inviting him to (his home in Alnwick) a week later so they can talk about and possibly visit Shipley colliery in connection with his previous letter on the subject if he arrives early on that day.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain, Her Majesties' Inspector of Mines, Durham, telling him that he has sent out copies of the memos he has enclosed referring to the Woodhorn explosion (see NEIMME-JBA 18-20) to the Northumberland and Durham Coal Owners' Miners Associations. He also remarks that he believes that Mr. Bain has prosecuted a similar matter in the past. He adds that he wishes to talk the matter over with him and proposes he come down any day next week apart from the 20th and also play golf at Alnmouth. He adds he will take care of all the details and that the trip from Durham to Alnmouth should take just over an hour and a half.

NEIMME-JBA-10-51

13th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George Nicholson, contractor, Dipton, County Durham, confirming that he has opened the quarry at South Medomsley previously worked by the builder Mr. Johnson. He adds that a quarry does not need to be inspected under the Quarries act unless it is over 20 feet deep and asks him to confirm whether this is the case with this quarry.

NEIMME-JBA-10-52

13th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J. Evelyn Carr, Summerston Coal company, Berwick on Tweed, confirming receipt of a letter erroneously addressed to Mr. McLaren confirming the appointment of John Thomas as the undermanager of the colliery in the room of James Clelland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-53

13th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to F.W. Wakefield, Cloncore, Portadown, suggesting that his belief that J.L. Hedley, the Inspector of Mines, was somehow connected with the accident at the Askam mine in an assessment is a mistake (see NEIMME-JBA-10-28, 2nd letter) and that he is confusing him with an official who was connected with the accident. He points out that Mr. Hedley died at Seascale on the 21st March and was in any case only responsible for getting a correct return on the mineral worked at the various mines in the Newcastle on Tyne district.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain confessing he does not understand the rule he refers to in his received letter and the copy of Timbering Special Rules he was also sent and does not think he will get a conviction with it adding that he thinks rules 2 and 3 seem all right. He adds that he thinks the Home Office should not have given way in allowing the proposed rule on the providing of timber at the working place. He surmises that his letter asking for a meeting and Mr. Bain's letter must have crossed each other (see NEIMME-JBA-10-50, 2nd letter). As he notes that he is at home on Monday, he proposes either meeting on Saturday at his home or that he can come into Newcastle to discuss the matter.

NEIMME-JBA-10-54

14th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, arguing that the circular he has received on the subject of the use of safety fuses in fiery mines does not consider his own previous missives on the subject following two fatal accidents at Kinneil colliery in 1898 and 1899 in which he urged that the Explosives committee should be entrusted with the testing of methods of firing shots in fiery mines. He adds that he also brought up the subject twice at the annual meeting of the Inspectors of Mines and on both occasions a resolution was accepted advising that the Explosives committee be allowed to test firing shots in such a manner. He adds that by inferring that their attention was only specifically drawn to the problem after the explosion at Cwm colliery in May 1900 is not encouraging to Inspectors or to the advantage of public service since it so blatantly ignores previous discussions made on the subject.

NEIMME-JBA-10-55

13th August 1902

Plan referring to the Gate pit at Tarizell (?) colliery owned by James Joicey and Company and (managed by?) J.B. Sample of Chester-Le-Street. The plan mentions pulter(?) Henry Allan and the hewing of a wall side, along with measurements. The plan is signed by E.L. Pearse of Chester-Le-Street and William Severs.

NEIMME-JBA-10-56

14th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Edward Ray, Lindel Moor Mines, Ulverston, confirming that Harrison, Ainslie and company have commenced working again at Green lane pit.

14-10-57

14th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain agreeing to come into Newcastle by train on the next Saturday as he cannot make it to Mr. Atkinson's Alnwick home (See NEIMME-JBA-10-53,2nd letter etc). He explains that he will hopefully arrive at 9.51 that morning and hopes to meet him at the Coal trade office after he gets off the train from Durham at 10.10. He concludes that if he hears nothing further he will expect to see him at the office at around 10.15 that Saturday morning.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, agreeing to the application for exemption from 2 shafts made by Shipley colliery under Section 18 (iii) (a) of the Coal Mines act of 1887 providing no more than 20 people are allowed to work underground in connection with the single shaft at any one time, no fire is used underground for ventilation or any other purpose, the second shaft is completed as quickly as possible and the exemption ends on the 28th February 1903.

14-10-58

16th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Robert Wood, agent, Longhirst Hall colliery, Morpeth, confirming that the Longhirst Grange colliery has been abandoned for working for an indefinite period.

14-10-59

16th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.H.B. Forster, Cramlington colliery, Cramlington, confirming that the Cramlington Coal company are beginning to clear out a shaft filled up from the Low Main to the Yard seam hoping to sink it to either the Beaumont or Brockwell seam. The shaft is called the Engine pit.

14-10-60

17th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell advising him to use a sheet of foolscap for his weekly report and date it from Monday to Saturday. He also asks him to avoid writing across printed matter if at all possible if he should report on the back of accident forms.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Swallow, Tantoly (?), County Durham, asking him to meet him at home on the 20th August in regards to his letter concerning Shipley colliery. He remarks that if he arrives on the 10.21 a.m. train his home is only a few minutes walk from the station.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson promising to look further into his questions regarding the division of work in (a particular?) district. He adds that it is all right concerning the Isle of Man on the 21st (August?) and that he has not received a notice from the coroner regarding the Dean Moor inquest, asking why this is so. He concludes by noting he has enclosed a notice of an accident at Throckley.

14-10-61

16th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, replying to the receiver concerning papers which he returns concerning an unnamed case. He remarks that the defendant had plead guilty to the charge of not having particular workings examined although the defect of the Special Rule involved was not fully argued with only the naming of the heaviest shifts being pointed out. He adds that the solicitor to the Treasury believed that the defect involved could prevent a conviction being made and what constitutes an interval was not considered. Mr. Bain, he adds, suggested that no revision be made until the new rules regarding timbering are established. He concludes that the need for revising the Special Rules involved would not seem to be in doubt with the safety of a large class of worker being at risk. He encloses a memorandum on the subject which he has also presented to the Northumberland and Durham miners' Association, pointing out that he has met with Mr. Bain that day and that he agrees with him on the subject.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.H. Stoker, Colliery Office, Ouston, Chester-Le-Street, confirming receipt of the Special Rules for the Ouston 'A' Pit, the Ouston Winning pit, the Uspeth Busty pit and the Uspeth 'C' pit and that he encloses copies of them complete with certification and returns them.

14-10-62

17th August/18th August/19th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.H. Stoker apologising for not having the details of the specific Kinneil colliery case to hand as his papers from Edinburgh have not yet arrived. From memory, he suggests that it was the use of Bickford safety lighters that was objected to as not being as safe as electrical fusing. He encloses a copied letter he sent to the Home Office on the subject. He also suggests that he thinks Mr. Stoker wrong in his assumption that the Explosives act prohibits the use of an ordinary safety fuse in a dusty mine where gas has not been seen for three months despite not having the Explosives order at hand. He adds that although the use of gunpowder as an explosive is expressly prohibited in such a mine, the small amount of gunpowder found in a fuse is not included in this if it is used under certain conditions.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to S.W. Corbett, Clifton Moor, Fence Houses, suggesting that his nomination of George Birtley as the manager of Blaxett colliery during the absence of appointed manager George Lind(s?)ay is somewhat irregular as only one person can be appointed manager of a mine. He asks whether he meant to appoint Mr. Birtley as an undermanager who, under Section 21(2) of the Coal Mines Registration act of 1887, would be subject to the same responsibility and be subject to the same liabilities as the manager when the latter is absent.

The third a note by J.B. Atkinson stating that he is writing with a fountain pen charged with Cochranes' combined writing and copying Sty(?) Pen ink.

14-10-63/64

18th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, suggesting that the proposed new Special Rules on the timbering of mines for the Northumberland and Durham collieries agreed to after conferences between the Directors of Mines and the coal owners and which Mr. Bain has noted has been approved by the Secretary of State is somewhat flawed. He suggests there would be serious objections to the vagueness to the wording of Rule 1 relating to the propping of a roof, which would mean it would be very difficult to prosecute against if the Rule were thought to be being contravened. The idea that the owner or manager could keep posted a notice specifying the maximum distance apart at which props or other roof supports at the working faces are to be set and that the persons setting props or other roof supports shall see that this maximum distance is not exceeded should be revised, in Mr. Atkinson's opinion, to a rule closer to the one he helped negotiate with the Coal Masters of Scotland whereby a notice is posted which may be varied from time to time according to circumstances that notifies for each seam or district of a seam that no part of the exposed roof in the working place, unless where brushed, shall be more than a specified distance from a prop, lid, crown, building or mineral face from another roof support. He hopes that there is time left to change the rule more in line with the latter suggestion before it is established.

NEIMME-JBA-10-65

19th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell enclosing a coroners telegram as to the inquest into a fatal accident at Bewick Main (colliery?) and promising to send the particulars of said inquest to him early the next day. He also informs him that he is going to Alston on Friday and may be there until Monday evening and asks whether Mr. Bell will still be in Cullercoats until then in case anything turns up.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to I. Gerrard informing him that he will join him in shooting on the next Saturday at Alston (see letter above) and will arrive at Alston on Friday at 7 o'clock. He adds he hopes the weather will improve as it has been wretched where he is.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to John Wilson M.P., Miners' Association, Durham, explaining that the proposed amendment to the Special Rules related to timbering comes from the Secretary of State as advised by the Inspectors of Mines and hopes to reduce the amount of accidents from falls by systematic timbering (see NEIMME-JBA-10-63/64 above). He encloses a copy of the proposed rules that he thinks has been provisionally agreed to by the Durham and Northumberland collieries and asks him to return it when he has finished with it.

NEIMME-JBA-10-66

20th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Robert Wood, agent, Longhirst Hall colliery, Morpeth, asking if any coal has been drawn from the Longhirst Grange or Hall colliery that year. If so, he advises Mr. Wood that the form of Annual Return must be filled in and sent to him. He adds that a plan of the workings must be sent to the Home Secretary.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.W. Corbett apologising for a misunderstanding regarding the management of Blakett colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-62,2nd letter). He remarks that he thought the manager at Netherston and the one at Blakett were one and the same person as he thought the name (Linday?) was quite unusual, but then realised one was named Robert and the other George. The misunderstanding led him to believe the Netherston manager had also been appointed as the manager at Blakett and that during his absence from the latter George Birtley was to act as manager in his place. Now he realises his error, Mr. Atkinson realises everything was in order. He adds that it is optional whether an undermanager is appointed or not. He also thanks him for his congratulations regarding his return to England. He adds that he liked Scotland 'very well' but feels more at home in his new position.

NEIMME-JBA-10-67

20th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to A.H. Stoker suggesting that he is still unconvinced that Mr. Stoker is correct on his views regarding the admissibility of gunpowder fuses in certain mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-62,1st letter). He agrees that gunpowder as an explosive is prohibited in dusty or gaseous mines, but suggests that the gunpowder used in fuses is not thought of as an explosive in the same way, saying that even in a gaseous mine the prohibition of gunpowder does not necessarily mean the prohibition of the use of gunpowder in a fuse. In that case, he argues, the question would be whether such a fuse was found to be less safe than using electrical firing.

NEIMME-JBA-10-68

21st August/22nd August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to I. Jeffery, secretary, Tanfield Lea Miners' Lodge, Tantoley, County Durham, promising to look closer into the perceived problems at the Wind pit at Tanfield Lea colliery- the lack of scaffolding below hanging on, the want of (keys?) at bank and the reportedly defective winding engine.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Wilson M.P., Miners' Association, Durham, apologising for being unable to meet Mr. Wilson the following Saturday regarding the proposed Special rules alteration (see NEIMME-JBA-10-65, 3rd letter etc.). He proposes to meet either on the 27th or 28th August at the Coal Trade Office at 10.15 a.m.

NEIMME-JBA-10-69

26th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to M.Delevigne, Home Office, informing him that he has redrafted and slightly altered a circular and notice regarding thawing explosives in response to his previous letter. He adds that the revised circular and notice might as well be sent to all quarries as the use of nitroglycerine is so widespread and it is at the smaller places where Mr. Atkinson believes the necessary precautions are least likely to be taken.

NEIMME-JBA-10-70/71

August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to H. Cunyghame remarking on the instructions given by the Secretary of State to try and alleviate the number of accidents occurring at quarries when explosives contain nitroglycerine in a solid or frozen state (see NEIMME-JBA-10-69 above). He suggests accidents occur due to the understanding that said nitroglycerine thaws at the temperature of freezing point in water when it does in fact become solid at a temperature considerably above that. He adds that solid or frozen nitro should be subjected to a moderately high temperature using warming pans for at least two hours before being used, noting that the Inspector of Explosives report specifically stated that most of the accidents which occurred under the heading of being caused by ramming, boring into unexploded cartridges and the striking of unexploded cartridges in debris were due to the explosion of nitroglycerine in said frozen or solid state. The thawing of said explosives, especially during the Winter months when most such accidents occur, would hopefully result in far fewer accidents. He adds that the Home Secretary has prepared a form of notice regarding the necessity of such precautions to be posted on the door of the magazine or store from which the men fetch their explosives in each quarry.

NEIMME-JBA-10-71A/72

24th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, continuing his queries concerning the expenses incurred in two recent removals, one from Glasgow to Edinburgh, then from Edinburgh to Newcastle, involved in his changing positions as a Mining inspector (see NEIMME-JBA-10-27 etc). He notes that the Under Secretary has not specified the claims that will be allowed to rank so provides a provisional estimate of how the special allowance of 100 pounds has been arrived at- with costs incurred for Mrs Atkinsons' travelling expenses from Glasgow to Edinburgh of 5 pounds, her travelling expenses from Edinburgh to Newcastle of 10 pounds, the loss incurred on tenant's fittings in the Glasgow house of 25 pounds and fittings in the Edinburgh house of 5 pounds, the cost of new carpets rendered necessary by the removals of 30 pounds, the cost of papering and painting the Newcastle house of 15 pounds and the fitting of blinds,curtains etc. at a cost of 10 pounds. He adds that this requested allowance does not include the 20 pounds he paid to join clubs in Edinburgh which are now rendered useless, the 35 pounds he needed to pay for a provisional furnished house until his furnished house at Devonshire Terrace is ready or the various school books for the younger portion of his family. He concludes by saying that the combined total of the two removals will cost him well over the 100 pounds of the proposed allowance.

NEIMME-JBA-10-73

26th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to R.W. Berkley, Marley Hill colliery, Swalwell, County Durham, confirming the appointment of Percy Ewbank Lee as the undermanager of Marley Hill Basty (?) colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-74

26th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell informing him that he has wired him with details of the inquest into the death of Robert Sedgwick but after consideration presumes he won't be able to attend. He advises him not to investigate the case as he has already sent details to Mr. Nicholson in his stead.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to M. Delevigne, Home Office, informing him that the plan of the Prince Edward pit or mine is in the hands of a Mr. Barns, in whose district the pit lies.

NEIMME-JBA-10-75

27th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Wood, Longhirst Hall colliery, Morpeth, who tells him that he will visit the colliery on Friday the 29th August at 11 a.m. to discuss the Longhirst Grange colliery.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Jackson Swindle, manager, Dunston colliery, Gateshead, advising him that his notice regarding his replacements during his 10 days absence, namely George Dixon as the acting manager of the Dunston and Norwood pits and Joseph Barron as the acting manager of Swalwell pit, should have been made by the owner or agent of the mine as specified by Section 20 (i) of the Coal Mines act of 1887 and asks for this to be attended to.

NEIMME-JBA-10-76/77

1902 (sic)

Letter from J.B. Atkinson (?) to Sir Kenelm Digby, Worsley, Manchester, on behalf of the committee appointed at the Annual Meeting to wait upon Mr. Digby, informing him that the letter he sent regarding the appointment of an Inspector of Mines to advise the Secretary of State on the Inspection of Coal Mines amongst other things has been circulated amongst the staff and thanks him for his kind and courteous consideration of their representations on the subject. He adds, however, that the letter has met with much disappointment from the Inspectors for the suggestion that they have precluded anybody but the Senior Chief Inspector of Mines for the post. Despite the fact that the appointment had since its inception been held by the holder of that post, their mentioning of Mr. Hall (the current holder of the position) was only based on their knowledge of his efficiency and public service and not to try and limit the choice of the Secretary of State. He adds that he fails to see how there could be any misunderstanding from their end on the idea that the Secretary of State can select any one of the Inspectors he so desires as an advisor on such subjects. He adds that their only objection is that the recent appointment that has been made does not seem to have taken that into account. He adds that if their viewpoint does not seem fully warranted he hopes the committee will be forgiven for frankly stating them.

NEIMME-JBA-10-78

28th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Dickinson, solicitor, Whitehaven, noting that the complaint that certain old shafts near Lamplugh cross are not properly ringfenced as required by Section 13 of the Metalliferous Mines act of 1872 has been confirmed by his assistant Mr. Leck and asks that the matter is quickly dealt with by Mr. Dickinson as he has been informed that he is the solicitor acting for the trustees of Mr. Rogers, the late owner of the lands on which the shafts are situated.

NEIMME-JBA-10-79

28th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to S.J. Lindow, Central Office, Cleator, Cumberland, confirming that the Cleator Glebe Hematite Iron Ore mine is worked out and abandoned and has been closed since the 2nd June. He also notes their intention to fill up the shaft. He asks Mr. Lindow to send the plan for the mine, which he returns, directly to the Secretary of State at the Home Office in London.

NEIMME-JBA-10-80

28th August/29th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to F.W.Hall, Alnwick Castle Estate Offices, Alnwick, enclosing a list of Mines and Quarries in his district as he arranged to do when visiting the offices that day. He asks that if he knows of any working quarries in his area that over 20 feet deep he can supply a list of them and return them to his temporary home at Freeland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson, dated 29th August, telling him that the handbook he was preparing will not be ready in time for a forthcoming meeting as he has not got proofs from his memorandum yet. He also mentions that he has redrafted a circular he has written on nitroglycerine explosives (see NEIMME-JBA-10-70/71 etc) and advised it be sent to all quarries, noting that the smaller places tended to be where the least precautions were taken. He also notes that he is having a dispute with the Home Office over the new timbering rules (see NEIMME-JBA-10-65,3rd letter etc) and that the Home Office will not give way on the matter. He also encloses a letter regarding his circular on safety fuses. He concludes that he will be glad to put him up if he wishes to attend the Jubilee meeting in Newcastle and asks him to return all enclosures when he has finished with them.

NEIMME-JBA-10-81

29th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Charles Henderson, Cowper Colliery office, Blyth, confirming that operations commenced the previous day to reopen the old North or no.13 pit at Cowper.

NEIMME-JBA-10-82

29th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to P.H. Brulton, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, confirming that George Dixon has been appointed as manager of the Dunston and Norwood pits and Mr. Joseph Barron as the manager of Swalwell pit during the holiday of Mr. Swindle for 10 days beginning on the 29th August (see NEIMME-JBA-10-75, 2nd letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-83/84

30th August 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, regretting that the Secretary of State has thought it inadvisable to revise the proposed new Special Rules of Timbering regarding rule 1 which Mr. Atkinson believes is so loosely written as to make it impossible to enable a conviction against those who are thought to have

contravened it (see NEIMME-JBA-10-65,3rd letter). He concedes that the rule is practically the same as that recommended by the Inspectors at their annual meeting last year, but adds that that did not stop the wording being closely examined and the ruling suitably adjusted in Scotland with the precision he deems necessary to make it workable in practice. He also notes that when he mentioned the proposed new rules to the M.P. John Wilson, the secretary to the Durham Miners' Association, he professed that the association had no knowledge of them and asked to be provided with a copy of these proposed rules. When he had looked at them, he showed surprise at the course being taken since the custom in the district previously was to hold a conference when new Special Rules were proposed at which owners, miners and inspectors were represented. Mr. Atkinson adds that if the rules are established in the form and manner proposed the miners will have taken no part in their framing and will have no means of objecting to them. He returns the circular and form of the proposal to the owners with no further suggestions.

NEIMME-JBA-10-85

30th August 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Postmaster, Alnwick, asking why an enclosed envelope he posted prepaid express at Whitehaven at 10 a.m. the previous day and that was received in Carlisle at 12.45p.m. did not arrive at his home in Alnwick until that morning.

The second an apology made by Mr. Atkinson, receiver unknown, for the delay taken in forwarding a letter which had been sent to Mr. Leck in Cumberland in rough draft form but since Mr. Leck was not at home when first delivered it was not returned as soon as expected.

NEIMME-JBA-10-86

30th August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, confirming receipt of his letter containing lists of mines etc. in the no.1 district and noting that he has arranged to hand over the lists that had been sent to him by Mr. McLaren.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.Brown, manager, Acklington colliery, Acklington, thanking him for the letter containing details of the section strata at the colliery.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to the Whitehaven Colliery company, whitehaven, noting that although there should be a copy of the Special Rules among (Mr. Hedley's?) papers, it would be convenient to him if the company sent the copy signed by the late Mr. Hedley to him if they wanted the rules certifying quickly as he has not yet been able to go through the papers mentioned. He promises to return Mr. Hedleys' copy.

NEIMME-JBA-10-87

30th August/31st August 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Graham, Her Majesty's Coroner, Sacriston, asking him whether the holding of an inquest into the death of Robert Sedgewick held on the 26th August and of which he was informed at 12:45 when the inquest was to be held at 5.00 that day was in accordance with Section 48 (i) and (iv) of the Coal Mines act 1887 (see NEIMME-JBA-10-74, 1st letter etc.)

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Robinson, Sedgefield offices, Blaydon on Tyne, suggesting that magistrates may be technically correct in classing a case involving fighting as assault under a Contravention Special Rule. He encloses a Conviction Return, asking Mr. Robinson to fill it in using copying ink so he can make a copy of his own. He adds that had a Mr. Marrs had proceeded against Mr. Robson for assault, he would probably have got a conviction also suggesting that had the rule been drawn slightly differently it could have covered such assault cases.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson, dated 31st August, asking him to provide any papers he has referring to the death of Robert Sedgewick (see 1st letter above etc.) and the injury to Jonathan Trotter at Boldon Colliery on 10th September 1901 leading to his subsequent death on 3rd January 1902. He adds that he does not understand why the latter was not included in the list of the previous years' fatalities. He also asks for Mr. Nicholsons' address in the Isle of Man and to tell him when he leaves there.

NEIMME-JBA-10-88

1st September 1902

Plan containing statistics for August 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-89

1st September 1902

List of explosions at collieries in August 1902, including one of saxonite at Throckley colliery on the 14th August at Throckley colliery and one of gunpowder at Backworth colliery on the 15th August. The former occurred when a workman was explaining the method of firing a detonating explosive using a detonator connected to a primer of explosive lying on the pavement and one of Wood's Low Tension Electric Batteries. By forming the connection, he exploded the primer injuring himself. The latter explosion occurred when a workman, in the process of taking off his clothes on arrival at the working face, knocked open the lid on his shot box resulting in one of cartridges falling on his open light and the whole of his box, containing 2 pounds of compressed gunpowder, exploded.

NEIMME-JBA-10-90

1st September/3rd September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas J. Barnes, Whickham, County Durham, informing him that his letter to the Board of Trade asking for the Rules of explosives and mining and blasting has been sent to him to deal with. He asks him to send details of exactly what he wants so he may be able to help him.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.H. Shepherd, Sunderland, dated 3rd September, on the subject of the inquest into the death of Robert Sedgewick (see NEIMME-JBA-10-87, 3rd letter etc). He reiterates the fact that he received notice of said inquest only on the day itself, leaving him no time to arrange to attend himself or to arrange one of his assistants to attend. He adds that he sent off and wired Mr. Bell to attend but found he was at home at the time. He

suggests that in future the clear requirements as to notice of inquests made by the Coal Mines act be adhered to in every case so he can comply with the needs of coroners and jurymen. He thanks Mr. Shepherd for supplying him with a copy of the depositions and other material to do with said case.

NEIMME-JBA-10-91

3rd September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Office, proposing to follow the course he adopted while working in the East Scotland district concerning the establishment of Special Rules at quarries in the district. He suggests that he firstly proposes to the owners of quarries with 10 or more employees that they accept the Special Rules when they are formally proposed by the Secretary of State and then forward to the Home Office lists of the quarries that have accepted said rules from time to time. He encloses the first of his proposed lists of quarries, all of which have agreed to adopt the no.3 code of Special Rules when they are formally proposed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-92

3rd September 1902

List no.1 of quarries that have agreed to the no.3 code of Special Rules when formally proposed, featuring the Colwell colliery at Chollerton owned by the Colwell Whinstone company of Newcastle and the Haydon Bridge colliery owned by Kirton Brothers of Haydon Bridge.

NEIMME-JBA-10-93

28th August 1902

Summary of case against the Pony Putter (?) John Robson for fighting in the mine under no.121 of the Special Rules at the Addison Colliery owned by the Stella Coal company and John Robinson. Mr. Robinson signs the notice which confirms the case was dismissed as confirmed by John Harle of Newcastle (see NEIMME-JBA-10-87, 2nd letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-94

3rd September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to S.Tate, Trindon Grange colliery, County Durham, confirming the appointment of James Stipsey, with first class certificate no.1160, as the manager at Scotswood colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-95

5th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Crondace, Haltwhistle, confirming that the working of the High Main seam at Featherstone colliery has been abandoned due to the exhaustion of the coal supply.

NEIMME-JBA-10-96

4th September/5th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck telling him that taking time (off?) a week from Friday will be fine, confirming that if anything of importance turns up he and his fellow assistant Mr. Bell will be able to cope until his return, asking him to notify when he does so. He also adds that a visit to the Isle of Man during the last fortnight of the month would also be suitable, although he adds that Mr. Nicholson would return from there on the 11th September and he asks him to make sure the places they visit do not overlap. In a postscript he adds that Mr. Nicholson wired him from Dublin informing him they were unable to land at the Isle of Man.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.J. Walker, Polmont Station, Stirlingshire, dated 5th September, noting that Mr. Walker was the manager of Allerdean colliery which has subsequently been abandoned. He asks whether the notice of abandonment was sent to the relevant Inspector and whether a plan was sent to the Home Office. He concludes by asking who he should apply to for the plan.

NEIMME-JBA-10-97

5th September 1902

Plan signed five times by J.B. Atkinson and asking for an advance copy of papers numbered 1,2,3 and 10 to 15.

NEIMME-JBA-10-98

6th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Howson, Dickinson and Hanson, Whitehaven, confirming receipt of a letter concerning old shafts at Lamplugh and also noting that a Mr. Barlow-Massicks of Cleator is noted as the leasee of the minerals on the estate near Lamplugh Cross and Royal Oaks Inn. He also points out that covering a shaft over with planks is not considered an adequate or secure fence as specified by the Metalliferous Mines Regulation act of 1872 which means the shaft at Whinnah which is covered up in this way will require additional fencing.

NEIMME-JBA-10-99

6th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Millom and Askam Hematite Iron company, Monyell (?) mines, Dalton-in- Furness, Lancashire, confirming that the no.1 pit at Monyell has been abandoned and tracings have been sent to the Secretary of State.

NEIMME-JBA-10-100

4th September 1902

Copy of summary of a case against Frank Cunningham and Alfred Lynn, putters accused of contravening Special Rule 91 of the Coal Mines Regulation acts by entering a fenced off place in the 5th South Flat Yardbeam of the Hastings pit at Seaton Delaval colliery owned by the Seaton Delaval Coal company without authority and filling a tub of coals

without permission. The proceedings took place at the Tynemouth East Castle Ward Petty Sessions and the accused were fined twenty shillings including costs as confirmed by T.Y. Bramwell of North Shields and signed by John S. Tweddle.

NEIMME-JBA-10-101

6th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to S.Tate, Trindon Grange colliery, County Durham, forwarding him a copy of a letter sent on the 21st March to the late Mr. Hedley (see NEIMME-JBA-10-86, 3rd letter etc). The letter informs him that Jackson Swindle has been appointed manager of Dunston and Norwood collieries while continuing to act as manager of the Swalwell colliery while George Dixon and Joseph Barron had been appointed undermanagers of the Dunston and Norwood colliery and the Swalwell colliery respectively (see NEIMME-JBA-10-82 etc). He confirms that the original letter was among the papers he has received referring to the district and marked as acknowledged.

NEIMME-JBA-10-102

6th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Gordon Falcon, coroner, Workington, remarking that he thinks Mr. Falcon has misunderstood him in his previous letters as there have been a further two inquests held of which he has had no notice and has been unable to attend (See NEIMME-JBA-10-26, 2nd letter). He adds that the letter he sent also suggested that notices should also be sent to Inspectors assisting who are resident in the West.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Ronaldson commenting on a number of issues. He commiserates with him over the knee problem that is troubling him, provides introductions to R.B. Clark, G.O. Southern and R.A. Harle of Wardly colliery close to Pelaw Station, Ashington collieries near Morpeth and Wallsend colliery respectively, noting that if he wants to visit other collieries or metalliferous mines in Cumberland and Lancashire he can arrange these also but they wouldn't be accessible from Cramlington for returning in a single day and would need a visit of 2-3 days and he also mentions that he is leaving his temporary home at Alnwick within the next week to his permanent home at Devonshire Terrace in Newcastle and would like him to visit them there. He remarks in concluding that his time at Alnwick has been very enjoyable, playing golf at Alnmouth and also trout fishing and having bicycle rides.

NEIMME-JBA-10-103

6th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R.B. Clark, Wardley colliery, Pelaw Station, asking him to allow a Mr. J.S. Ronaldson, the son of the Inspector for the West of Scotland and a mining student, permission to see Wardley colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-102, 2nd letter above).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.O. Southern, Ashington collieries, asking him to allow a Mr. J.S. Ronaldson, the son of the Inspector for the West of Scotland and a mining student, permission to see Ashington colliery (see letter above etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R.G. Harle, Wallsend colliery, asking him to allow a Mr. J.S. Ronaldson, the son of the Inspector for the West of Scotland and a mining student, permission to see Wallsend colliery (see letter above etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-104

6th September/9th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.G. Dixon, Shilbottle colliery, Lesbury, noting that although he knows a Mr. Riddle only slightly and not enough to give him a formal testimonial he would be willing to say he had met him and formed a favourable impression of him for his application for a situation in Durham and possible accomodation.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Allan Greenwell, Colliery Guardian Office, Strand, London, dated 9th September, informing him that he has received a copy of the book Coal Cutting by Machinery in Africa and finds it a most opportune publication. He asks Mr. Greenwell to note his new address.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.G. Riddle, undermanager, Shilbottle colliery, dated 9th September, telling him that he has received a letter from a Mr. Dixon and noted his application for a managers' situation advertised in the Newcastle Chronicle (see first letter above etc) and would be willing to have his name mentioned in support of said application but noting that he cannot add much sin ce their acquaintance has been so short.

NEIMME-JBA-10-105

9th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Whitehaven Colliery company, Whitehaven, confirming receipt of a new copy of the Special Rules that they wish him to certify and one signed by the late Mr. Hedley. He finds that, despite the rectification of Rule 87 carried out by the printers, he has still found 13 other discrepancies which he has marked and initialled. He advises them to reprint the rules to follow word for word the previously signed copy and, having done that, send to him that reprinting and both of the previous copies of the Special Rules.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Gordon Falcon, Her Majestys' Coroner, Workington, saying that he does not believe that the sending of notice of inquests to him as well as his Assistant Inspectors Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Leck will necessitate an adjournment any more frequently than under the old system. He notes that he will leave instructions with his Assistant Inspectors on the matter and if one of those is present no adjournment need take place.

NEIMME-JBA-10-106

9th September/10th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Crondace, Haltwhistle, telling him that the drawings from both the High Main and Low Main seams can be included on the one return from Featherstone colliery but that the other part of the return must be filled up in the same manner as the return at years' end.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Brown, manager, Acklington colliery, dated 10th September, noting that the proposed appointment of James Wilkinson as undermanager of Acklington colliery should have been made by the owner or agent of the colliery as specified by Section 21(i) of the Coalminers' act and should be rectified as soon as possible.

NEIMME-JBA-10-107/108

11th September 1902

Plan of the Metalliferous Monzell no.1 pit in Dalton-In-Furness, Lancashire, owned by the Willow and Askam Hematite Iron company of Millom, Burntisland (?), in which the working of the Iron Ore or Real Hematite was discontinued due to the exhaustion of ore and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-109

13th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Postmaster, Alnwick, asking him to redirect all letters, parcels and telegrams from his Alnwick address to his new address at Devonshire Terrace in Newcastle from the 1st delivery of letters on Monday the 15th September.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson telling him that he will leave his current address on Monday the 15th September for his new home in Newcastle (see letter above) and that he hopes he enjoyed himself in the Isle of Man.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck telling him that he will leave his current address on Monday the 15th September for his new home in Newcastle (see letters above).

NEIMME-JBA-10-110

13th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Postmaster, Edinburgh, asking him to redirect all letters, telegrams and parcels from his previous address at Merchiston Gardens, Edinburgh, to his new address at Devonshire Terrace in Newcastle from the time he receives this letter.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the Postmaster, Newcastle upon Tyne, asking him that from the 1st despatch from Newcastle on Monday the 15th September his letters, telegrams and parcels should no longer be redirected to his temporary home in Alnwick but direct to his home in Devonshire Terrace in Newcastle.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. W. Ware returning his letter from the State (Statute?) office concerning the Newcastle Directory noting the Northumberland directory will do.

NEIMME-JBA-10-111

13th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the owners of Bentinck West Hartley colliery, Bentinck West Hartley Office, Newcastle upon Tyne, confirming the appointment of William Ramsay as the manager of Pegswood colliery in the room of J.C. Hall.

NEIMME-JBA-10-112

15th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Brown, Morpeth colliery, confirming that they have commenced two drifts at the Wansbeck Riverside near the Park House Farm House and that the Bessie Gray shaft is now standing. He adds that he does not recognise his colliery in the list of mines he has and wonders whether it is a new place.

NEIMME-JBA-10-113

17th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Acklington Coal company, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, confirming the appointment of James Williamson as the undermanager of Acklington colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-114

17th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Mickley Coal company, Mickley collieries, Prudhoe on Tyne, confirming the appointment of John Wright Batey as the Undermanager at Mickley collieries to act along with two others that had been previously appointed. He asks in which colliery he will act as undermanager and the number and class of his certificate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-115

18th September/19th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Captain J.H. Thomson, Home Office, saying that he is now satisfied that the accident that caused the explosion at Dunston colliery on the 8th July was wrongly described and should not have been noted as an explosives accident. Mr. Atkinson adds that the probable cause of the explosion of firedamp was either the ignition of the fuse of a gunpowder shot or by the shot itself but that the flame of the explosive had nothing to do with the injuries.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 19th September, asking him to find out whether his order for 6 of the Shannon Building cases has gone astray, since he has recently made his 16th demand for them. He adds that the lack of them has caused much inconvenience to him.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Woof, Shipley colliery, Alnwick, dated 19th September, telling him that he has not yet been able to find any copies of the Special Rules for Landsale collieries but that he will send him two of the same when he does so.

NEIMME-JBA-10-116

19th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.T. Foulis, Ramsey, Isle of Man, confirming that he has begun prospecting for Hematite Iron on the Estates of Margher (and) Breck and Port Movuz near Ramsey, Isle of Man. The company operating is confirmed as Hematite Development Ltd of London.

NEIMME-JBA-10-117

19th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Morrison, manager, St. Helens' colliery, confirming that they have recommenced the working of the Slatyband and Rather band seams in the no.2 pit in the colliery on September 8th.

NEIMME-JBA-10-118

20th September/21st September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F.Bell asking him to give an explanation to his report on the accident at Dunston Colliery on 8th July which he considers misleading. He notes that having found the report of the accident and his further explanation of it initially unsatisfactory he visited the colliery on the 16th September and took statements from two of the men injured in the accident, Daniel Maltinson and Joseph Ward, a deputy and hewer respectively. He came to the conclusion that the men were burned by the gas ignited by the flame of the aquil or flame of the shot, the shot did not explode prematurely and that it was quite impossible that either the flame of the shot or stuff thrown by the shot could have reached the men in the position they had taken up. He adds that both the manager Mr. Swindle and Simon Jate believed that gas was present and that its ignition caused the accident.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.Flynn, secretary, Cumberland Iron Ore Miners and Quarrymans' Association, Cleator Moor, dated 21st September, confirming that Mr. Leck has forwarded his letter concerning No.6 and 24 pits at Cleator Iron Ore mines and that the matter is being attended to. He asks that Mr. Flynn in future send such letters of complaint directly to him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-119

20th September/21st September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Stewart, Glasgow, noting that he believes that Mr. Stewart was secretary to the Allerdean Coal company which owned the Allerdean colliery. He continues that no notice of abandonment seems to have been sent to the Mines Inspector or an abandoned plan of workings to the Secretary of State and asks him to attend to these matters. He encloses a form of acknowledgment of notice of abandonment for his guidance.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck concerning the problems with the no.6 and 24 pits at Cleator Iron Ore mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-118, 2nd letter above). He notes that he has received the letters from Mr. Leck and Mr.

Flynn and the tracing showing the pits and their connecting road. Having looked at the Special Rules established at the mines on the 21st January 1900 Mr. Atkinson argues that he can find no legal precedent in which they can interfere except under Section 18 of the Metalliferous Mines act 1872 and even then he believes they would not be successful if the owners wanted to fight for their case. He also thinks they would not be justified in using their powers in the present case since there is nothing forbidding the proposed arrangement and Special Rule 14 actually provides for it. He suggests that he meets the manager and tell him to make the travelling road between the pits safe and convenient. He concludes by saying he has advised Mr. Flynn to address all complaints and other matters to himself directly in future and advises Mr. Leck to send all the papers and Special Rules he returns to him back from whence they came.

NEIMME-JBA-10-120

22nd September/23rd September/24th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.H. Darby, Drymbo, Wrexham, enclosing the list of coking coal he asked for. He also says he has forwarded a list about the East Scotland district to R. McLaren in Edinburgh who is now in charge in that area (taking over from himself).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to L. Wilson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories, Prudential Assurance Buildings, Newcastle upon Tyne, telling him his new address and inviting him to call there on Thursday the 25th September at 8 p.m.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J. Longridge, Barradon colliery, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, confirming receipt of notice of the accident to Thomas Seymour on the 16th May 1901 which led to his death on the 22nd September 1902.

NEIMME-JBA-10-121

24th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Stewart, Glasgow, asking him to prepare a plan of unspecified workings (Allerdean colliery?) and forward it to the Home Secretary. He adds that he supposes a plan would be kept and if this is done he has nothing further to ask of him.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware referring to Mr. Atkinsons' demand for a fountain pen which he returns. He explains that when he previously demanded a fountain pen he was sent a deep stylo which he still finds useful for rough work but now wants a fountain pen for desk work.

NEIMME-JBA-10-122

24th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to W.Wear, Colpitts, Slaley, pointing out various problems at the Colpitts colliery he noted when he visited the previous day- he found the man in charge had been making no written daily report, there was no abstract of the Coal Mines act or Special Rules posted up and no plan of the workings was at the office of the mine.

He asks that these matters are attended to and also advises that a warming pan is provided for the gelatine dynamite they use for shooting bottom stone since the explosive is dangerous to handle in frosty or cold weather unless thawed. He concludes by also advising that the air pit is fitted with ladders in case their other road collapses.

NEIMME-JBA-10-123

25th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to S. Bates, Prudhoe on Tyne, pointing out the possibility of confusion at Mickley, Prudhoe and West Wylam collieries as regards their appointed undermanagers. He points out that the appointment of J.W. Batey as an undermanager to work alongside the appointed undermanagers at the three collieries (R. Wardle senior at Mickley and Prudhoe and Thomas Bates Junior at West Wylam) means certain duties and responsibilities for when the managers of the pits are away (S.Bates at Mickley and Prudhoe, Thomas Bates at West wylam) under Section 21 of the Coal Mines act 1887 which would normally fall on said undermanager would become confused. He suggests that the management be more clearly defined so it became clear who had ultimate responsibility for each colliery when the manager was away. He promises to visit Prudhoe shortly to discuss the matter and asks that they think it over in the meantime.

NEIMME-JBA-10-124

25th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, telling him that the objection made by the manager of the Linty (?) colliery to the first of the Special Rules concerning timbering will be formally withdrawn following Mr. Atkinsons' meeting with him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-125

25th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George A. Stonier, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, Calcutta, noting that it is not usual for Inspectors to send reports on mine accidents to managers since it is more usual to call attention verbally when inquiring into an accident of any similar case or cases that have come under their observation while also on occasion furnishing written particulars or providing managers with a copy of a report. Mr. Atkinson argues that, as Inspectors have to do all their own office work, it is not practical to send written reports to many managers but does admit that it might often be useful if a short memo was made on the occasion of any special accident and sent to mines where the Inspector thought similar accidents might happen.

NEIMME-JBA-10-126

26th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Allerdale Coal company, Colliery Offices, Workington, confirming the appointments of J. McFarlane and J.W. Steele as the undermanagers of Buckhill and Allhallows collieries respectively.

NEIMME-JBA-10-127

26th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to P. Kirkup, Mining Offices, Birtley, County Durham, confirming the appointments of John Coates and George Middlemass as the undermanagers of Ravensworth Betty pit and the Reurik (?) Main D Pit/Riding Drift in the rooms of James Stokoe and John Coates respectively. He adds that Mr. Middlemass had already been appointed as undermanager of the Riding Drift in a previous letter sent by Mr. Kirkup.

NEIMME-JBA-10-128

29th September 1902

Summary of a case against William Dearden, Hand Patter and Hewer, for having his lamp within 2 inches of the swing of his pick at South Tanfield colliery 'A' pit owned by James Joicey and company on the 25th September 1902 and sent to Robert Kay of Lanchester, the manager of the colliery at Stanley. The fine is suggested as either 9 or 10 shillings and confirmed by J.A. Ormsby of Durham.

NEIMME-JBA-10-129

29th September 1902

Summary of a case against William Hopper, driver, for being found smoking a cigarette at South Tanfield colliery 'C' pit owned by James Joicey and company on the 25th September 1902 and sent to Robert Kay of Lanchester, the manager of the colliery at Stanley. The fine is suggested as either 9 or 10 shillings and confirmed by J.A. Ormsby of Durham.

NEIMME-JBA-10-130

29th September 1902

Summary of a case against Thomas Scorer, Hewer, for having his lamp within 2 inches of the swing of his pick at South Tanfield colliery 'A' pit owned by James Joicey and company on the 25th September 1902 and sent to Robert Kay of Lanchester, the manager of the colliery at Stanley. The fine is suggested as either 9 or 10 shillings and confirmed by J.A. Ormsby of Durham.

NEIMME-JBA-10-131

30th September 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall, London, sending vouchers for expenses connected with his previous correspondence regarding the Special Allowance of 100 pounds for those expenses beyond those allowed by the regulations in connection with his two recent removals (see NEIMME-JBA-10-71A/72 etc). These vouchers apply for expenses totalling 35 pounds for the cost of a furnished house while his new residence was being put in order, 35 pounds 16 shillings and 4 pence for the cost of new carpets rendered necessary by removals and 17 pounds and 5 shillings for papering and painting his Newcastle house.

NEIMME-JBA-10-132

30th September 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Wear, Slaley, Hexham, confirming receipt of a letter and sending him copies of the Abstract of the Coal Mines act and Special Rules for posting in the mens' cabin.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware confirming receipt of his letter concerning new Quarry abstracts with drafts of circulars to accompany forms no. 9 and 10 respectively. He adds he has no suggestions to make.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Woof, Shipley colliery, Alnwick, sending him two copies of Special Rules suitable for Shipley colliery and asking him to post one of them with the pointed notice enclosed for a fortnight and then return both copies with a letter certifying that one copy has been posted along with the printed notice.

NEIMME-JBA-10-133

30th September 1902

Two letters-

The first from J. B. Atkinson to W.G. Fitzgerald, Fleet Street, London, enclosing for his consideration various notes on curious incidents on mines he has made. He asks that if he should use any of these notes he should keep his identity secret and refer to the notes as being made by an anonymous 'mining engineer'.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Pickering, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Doncaster, describing his preferred methods of recording and accounting for expenses. He notes that he prepares a weekly report which he instructs others to note any breaches of the Coal Mining act and inform the managers involved of these breaches, and in the worst cases a letter prepared for him to sign and send on. He adds that he puts a report on the back of the accidents beginning at the reverse end so it can be easily read when stored on Shannon filers. On these filers, which he finds extremely useful, he stores all papers according to date and puts in Shannon binding cases which are numbered and entered into a book. He notes that while working in Scotland about 3 months of papers would fill a case and had 13 years worth of papers so arranged so any case could be easily found. He adds that a book noting accidents was far more convenient than only using loose forms and in those 13 years in Scotland every entered case was entered and could be referred to. He adds that before arriving at his new post he had prepared a similar book to record in with some changes in the headings arranged to differentiate between coal mines, metalliferous mines and quarries. He encloses a specimen sheet as an example of this. He adds that the 4th heading allows easily changing an initially non-fatal accident to a one that later becomes fatal by a single entry with acknowledgments and so on copied into a copying book. He notes that he does not acknowledge all accidents to save on labour but since all accidents are enquired into, this doesn't matter. He notes with incredulity the idea that telegrams should be repaid, pointing out he never did so when in Scotland and would not in his new position except possibly to coroners. He also notes that he has never found a satisfactory way of recording changes to mines and their management but is now trying to incorporate this within his list of mines and other notes. He asks Mr. Pickering whether he, like himself, asks his assisting inspectors to take notes at inquests and send them on to him. He adds that he has always done this before and plans to continue doing so. He also remarks that he always copies into the copying book any remarks he makes on the Home Office papers which is useful in cases when the papers themselves can't be seen. He notes his preference for keeping the back of accident notices blank and his method of stamping papers. He also provides an example of how he lays out his expenses which he finds convenient but for which he pays for the sheets at his own cost. He concludes by noting his misgivings about commission returns not being returned which means he has to write them on blank forms and copy them into his copying book.

NEIMME-JBA-10-134

30th September/1st October 1902

Two letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-133 (see overleaf).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to E.J. Ormsby, Benwell colliery, Newcastle upon Tyne, dated 1st October, enclosing what he thinks is the latest edition of accident forms. He notes that he would prefer no printing on the back of said forms since he likes to make notes there and that if he orders any, he should ask them to leave the back plain.

NEIMME-JBA-10-135

1st October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, noting his receipt of a letter which allows only one of the two books he asked for- Cockburns' ' Law of Coal, Coal Mining and the Coal Trade' and Hamilton and Forkes' 'Digest of the Law relating to the Management and Rating of Collieries'. He notes his preference for the former.

NEIMME-JBA-10-136

1st October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.G. Garforth, Engdale Hall, Pontefract, providing him with a quotation from his fathers' book on gases and ventilation referring to the relative weights of dry and moist air which they previously conversed about. The quote notes that an atmosphere saturated in vapour is lighter, bulk for bulk, than another at the same temperature and pressure containing less vapour.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware noting his dissatisfaction with the Quarry List for Factory Abstracts he has been sent, in regards to the accuracy of the marking. He asks that the last annual returns or sheets of results be sent to him if they contain any detail as to where persons under 18 have been employed. He adds that persons under 18 can be occasionally employed but that a different abstract would have to be posted to take this into account. He also asks the exact meaning of the statement made regarding the use of mechanical power in the aid of a manufacturing process, asking whether it refers to brick making, dressing stone or breaking road material by such machinery. In a postscript Mr. Atkinson suggests sending both possible abstracts if it cannot be ascertained exactly where those persons under 18 were employed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-137

1st October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Honourable C.A. Parsons, Heaton Works, Newcastle upon Tyne, providing him with an idea for which he has taken out provisional protection for relating to making mines less dangerous by reducing coal dust. He suggests taking into each working place a pipe from a main pipe extending down the shaft from the surface to 250 fathoms, the pressure of which he believes could be used to saturate small machines enabling the miner to hole or undercut the coal, drill shot holes and do other work while the waste water is sprayed over the

worked coal and the surroundings getting rid of the coal dust. He argues that the moisture would be removed by the dry air current during the 24 hours and then more moisture could be used. If a machine could be contrived to enable the miner to work his coal at less cost or produce larger coal it would help to pay for the installation and a dusty mine might be rendered damp or free from coal dust. In using the natural heat of the mine to remtkinson argues, such a system could assist the miner in his work and remove the dangers of coal dust. Mr. Atkinson goes on to acknowledge possible problems arising- namely that moisture could weaken the roof or cause the floor of the seam to heave while also being liable to make working less comfortable with an atmosphere of warm air saturated with moisture being more enervating than working in warm dry air. He does argue that the latter problem would be lessened by the falling of the temperature as the water evaporated. He asks that Mr. Parsons makes some consideration of his proposal.

NEIMME-JBA-10-138

1st October 1902

Plan with statistics for September 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-139

1st October 1902

Report on accidents caused by explosives during September 1902, noting one such accident involving gunpowder at Cowpen colliery on the 22nd September. The injured man involved was about to light a shot of compressed gunpowder in a hole drilled in stone by means of a squib with sulphur end. He appears to have cut off too much of the end off before lighting causing the shot to explode on him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-140

1st October/2nd October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Sydney Bates, Prudhoe on Tyne, promising to come to Prudhoe the next day to discuss the position of undermanagers by train arriving at 11.34 a.m. He notes he will go on to the offices at Hickley (?) if he does not see him at the station.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 2nd October, asking him to add an explosives accident at Marley Hill colliery on the 30th September to his form containing such accidents in September which he sent the night before along with the Labour Gazette form since he only received notice of it that morning (see NEIMME-JBA- 10-139 above). The accident involved gunpowder and the man involved was injured when a lighted candle ignited the cartridges he was carrying.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to the Whitehaven Colliery company, Whitehaven, dated 2nd October, sending the company three copies of Special Rules, one signed by the late Mr. Hedley, the next the one sent with their letter of the 8th September for his signature and a corrected copy which he has certified (see NEIMME-JBA-10-105,1st letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-141

2nd October/3rd October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck confirming that he will be glad to see him at 1 p.m. and hopes he will lunch with him on Saturday.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Pickering, dated 3rd October, saying that he finds the analysis of the accidents he notes in his letter to him to be annoying, trivial and somewhat misleading. He also adds his procedure in sending a small expense account to the Home Office, making a copy for his copying book although he has no book (at the moment?). He also returns a letter from a Mr. Wilson along with a proposed sheet for accident notices, noting he thinks all ordinary cases can be dealt with on the back of notices if they are blank so that multiplication of papers should be avoided. He also mentions he sees no necessity to acknowledge notices of inquests since an inspectors presence at said inquests is acknowledgment enough. He concludes by asking him to tell him when next he is in Newcastle.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to C. Henderson, manager, Cowper colliery office, Blyth, dated 3rd October, telling him what to do regarding the charges against William Bleuk and Patrick (?) Collins. He acknowledges receipt of his letter on the subject and the memo on the former case and the result of the trial of the latter. He encloses two conviction forms which he asks him to fill up using copying ink so that he can take a press copy of each, noting that in the case of Collins it can be returned at once while Bleuks can be sent when the case is decided. He concludes by saying that in his opinion Mr. Bleuks' conduct is clearly opposed to the intention of General Rule 12 (f) and it would be unfortunate if he was not convicted.

NEIMME-JBA-10-142

3rd October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Peter Spooner, Pegswood Moor and Howburn collieries, Morpeth, confirming that a drift in the little coal seam at the two collieries was started at the end of April and a water level drift was started the previous day to go from the river side to the new pit.

NEIMME-JBA-10-143

3rd October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R.S. Anderson, Hebburn colliery, Newcastle upon Tyne, enclosing an official accident notice form and pointing out his preference for no printing on the back of the form because of his habit of printing notes on the back relating to the case.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to C.J. Clough, Geological Survey office, Sheriff court Buildings, Edinburgh, apologising for not being able to assist him regarding colliery plans because he has left Edinburgh and is now in charge of the Newcastle district. He suggests contacting any of the managers in the Lothians for help and provides the address for his successor in Edinburgh, R. McLaren who he believes would also be able to help.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to the National Telephone company, Newcastle on Tyne, asking them to complete the telephone installation in his house as quickly as possible as he is being seriously inconvenienced by its absence. He asks for a date for its completion.

NEIMME-JBA-10-144

4th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to W.J. Burrow, Rosthwaite, Borrowdale, Keswick, confirming that a quarry has been started in Mr. J. Allison's' Castle Bank ground as noted in a message forwarded to him by Mr. Leck. He asks that any future notices of this type be sent straight to him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-145

4th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Hudspith, South Tyne colliery, Haltwhistle, confirming that the mines formerly belonging to the Langley Barony Silica Brick company namely the Langley Fireclay mine and the Cartsbog mine have now been transferred to the Langley Fireclay company in Langley on Tyne with H. Collins as manager.

NEIMME-JBA-10-146

4th October 1902

Report of case against (?) for contravening (?) at the Cowpen Coal company (?) as confirmed by the Blyth solicitors Charles and Sydney Alderson and signed by Charles Henderson, manager of the colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-147

4th October 1902

Report of case against the hewer Peter Collins for contravening General Rule 12(f) of the 1887 Coal Mining Registration act by firing a shot not under the direction of a competent person at the Mill pit owned by the Cowpen Coal company on the 30th September 1902 in which there was found to be no case against him as noted by Charles and Sydney Alderson, solicitors, Blyth and signed by Charles Henderson, manager of the colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-148/149

4th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Charles Henderson, manager, Cowpen colliery, commenting on the inability of the crown to prove the charge against Peter Collins in the case against William Bleuk and Collins for contravening General Rule 12(f) (see NEIMME-JBA-10-147 above). He advises against trying to prosecute Collins for contravening Special Rule 131 as it would be difficult to prove that the firing of the shot was likely to endanger life or property since it did not do either despite the practice of firing shots in fiery or dusty mines except when under the direction of a competent person being undoubtedly dangerous. In trying to explain the failure of the prosecution, Mr. Atkinson suggests that the judge may have felt that the action of Bleuk in unlocking Mr. Collins' lamp could have been seen by Mr. Collins as

providing him authority to fire the shot despite him being called away before the shot was fired. Mr. Atkinson continues that despite the fact that the shot was not fired for a further three quarters of an hour, he notes that the Rule does not specify any time limit and the magistrates are given no guidelines on this. A more fruitful area for enquiry, in Atkinson's opinion, would be trying to prove the point he makes in his memorandum that the area of the shot had not been examined at all prior to the firing. If that could be proved to be the case, then Mr. Bleuk could be found negligent in giving complicit assent to the firing of a shot despite no examination being made of the place itself where the shot is to be fired and all contiguous accessible places of the same seam within a radius of twenty yards as specified by the Rule. He goes on to explain a defense that could be made by Mr. Bleuk despite this to wit that he could argue that in opening Mr. Collins lamp he did not explicitly allow the shot to be fired and only did so in preparation for making it after an examination had taken place and forgot in the act of being suddenly called away to relock the lamp and provided no specific authority for firing the shot in his absence. He suggests that he should advise deputies and shot firers that in the future written instructions should be made telling them that when shots are fired the hewers should not be allowed to use his own lamp and that the deputies/shot firers should light the shots themselves and wait to see the results after the shots have exploded. In a postscript, Atkinson advises that he should try to prove that no prior examination of the area was made, that Collins lamp was unlocked and that Bleuk had told Collins he might fire the shot before the second hearing of the case against Mr. Bleuk.

NEIMME-JBA-10-150

4th October/6th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Hayton, Her Majesty's Coroner, Cockermouth, enclosing stamps in payment for the telegram relating to the inquest on the body of William Johnson.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson, dated 6th October, enclosing abandoned plans to three mines and their relative papers- the Brockwell seam of the West Hinkley (?) colliery, the Low Main and Plessy seams of Longhirst Grange colliery and the Low Main seam of the Featherstone colliery. He asks that the necessary comparisons are made and that the plans are then returned to him with the abandoned mine form filled in using copying ink.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, dated 6th October, enclosing the abandoned plan of the Cleator Glebe Hematite Iron Ore Mine and asking him to make the necessary comparison before returning it with the Abandoned Mine Form filled in with copying ink.

NEIMME-JBA-10-151

6th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to M.W. Parrington telling him that he will call at Wearmouth colliery the next day at about 1.30 p.m. and he would like to see either Mr. Passington or Mr. Stobart.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell asking him to meet him the next evening if possible at (his home?) to discuss the accidents that have happened in the district in the past year that happened before he took over the (Newcastle) district. He adds that he hopes Mrs. Bell and the baby are doing well.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to C. Henderson, manager, Cowpen collieries, giving a further suggestion in connection with the charge against William Bleuk and Peter Collins (see NEIMME-JBA-10-148/149 etc). He proposes locking the hewers lamps with the lead plug making it impossible to use them for firing shots and forcing the deputies to remain to light the shots.

NEIMME-JBA-10-152

6th October/7th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson saying it will be all right for Wednesday but that he should call on Mr. Atkinson at about 10a.m. on Thursday to go through the accident list for the year.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to M.w. Parrington apologising for having to postpone his planned visit to Wearmouth colliery as an inquest has been fixed for the next day at 3.30 p.m. which he must attend. He apologises for any inconvenience caused.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 7th October, asking him if he knows of any Inspectors of Mines who have been supplied with a typewriting machine. He adds that it would be very useful to have one.

NEIMME-JBA-10-153

7th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Sidney Bates, Prudhoe on Tyne, confirming the appointment of Robert Wardle, J.W. Batey and Thomas Bates as undermanagers of Hinckley (?) Prudhoe and West Wylam collieries respectively with Mr. Bates acting as manager at all three collieries.

NEIMME-JBA-10-154

7th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Tweddell, telling him that he will be at Seaton Delaval the next day at 10.00 a.m. to go down the relief pit.

NEIMME-JBA-10-155

7th October 1902

Report on the charge against William Bleuk, Deputy, for not examining a place immediately before a shot was fired at the Mill Pit owned by the Cowpen Coal company and was fined 20 shillings for contravening General Rule 12 of the Mining Registration act of 1887 as confirmed by solicitor Charles Alderson of Blyth and signed by Charles Henderson, the manager of the pit (see NEIMME-JBA-10-151 etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-156/157 (see overleaf)

8th October 1902

Plan of the Mickley mines' Brockwell seam at Eltringham colliery owned by the West Mickley Coal company of Prudhoe on Tyne in which the working of coal was discontinued due to coal being exhausted as noted by certificated manager George Eltringham using the Magnetic Meridian system and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-158

8th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Wood and sons, Tynedale colliery, Hexham, confirming the appointment of James Henderson as the temporary manager of the colliery until a certificated manager is appointed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-159

8th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J. Longridge, Borraddon colliery, confirming that he will be at Hazlerigg colliery the next day at about 12p.m. to enquire about William Drysdale.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, asking the unknown receiver his opinion on the storing of explosives in connection with a reply he is making to an inquiry made by a Mr. Barnes. He asks whether the wording of General Rule 12 noting that explosive substances shall not be stored in the mine should be literally followed to the extent that miners cannot leave explosives in the mine between shifts or at the weekend. He explains that in Scotland the practice of allowing explosives to be kept in the mine at these times was not unusual and he did not object arguing that the explosive was likely to be as safe if not safer kept in the mine than carried to and from a store each time or even worse being carried to and from the miners homes. He asks for clarification whether there is any obligation for a mine owner to provide a store or magazine for explosives or if the miner is not allowed to leave his explosive in a store or magazine what he is supposed to do with it and if he is supposed to take it to his home, how much he is allowed to take there.

NEIMME-JBA-10-160

8th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Hodgson Collins, Langley Fireclay Works, Langley on Tyne, concerning the Carlsbogg colliery and the Langley Fireclay mine. He notes that a Mr. Hudspith informed him that the two mines were now owned by the Langley Fireclay company and that Mr. Collins had been appointed manager (see NEIMME-JBA-10-145). He adds that the company can change the name of the colliery if it wishes to and it will then be changed on the list of mines. He adds that he has enclosed 2 copies of the Special Rules established at Carlsbogg colliery and Langley Fireclay mine on the 2nd April and 2 copies of abstracts of the Coal mines act while adding that they should already have 2 copies of the new timbering rules that were recently established (see NEIMME-JBA-10-83/84). He then asks that they are all posted at the mines involved.

NEIMME-JBA-10-161

8th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.R. Gilchrist, Garesfield colliery, Lenity (?) Green, confirming that the Ruler and Townley seams at the Garesfield mine have been opened to a limited extent and for the moment only for workmens' firecoal.

NEIMME-JBA-10-162

9th october 1902

Report on the charge against John Bower, Hewer, for taking matches into the Gte pit at Turizell colliery owned by James Joicey and company of Chester-Le-Street and contravening Rule 10 Section 4 of the Coal Mines act and fined for it as confirmed by E.J. Pearce of Chester-Le-Street and signed by the manager William Severs.

NEIMME-JBA-10-163

9th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Edward Gregory, Crorshow Colliery, Maryport, confirming that the downcast shaft is going to be sunk to about 8 fathoms.

NEIMME-JBA-10-164/165 (see overleaf)

9th October 1902

Plan of the Glebe Metalliferous mine at Cleator owned by S. and J. Lindon of Cleator, Cumberland, in which the Iron Ore or Red Hematite was discontinued due to exhaustion of ore as noted by (unknown) using the magnetic meridian system and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-166

9th October/10th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell telling him that in future the part of Durham lying to the east of the Team Valley Railway will be visited by Mr. Nicholson unless he is specifically asked for.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, Secretary, Cumberland Coal Owners Association, asking if a meeting can be arranged in early November to discuss adjusting the Special Rules for Timbering in Mines for the Cumberland collieries (see NEIMME-JBA-10-160).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 10th October, returning his letter containing a proof of a Circular to Quarries with Abstracts nos 9 and 10 of the Factory (owned?) Workshops act of 1901. He asks whether the words he has added to the left side of the circular should not be sent in.

NEIMME-JBA-10-167/168

10th October 1902

Plan of the Featherstone mine at Haltwhistle owned by Thompson and sons of Kirkhouse, Cumberland, in which the Low Main Seam of coal was discontinued due to the high cost of working there and the inferior quality of the coal on the 8th July 1902 as noted by certificated manager Thomas Crondace using the Spice (North?) system and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-169

10th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to P. Kirkup, Mining offices, Birtley, County Durham, confirming that John Harrison and Thomas Hughes, both with 2nd class certificates, have been appointed as undermanagers of the Ouston Winning pit and the Ouston A pit respectively, with the latter being appointed in the room of the deceased Mr. H. Lawler.

NEIMME-JBA-10-170

10th October/11th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Captain Thomson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, Home Office, informing him of a fatal accident to the 46 year old stoneman James Morton Sharp at the Relief pit of Seaton Delaval colliery on the 9th September caused by a fall of stone unconnected with the firing of a shot. He supposes that this is the accident referred to in the morning leader (of an unknown newspaper?) on the 11th September.

The second a plan containing seven no's and signed by J.B. Atkinson, dated the 11th October.

NEIMME-JBA-10-171

11th October 1902

Report on the charge against Thomas McMullen, Incline Breaker, for using a safety lamp with a broken glass, not immediately extinguishing it and not reporting this to the deputy and contravening Special Rule 114 of the Coal Mines Regulation act 1887 at Heworth colliery owned by the Heworth Coal company of Gateshead on the 9th October 1902 and fined for it as confirmed by William Karle and signed by John Southern (the manager of the mine?).

NEIMME-JBA-10-172

11th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to H. Collins, Langley Villa, Langley-on-Tyne, confirming that the Cartsbogg colliery will now be known as the Hansondale colliery and that the compny in charge is known in full as the Langley Barony Coal and Fireclay company. He asks whether this means that William Hudspith was incorrect in stating that the company is now known as the Langley Fireclay company (see NEIMME-JBA-10-160).

NEIMME-JBA-10-172A

11th October/12th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to C.G. Troop, Home Office, returning a letter from Mr. Troop and enclosing a memorandum Mr. Atkinson wrote in June along with 2 copies of a proposed leaflet all on the subject of gases in mines. He notes that in the case of the leaflets he has corrected the one marked A. He concludes that he agrees with the suggestions Mr. Troop made in his letter about the subsequent treatment and circulation of the planned leaflet and has taken out all of the special references to Scotland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain, dated 12th October, enclosing papers referring to the new Timbering Special Rules (see NEIMME-JBA-10-166 etc) and noting that it was only what was done in Scotland after the establishment of some additional Special Rules. He adds that he saw Mr. Bain look into the previous day's Institute meeting but not afterwards.

NEIMME-JBA-10-173

13th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, confirming receipt of notice that additional Special Rules concerning timbering in the mines have been established under the Coal Mines Regulation acts in the North Durham and Northumberland portions of his district named on pages 34 to 37 of the official list of mines for 1901 and also receipt of a copy of said rules. He adds that to fully establish the Rules he will have to sign copies in duplicate for each mine involved, sending one copy with a circular to the mine owners while keeping the other for reference. He then makes a demand for the said circulars, copies of Rules and the addition to the latter for the certificate be printed.

NEIMME-JBA-10-174

November 1902

Template of letter to be sent by J.B. Atkinson to non-objecting mine owners concerning the Coal Mines Regulation act 1887 sections 51,54 and 57 and the proposed agreement to establish additional Special Rules for timbering in mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-173 above etc) that were proposed on the 9th September of the previous year by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The letter notes that since the mine owner/s in question have not objected to the new rules they have become established and the letter encloses a copy of the rules signed by Mr. Atkinson as required by Section 51(2) of the act which finalises this. He adds that the Special Rules must be posted up in the mine as required by Section 57 of the act.

NEIMME-JBA-10-175 (see overleaf)

13th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, asking for clarification of the necessity of an Inspector under the Explosives act being present at fatal blasting inquests as noted in Section 65 of the Explosives act 1875. He notes that on the occasions when such an Inspector is not available the inquests are adjourned and this occurs frequently as he also notes such inspectors rarely attend such inquests and, in Mr. Atkinson's opinion, do not need to in the majority of cases. He asks whether the presence of an Inspector certificated under the Coal Mines Regulation acts, Metalliferous Mines Regulation acts or Quarries act may be cited

as a suitable substitute on those occasions when such an Inspector under the Explosives act is not present as a suitable person on behalf of the Secretary of State.

NEIMME-JBA-10-176

15th October/16th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.J. Cheesman, manager, Claravale Colliery, Ryton on Tyne, noting that he will be at the colliery the next day at about 10.30 a.m. to enquire into the accident to James Lish.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to F. Jefferson, Whiltburn (?) colliery, South Shields, confirming receipt of the information regarding the death of William Harrison and the inquest's finding that the death was due to natural causes relating to his heart disease and not connected with any accident. He asks if he can be informed of the age and occupation of the deceased.

NEIMME-JBA-10-177

16th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Haydon Bridge Whinstone Quarry company, Haydon Bridge, on the subject of Haydon Bridge.

NEIMME-JBA-10-178

16th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Colwell Whinstone company, Newcastle on Tyne, on the subject of Colwell Whinstone.

NEIMME-JBA-10-179

16th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Harrison Ainslie and Company, Lindal Moor mines, Ulverston, confirming that the company have stopped working their no.17 pit at the mines for the present and in a post script acknowledging receipt of an accident notice.

NEIMME-JBA-10-180

16th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson noting that he has enclosed a list of mines and quarries that should be visited either by Mr. Bell, Mr. Leck or Mr. Nicholson himself. He asks that he notes any deficiencies and make corrections to the list as he sees fit before returning it to him. He adds that he has enclosed two signed copies of the

Special Rules established at the Colwell and Haydon Bridge quarries and to which he has sent a signed copy to the establishments themselves along with a circular letter. He asks him to keep the signed copies of the Special Rules and promises to send him all the signed rules of the district to keep.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Henry Dalton, Clerk to Benwell and Fenham Urban District Council, Blaydon on Tyne, promising to look further into the question of unprotected shafts at Delaval colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-181

18th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Brockbank, Holder and company noting that he has been informed by his assistant Mr. Leck that the old shafts on the Morbray Estate, Frizington, are still in the dangerous condition that they were warned about the previous June. He asks that the situation receive his immediate attention.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to T. Benson and sons, Newcastle on Tyne, informing them of his visit to two disused shafts near Scotswood and Benwell that he was informed were insufficiently fenced (see NEIMME-JBA-10-180, 2nd letter). He notes that he agrees with the assessment, suggesting that the late drawing shaft at Delaval Benwell colliery replace its temporary wood railing with a brick or stone wall while the Cedairs Main pit should replace the coping in its stone wall which has broken glass in it. As he understands that the company is the mineral tenant of the grounds on which the two pits are situated he asks that they get in touch with him about the matter.

NEIMME-JBA-10-182/183 (see overleaf)

18th October 1902

Plan of the Longhirst Grange pit owned by the Longhirst Grange Colliery Ltd of Morpeth whose Low Main and Plessey seams of coal were discontinued in April 1901 as arranged by the leasor and confirmed by the certificated manager John Robinson. The plan also notes that the Low Main Seam and the Plessey Seam used the Magnetic North system from 1897 and 1892 respectively and that allowance for magnetic declination has been made in each case. The plan is signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-184

18th October/19th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Swallow, East Pontop colliery, Annfield Plain, confirming receipt of his letter about Timbering Special Rules at East Castle colliery and returning one of the two copies of the proposed notice of them he had sent him. He adds that the way the notice is framed under Rule 1 and the specification of the distances involved are a matter for the owner, agent or manager and his approval is not required.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. Donald Bain, dated 19th October, professing that he does not see a proposed increase in the number of accidents reported as being tenable. He remarks that the system he followed while in Scotland was to have every accident investigated and the place of it examined. He proposes to continue this in his

new position and argues that an increase in such reports would make this impossible. He suggests that a definition or opinion of what constitutes serious personal injury made by the Secretary of State would clarify matters.

NEIMME-JBA-10-185

19th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R.G.S. Redmayne, Professor of Mining, The University, Birmingham, informing him that R. McLaren is now the chief inspector of mines for the East Scotland district.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.C. Kayll, Gosforth, apologising for not acknowledging sooner his invitation to the meeting of the National Association of Colliery Managers at Ravensworth colliery on the 17th October. He apologises for not being able to attend but adds that he is glad that there was such a good turn out for the meeting.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.J. Eagleston, Home Office, telling him that if the form of the certificate concerning the Timbering Special Rules does not seem sufficiently explicit he should make it to follow previous cases. He encloses the circular he made use of in East Scotland and which was used as the template for the present circular and asks him to return it after perusal.

NEIMME-JBA-10-186

21st October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, secretary, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, suggesting that he would be available for a proposed meeting with Cumberland coal owners about timbering in mines on any day in the first week of November bar Monday and Saturday. He would then come to Mr. Martin's office. He adds that a representative from the miners being present at the meeting would be advantageous.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H. Johnstone remarking that he cannot see why Mr. Johnstone's expense account for July has been questioned by the Home Office or why his subsistence allowance has been lowered. He adds that he should protest these measures as he can find nothing in the instructions to justify it. He continues that charging expenses which end up not being incurred is inevitable from time to time and providing the charges are ordinary and deemed normal he argues that this must be expected. If he uses this unexpected windfall to help towards the cost of his furnished house he argues that it is a shabby act if the Home Office steps in and objects and continues that he believes the Home Office would not object if the circumstances were thoroughly explained to them. He continues that since moving he has had little opportunity to play golf and that he and Mr. Johnstone must have a day at Goswick soon.

NEIMME-JBA-10-187

21st October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H. Rutherford, Deputy Coroner, Blyth, on the subject of the death of Emmerson Dixon. He remarks that Mr. Lamb's argument that he can do little if the men under his watch ignore his advice to leave the

quarry during blasting operations ignores Special Rule 11 which states that if the men do not leave the quarry shelters for them must be provided. He asks Mr. Rutherford to point this out to Mr. Lamb.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Armstrong and sons, Newcastle on Tyne, pointing out that Thomas Benson and sons have remarked that, as the lessors agents for the land used by two abandoned shafts in Benwell which Mr. Atkinson has found to be insufficiently fenced (see NEIMME-JBA-10-181, 2nd letter etc) they should rectify the situation.

NEIMME-JBA-10-188/189/190

22nd October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Malcolm Delevingne on the subject of reporting non-fatal accidents. He suggests that the most important reason to report non-fatal accidents is to ascertain how such accidents can be prevented in the future either by strengthening the application of existing statutory regulations, obtaining information on which future legislation can be based or providing guidance on points that are not formally covered by legislation. The secondary reason for such reports is deemed to be statistical and can be useful in determining how long such injuries can keep men from work and how much compensation is commonly paid to such men etc. He adds, however, that a large increase in such accidents being reported would lead to an inability for all of them to be investigated as the Inspectors would not be able to keep up (see NEIMME-JBA-10-184, 2nd letter). He suggests that the question of what is constituted as a serious personal injury should be more narrowly defined as those which are likely to cause death, those that are likely to lead to a permanent incapacity to work or permanent illness, those that cause great pain despite having no permanent ill effects and those which cause pain and are likely to cause some loss of time at work. He divides these further into two separate groups- injuries which cause bodily injury and those which lead to an incapacity to follow employment. In the latter case, a minor injury could lead to an inability to work despite having no lasting effects and can be mitigated by the Compensation act so he and his family are not so badly affected as might otherwise be the case. He adds that he disagrees that serious personal injury should be categorised as an injury that causes disablement from work for more than a fortnight as this would lead, in his opinion, to an immense increase in accidents reported and prevent the investigation of most of them by inspectors. It would also lead to inconvenience as many accidents would have to wait two weeks or more to be reported. He notes further that the death rate is satisfactorily ascertained, and while he believes that accidents which may cause widespread catastrophes such as explosions involving fire-damp and coal dust or to a lesser extent explosives or steam boilers should be reported but more minor accidents involving falls of ground, tubs and so on do not need to be reported as urgently. He also suggests that the different ways of reporting non-fatal accidents should be lessened with the Secretary of State perhaps helping by pointing out in a more detailed form what should be considered as serious personal injury. The proposal that an annual return be made of all accidents which caused more than a fortnight's disablement could be improved, he suggests, by adding the exact number of days lost through the accident, irrespective of the length of time providing a possible method of showing this.

NEIMME-JBA-10-191

22nd October/23rd October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Cowell, manager, Hylton colliery, informing him that he will be visiting the colliery the next day at around mid-day to enquire about the accident to S. Jenkins.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Lamb, Newcastle on Tyne, telling him that Special Rule 11 requires him to provide shelters during blasting unless all men leave the quarry when it takes place. He therefore states that his telling the men to leave was not enough to deny all responsibility for the subsequent death of Emmerson Dixon and he should rectify the matter regarding shelters (see NEIMME-JBA-10-187, 1st letter).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Woof, Shipley colliery, Alnwick, dated 23rd October, confirming receipt of two copies of Special Rules and promising to return one signed by himself in due course.

NEIMME-JBA-10-192

23rd October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Shipley Coal company on the subject of Shipley colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-193

23rd October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to M.W. Parrington, Wearmouth colliery, Monkwearmouth, confirming that the Wearmouth Coal company has abandoned their Limestone quarries and that their notice of same is sufficient. He adds that this return can be sent in at the end of the year and then a new form will be sent.

NEIMME-JBA-10-194

24th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Arthur Turner, Secretary to Isle of Man Granite and Silica Quarries company, Bradford, confirming that the company have started working quarries located at Dhoon in the parish of Manghold in the Isle of Man. He notes that the Quarries act of 1894 only applies to quarries that are more than 20 feet deep. He encloses a circular from the Home Office with the relative papers and asks that he informs him of the names of the relevant quarries, their situation and the minerals being worked in them so he can fill in the details for his Official List of Quarries.

NEIMME-JBA-10-195

24th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, secretary, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, telling him that he will visit Mr. Martin's office on Tuesday the 4th November at 3 p.m. to discuss the matter of Timbering in Mines if that is convenient. He adds that he has noted his comments on the workmen being represented.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Brockbank, Helder and company confirming receipt of their letter with enclosures and noting his opinion that the fault is clearly with the contractor concerning the delay of operations and that the work will now be completed forthwith.

NEIMME-JBA-10-196

25th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Secretary, General Post Office, asking for repayment of an express fee paid for a letter from Whitehaven at 10.10 a.m. on the 30th August to Alnwick for next day delivery since the letter was not expedited in the slightest degree.

NEIMME-JBA-10-197

25th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to C.G. Troup, Home Office, asking for advice on what to do with the considerable amount of old official papers relating to the district he has found in his house. He suggests that it may be best to destroy all of them, as they are of no use to him, but asks whether he knows about any regulations as to what should be done about them, as he has heard there may be some.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck suggesting that he should send out the returns and tabulation of figures for all the metalliferous mines in the district. In this regard, he asks what the custom has been in the district for sending out such forms and whether any circular was sent with them. He also asks whether Mr. Leck has a book for the tabulation or needs a book prepared.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson confirming receipt of his letter with a plan of West Kemble colliery in 2 sheets which he returns. He also relates his objections to the proposed increase of the reporting of non-fatal accidents and the proposed injured for more than a fortnight rule of reporting (see NEIMME-JBA-10-188-190 etc). He adds that he doesn't know what to do with Mr. Hedley's old papers (see 1st letter above) noting that when he was in Scotland he got none and was the better for it. He asks what 'Bill' has done with (the papers of) Scotts and Wynnes.

NEIMME-JBA-10-198

25th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson asking him about the custom in the district regarding Annual Returns. He notes that in Eastern Scotland he sent out such returns with an accompanying circular at or near the end of the year to the Coal and Metalliferous mines while the quarry returns were sent by the Home Office. He also notes that this year information is needed as to the use of coal cutters as described in a letter he encloses. He suggests that Mr. Nicholson send out Annual returns relating to the coal mines while his fellow inspector Mr. Leck send out those to the metalliferous mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-197, 2nd letter above). He asks that he also draw up a circular to be sent with the Returns noting that the return should include the whole output of coal or other mineral of value for the year including colliery consumption of all kinds, that the return be sent back as soon after the close of year and that those using coal cutters provide the information asked for by the Royal Committee on Coal supplies. He adds that a form may be drawn up for the coal cutter information if necessary and ends by asking if he knows of a book for the tabulation of figures or should he prepare one.

NEIMME-JBA-10-199

26th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to A.A. (Ash) Atkinson providing details of his possible patent for a pipe that could be used in each working place by the miner, with the use of suitable tools, to assist him in working the coal through spraying waste water to disperse coal dust and help with the heat in the mines. He suggests that the water used would be removed by the air current and the natural heat of the mines (see NEIMME-JBA-10-137). He notes that he has only taken out a provisional protection on the idea and that when he mentioned it to the mechanical engineer C.A. Parsons he suggested that it would be a matter for mining experts rather than himself. He asks 'Ash' whether he thinks it an idea worth pursuing. He adds that his other brother Bill has sent him plans of Mount Kemble in the wake of an explosion which he believes to be the result of coal dust. He concludes by saying he met with a Mr. Lyons and liked him a lot.

NEIMME-JBA-10-200/201

26th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to E.L. Kerr, Glasgow, providing a potted biography of himself and a photograph for insertion in the Colliery Journal and Mining Engineer. He asks for the letter to be returned after being made use of, adding that although he likes his new district pretty well he regrets leaving Scotland. The information he gives consists of his being born in 1852 and that he was the son of the late J.J. Atkinson who was for many years the Inspector of Mines at County Durham and the author of many papers on mine ventilation and so on. He continues that he was educated at grammar school at Houghton-Le-Spring, leaving at the age of 17 to work as a mining engineer with J. Dalglish at the Marquis of Londonderry's extensive collieries in Durham. He then went to Munnery (?) collieries near Sheffield as assistant to a Mr. Emerson Bainbridge. After his fathers' early death he returned to Durham and worked for some years at Haswell, Shotton, Whitworth, Hamsteels and Castle Eden collieries with Mr. W.F. Hall and the late Mr. R.S. Johnson. During that time he also was a student for the first session of the Newcastle College of Science, becoming the student of the year by taking 1st place in mathematics, chemistry, physics and geology. After the passing of the 1872 Coal Mines act he was nominated as an assistant inspector of mines and was appointed after passing his civil service exam. He adds that he is now the longest serving inspector on staff. He then obtained a certificate as a colliery manager at the first exam and took 1st place. After spending almost a year as Assistant Inspector in the Durham district, he got married and then went to the Newcastle district where he acted as assistant inspector for 15 years with the late Mr. Willis. While working in the district, he became considerably concerned with the danger of coal dust in mines after a series of disastrous colliery explosions which culminated in his writing and publishing, with his brother W.H. Atkinson, the book Explosives in Coal Mines on the subject. He was then appointed as Inspector in charge of the East of Scotland district on the retirement of the late Mr. Ralph at the end of 1888 and acted as such until being transferred back to Newcastle in July that year (1902). He adds that while in Scotland he was president of the Mining Institute for Scotland for 3 years and during that time the institute joined the federated institute. He concludes by noting that he has given evidence before the Coal Dust Commission, the Labour Commission and the Coal Supplies commission.

NEIMME-JBA-10-202

27th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, secretary, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, enclosing 20 copies of the rules regarding Timbering in Mines agreed by the Mining Association of Great Britain as the basis for the Special Rules for each district, noting that he has also sent Mr.A. Sharp 20 copies of same (see 2nd letter below).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. Sharp, Miners' Agent, Maryport, enclosing 30 copies of the rules concerning Timbering in Mines as requested by the secretary of the Cumberland Coal Association J.P. Martin (see letter above) for information with reference to the forthcoming meeting on the 4th November as he believes Mr. Sharp and his executive committee will be present.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain saying he will be glad to meet him at the coal trade office the next day at 3.20 p.m.

NEIMME-JBA-10-203

28th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware confirming receipt of 3 proofs and the originals of the circular letter and Special Rules regarding Timbering in Mines. In the letter he returns the originals and one each of the proofs which he notes can now be printed. He adds that the day of the month concerned should not be included in case the papers are not delivered in time. He also asks that Mr. Ware provide him with foolscap size envelopes with addresses in the manner of those sent out with the rules in the first instance.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson on the subjects of Annual Returns and an upcoming meeting concerning Timbering Rules. On the former subject, he notes his approval of the sending of an addressed envelope with the forms and also considers how it might be most efficiently noted which places use coal cutters. He suggests that if they had positive proof of which used coal cutters, those could be sent a separate circular and form but if there was any amount of doubt the question could be brought up in the circular with a form that could be filled in on the flyleaf if appropriate. He adds that Mr. Nicholson could best determine whether a separate circular or form for the coal cutter question would be necessary. He also asks that a book be set up to contain a suggested amount of 10 years figures and that he draws up a form of foolscap size if possible for this purpose. He encloses an official sheet with some suggestions along with examples of pages from a foolscap book formerly used for such a purpose. On the matter of the proposed Timbering Rules meeting on November 4th at 3p.m. to be held at the Coal owners office at Workington (see letter above) Mr. Atkinson asks Mr. Nicholson to arrange to be present. He says that he will bring 2 boxes of Special Rules with him on the 10.25 a.m. from Newcastle and that he would like Mr. Nicholson to take charge of them and go over and arrange them in such a manner as to decide which places they have certified copies for. He says he will arrange details of this when he next sees him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-204

28th October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to D. Armstrong, Huist, Morpeth, promising to look further into the question of ventilation at Woodhorn colliery.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Pickering on the subjects of Quarry Rule 17 with the appointment of a Dr. Foster and the possibility of finding petroleum in carboniferous limestone in Yorkshire. On the former, Mr. Atkinson points out his disapproval of Dr. Fosters' initial appointment, pointing out his lack of practical acquaintance with coal mining and not being on the staff. Despite this, he acknowledges the doctors knowledge of quarry work might enable him to advise on the question of the Special Rule but concedes that his manner of going about it has proved irritating. His approval of the climbing in and out of quarries several times a day, while not as laborious as such a

method in metalliferous mines, is still he believes laborious enough to warrant censure, with the question of safety also being a notable area of concern, with men riding in boxes hanging loose in the quarry. He doubts whether accurate figures could be found to consider this, with the practice being so uncommon. The problems relating to the possibility of jibs falling or cranesmen having difficulty with the complicated machinery involved are also noted, while Mr. Atkinson also asks whether such considerations would have to affect the minimum age of possible workers involved. On the petroleum question, Mr. Atkinson shows considerable enthusiasm for the possibility, noting the precedent of oil being found in a lead mine in Derbyshire which he thinks he has heard of.

NEIMME-JBA-10-205

30th October 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Dobie, Snabdough, Bellingham, confirming receipt of two copies of the Special Rules proposed for Bower colliery and promising to return one of the copies in due course.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to James Steel, Gummerton Quarry, Barrasford, Newcastle upon Tyne, telling him that he will enter the accident he mentions as occurring at the Barrasford Whinstone quarry as was reported to him and not at Gummerton where he believes the newspapers have wrongly placed it. He also reports that there is no need for Mr. Steel to send fresh copies of the Special Rules to him to be signed as the Rules will continue to be in force.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson in which he encloses a draft circular letter which he is considering to insert with annual return forms referring to the use of coal cutters (see NEIMME-JBA-10-203, 2nd letter). He asks that 'Bill' make suggestions on the provided circular and return it.

NEIMME-JBA-10-206

30th October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson (to John Sisterson?) concerning Bower colliery and Mr. Sisterson and situated near Tarsset in Northumberland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-207/208

30th October 1902

Tracing of a plan shown in full at NEIMME-JBA-10-209/210 below.

NEIMME-JBA-10-209/210

30th October 1902

Plan of the Featherstone mine at Asholme in Haltwhistle owned by Thompson and sons of Cumberland in which the working of coal at the High Main seam was discontinued on the 30th August 1902 due to the available coal all being worked out. The plan was made by the certificated manager Thomas Crondace using the True North system and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-211

31st October 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.P. Pattison, surveyor, Benwell and Fenham U.D. council, concerning unprotected shafts at the Benwell Royalty mine (see NEIMME-JBA-10-187, 2nd letter etc). He confirms notice of the accident on the 29th October in which a man fell down one of the aforementioned shafts without sustaining serious injury as far as he could ascertain. Mr. Atkinson notes that he has again written to the lessors agents, William Armstrong and sons of Ridley Place, Newcastle, on the matter (see letter below) and agrees with Mr. Pattison's suggestion that the shaft be protected in a temporary manner until it is permanently fenced.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Armstrong and sons, Newcastle on Tyne, asking them to consider further their lack of action in protecting disused/abandoned shafts appropriately. He notes that the question is pressing, as the matter was brought up by a member of the Benwell and Fenham District Council at an inquest in their offices on the 28th October while a day later a letter arrived in which the surveyor A. P. Pattison noted an accident in which a man fell down an unprotected disused pit shaft at Delaval Benwell, luckily without apparent serious injury (see letter above). He also notes that while at Benwell on the 28th, he was informed of another unprotected shaft which he had not heard of or visited between the road and river to the South West of the Delaval Benwell old drawing shaft.

NEIMME-JBA-10-212

31st October 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.G. Foster and company, Mining engineers, Newcastle on Tyne, informing them of the problem of three unprotected shafts at or near to Benwell Royalty mine (see NEIMME-JBA-10-211, both letters above). He notes that the old drawing shaft at Delaval Benwell colliery and another unprotected shaft which he has not seen to the South West of the former are represented by the lessors of the Benwell colliery, William Armstrong and sons, who despite not being sure as to who is responsible for the fencing and upkeep of the shafts because of the number of parties interested and suggesting it may be difficult to fix the obligation, have agreed to take on the responsibility for the shafts. The seams under the other shaft involved, the Adairs Main pit, are worked by William Benson and sons, but since they have no surface rights they have disclaimed any responsibility for the fencing of old shafts. William Armstrong and sons, Mr. Atkinson reports, have suggested that J. G. Forster and company, since they represent the owner of the surface and part of the minerals there, might take on these repairs. Mr Atkinson argues that such repairs are necessary since the shafts are situated in a populous neighbourhood and failure to do so would constitute a serious danger to the public, mentioning that he received a report that morning of a man falling down the old drawing shaft on the 29th October, thankfully without severe injury on this occasion.

NEIMME-JBA-10-213

31st October/1st November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.P. Pattison, surveyor, Benwell and Fenham Deputy District council, asking them to provide a tracing of the exact position of a dangerous shaft lying South West of the Benwell old drawing shaft as requested by William Armstrong and sons who have agreed to take on responsibility for adequately fencing the area (see NEIMME-JBA-10-212 etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Martin, Her Majesties Inspector of Mines, Bristol, dated 1st November, passing on information regarding Ironstone mines in Cumberland that are deep, warm and not well ventilated for a Dr. Haldane who wishes to visit such mines. His assistant inspector Mr. Leck has suggested the Parkside mine at Fryington which is 200 yards deep and the Montreal (?) at Cleator Moor which is 140 yards deep as the closest to what Dr. Haldane has in mind, while noting that only certain workings in these mines correspond to Dr. Haldanes' request.

NEIMME-JBA-10-214

1st November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.T. Robinson, manager, South Medomsley colliery, Dipton, confirming that the Main Coal Seam has begun to be worked via a surface drift in the Colberley (?) Royalty mine, beginning on the 4th September 1902.

NEIMME-JBA-10-215

1st November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Wood and sons, tynedale colliery, Hexham, confirming the appointment of Thomas Williams as the manager of Tynedale colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-216

1st November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to C and T. Ridley, West Gummerton Quarry, Barrasford, Newcastle on Tyne, confirming that the company have opened a quarry at West Gummerton and that an unspecified enclosure has been sent from the Home Office.

NEIMME-JBA-10-217

1st November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas F. Barnes, Clover Hill, Whickham, County Durham, enclosing a letter from Henry Cunnyngame regarding the storing of explosives. Mr. Atkinson notes he has laid his concerns before the Home Secretary and then lays out the advice of Mr. Cunnyngame, in which he remarks that under the Explosives act of 1875, the mine owner must provide a store for explosives if he keeps any amount for sale or if he keeps a supply of more than 10 pounds of explosive. If he does neither, he has no legal obligation to provide a store. Further, under General Rule 12(a) he suggests that a miner may be able take with him as much explosive as he would expect to use in a day and leave any left over in his working place for the next day without violating, but if he takes enough explosive for several days and keeps that in the mine he might well be taken as committing an offence, as suggested in a circular letter from the Home Office distributed on the 22nd August 1898. As to the amount of explosive a miner may be allowed to store in his own house, Mr. Cunnyngame suggests less than 30 pounds of gunpowder would be acceptable, but in the case of other explosives he would need to obtain a police certificate pronouncing him a fit person to store such materials and even then, he would need to limit himself to 10 pounds of material and 100 detonators or less. In conclusion, Mr. Cunnyngame lays out the Home Office position that the practice of miners

taking explosives to their own home should be discouraged as much as possible and that in cases of difficulty, the possibility of a mine providing a proper magazine or store should be encouraged by the Inspector involved. Mr. Atkinson concludes by asking Mr. Barnes for the name of the colliery he has alluded to so that he can get in touch and suggest to the owners that they provide a magazine or store.

NEIMME-JBA-10-218

2nd November 1902

Report on the proceedings against Shift lads George Todd and James Burk for refusing to leave the cage as and when they were ordered to do so at the Seghill mine owned by Joseph Laycock and company on the 30th October 1902 and presided over by C.C. Leach (of North Shields police?). The men were fined, Mr. Todd a pound and Mr. Burk 10 shillings, including costs which were not stated and T.Y. Bramwell, the North Shields solicitor, worked on the case.

NEIMME-JBA-10-219

2nd November 1902

Plan containing statistics for October 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-220

2nd November 1902

Report by J.B. Atkinson of explosions causing injuries in October 1902. The first, on the 1st October, took place at Barrasford quarry involving a springing shot of about a half a pound of gunpowder which when fired killed a stonebreaker who was 51 yards from the shot as a five pound piece of the whinstone that was being quarried struck him. Mr. Atkinson notes that proper warning was given and that the stonebreaker did not leave his place. The second accident occurred on the 3rd October at Dinnington colliery when a shot of gunpowder in coal was prepared and a patent squib used to light it only for the shot to hang fire. After waiting ten minutes, the injured man went back to the shot and upon hearing the squib run, he sprang back hurting himself against the sides of his workplace. The third accident occurred on the 6th October at Springwell colliery, when an injury resulted from a man not retiring far enough away from a shot of carbonite leading to a piece of coal hitting him and causing concussion. The fourth and final accident noted occurred on the 30th October at Fulwell colliery when, after a five inch vertical hole had been fired with about 2 pounds of gunpowder and a red taped fuse had been used to ignite it and a quarter of an hour later it had not exploded, men went back to test it. After putting in the hole a handful of loose powder and no ignition being found to take place, it was in the process of being recharged with about one pound extra of the gunpowder when it exploded. The only explanation offered for this was that part of the fuse had been left smouldering in the hole.

NEIMME-JBA-10-221

31st October/2nd November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Hayton, coroner, Cockermouth (concerning two fatalities on the fourth of October?).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Allan Greenwell, Colliery Guardian, London, dated 2nd November, noting that he will be glad to review the book 'Drons' Coalfields of Scotland' using the terms Mr. Greenwell refers to as soon as he gets a copy to hand.

NEIMME-JBA-10-222

1st November/3rd November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.Thompson, Birtley, County Durham, confirming receipt of a copy of the Special Rules for him to certify. He notes that although the age of 12 has been changed to 13 concerning Special Rule 18 he can't certify the Rules with this addition as the rules have not yet been legally adjusted to correspond with this. He asks Mr. Thompson to send him an unaltered copy for certifying. He also asks Mr. Thompson to send him a copy of the Rules as signed by the late Mr. Hedley on the 15th May 1895 as he has not been able to find the duplicate signed copy amongst his papers (see NEIMME-JBA-10-197, 3rd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Professor Bedson, College of Science, dated 3rd November, enclosing coal dust Mr. Atkinson had collected that day from timber on the no.1 pit at Engine Place at the Maudlin seam at Boldon colliery. He goes on to provide more details of the exact place in the seam and details of its surroundings and conditions. He concludes that he will be glad to hear of his views on the question of the relative capacity for holding fire-damp of coal, shale and rock.

NEIMME-JBA-10-223

3rd November/6th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Armstrong and sons, Newcastle on Tyne, informing them on further news concerning the unprotected shafts at Benwell Royalty. He confirms receipt of a letter from Mr. Reed of the company on the subject and that Mr. Scott has agreed to fill in the shaft where the man fell (see NEIMME-JBA-10-212 etc). He also encloses a tracing from A.P. Pattison the surveyor showing the exact positions of the old drawing shaft and the other unprotected shaft nearby, which despite being described as being between the road and the river appears to be between the railway and the road. He also notes Mr. Pattisons descriptions of the shafts, saying that the second is entirely unprotected while the old drawing shaft has fencing that is only five feet high and constructed in a way that would allow a child to climb over it with ease, which Mr. Atkinson confirms. He adds that if the latter is not filled up alongside the second shaft a 12 foot wall would have to be constructed around it. He adds that he has informed Mr. Forster that Armstrong and sons would secure the shafts on Mr. Scotts' recent holding while Forster would secure the shaft at Adairs' Main pit and that Mr. Forster's company replied that they are communicating with the Estate Authorities on the matter and will inform him of the result.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, agreeing in principle to the application from weighing coal at Hassondale colliery, noting that a mutual agreement has been made between the workforce and the manager to a proposed method of payment while the weighing of coal by the normal method is suspended after tests were made by weighing empty and loaded tubs. He concedes that this is only a small concern with the surface arrangements

only being of a temporary nature and the existing shaft possibly having to be abandoned and a new one fit up. He adds that he can provide evidence that the workmen do not object if this should prove necessary.

NEIMME-JBA-10-224

6th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Hugh Lishanan, Blaydon, confirming that the Blaydon East Quarry has been taken over from him by Davison and Bolam, the builders from Blaydon.

NEIMME-JBA-10-225

6th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Armstrong and Son, Newcastle on Tyne, enclosing a letter from Mr. Forster stating that he and his company have disclaimed responsibility for fencing old and unprotected shafts at the Blakett Old Estate including those at Benwell Royalty (see NEIMME-JBA-10-223 etc) and that a previous agreement had been made by Mr. Armstrong and previous Inspector Mr. Hedley that his company would take the matter on. He asks that they respond to this.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell suggesting that he does not think the changes he has made regarding the Expenses Act on October 16th, the 18th, the 21st and 28th concerning the Union Cement Quarry and Wallsend G Pit are in accordance with the instructions given. He asks that they be amended.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.J. Hall, manager, Ashington colliery, Morpeth, asking why copies of the Local Inspectors reports from Woodhorn were not forwarded to him immediately in accordance with the directions in the last paragraph of General Rule 3B.

NEIMME-JBA-10-226

6th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to L.H. Fletcher, Brigham, Cumberland, disagreeing with Mr. Fletcher's contention that a dearth of Colliery managers means that Mr. Fletcher should appoint himself as manager (pro term) of Allhallows Colliery and that he would not accept such an appointment. He suggests that Mr. Fletcher appoint a manager such as Mr. Gilchrist while allowing the local man to remain as undermanager with more control than normal until Mr. Fletcher is satisfied with the new managers' suitability. He explains that the Coal Mines act requires that a manager or undermanager needs to exercise daily personal supervision of mines but also that the manager needs only to be responsible for control, management and direction of the mine while an undermanager could have more direct charge than if he had a resident manager.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, saying that his attention has been drawn to the matter of unprotected shafts at Delaval Benwell by the Urban District council and after being in contact with the parties involved he has been informed that the particular shaft to which the chief constable refers is to be filled up (at once?).

NEIMME-JBA-10-227

6th November/7th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren suggesting that he could send him a bulky iron explosives box as he now has two and encloses a letter that he says should have been sent to him previously. He also comments on his recent game of golf at the Seacole course in the West of the district which he recommends and remarks that he has now settled in to his new home although the house is quiet due to the absence of Mabel, Bertram and the two younger boys who are in America, at Wallyford and in Loughborough respectively.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, dated 7th November, complaining that he has been sent a cheap stylographic pen in lieu of the Swan fountain pen he asked for complete with an intimation that Swan fountain pens are only supplied under very exceptional circumstances. He asks to be allowed to return the cheap pen and be provided with the Swan pen in exchange.

NEIMME-JBA-10-228

7th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson providing information on a number of issues- in reply to his queries on Special Rules, Mr. Atkinson advises that he does not think it is necessary that the name of the owners and the manager appear on the signed copy of the Rules as long as the name of the mine is given; that he does not think a copy signed for one mine in the case of an owner owning several will suffice for all of them; that there is no need to keep Special Rules for abandoned mines and that sinking rules should be placed with other rules referring to the same pit. On the question of Timbering Special Rules for Northumberland and Durham, he notes that he has sent to Mr. Nicholson that day copies of the Rules which he has signed and which he asks to be dated the 6th of November and for the name of the mine involved to be added as taken from the official list, to make two copies and then to keep one copy and send the other to the mine named; a circular to accompany the rules to each owner, to be dated to suit himself and a set of addressed envelopes that he should stamp, noting that he should enclose as many copies of the Timbering Special Rules to the owners as the number of collieries they own. He then tells Mr. Nicholson to mark on his list the places to which the Rules have been sent so Mr. Atkinson can mark his list accordingly. Finally, Mr. Atkinson notes that he has enclosed a notice of an accident at Whitehaven colliery and a copy of letters referring to blasting at Croft pit and suggests he look into the matter while not divulging that he has received the letters.

NEIMME-JBA-10-229

8th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Rutherford, South Derwent colliery, County Durham, confirming that William Armstrong has been appointed undermanager of the Cresswell pit at the colliery having a second class certificate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-230

8th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.Thompson, Mining Offices, Birtley, confirming receipt of a copy of the Special Rules at Ouston E(ast?) colliery and noting that since Mr. Thompson could not find a copy signed by the late Mr. Hedley he has found the duplicate signed copy at his end and encloses a copy, having altered it in a few cases to correspond with differences he has found and then signed it.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to (G.F.) Bell asking him to amend (his expenses?) regarding the modes of conveyance taken on Page 26 of instructions dated the 30th July 1901. He asks that he change the mode of conveyance from train to cab on his trips to Rowlands Gill, Newburn, Shield Row and Wallsend on the 16th, 18th, 21st and 28th (July,1901?) respectively.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to F. Jefferson, manager, Whitburn colliery, noting that he will visit the colliery on the 11th November to enquire about the accident to J.Murphy and go down the pit involved. He proposes arriving at South Shields by train at 10.52 that morning and asks whether he can arrange a private line to run along to the colliery. If this is possible, he asks for directions and to which station he should alight at etc.

NEIMME-JBA-10-231

10th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Bell commiserating with his current state of ill health and hoping he will soon be well again. He asks that the papers he forwarded to him for reports he has not been able to make be sent back to be attended to.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to The Secretary, General Post Office, providing him with the full address of William Leck, the Inspector of mines at Cleator Moor in Cumberland and stating that he is the sender of the express letter in question.

NEIMME-JBA-10-232

10th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to P.N. Brulton, Quayside, Newcastle on Tyne, confirming the appointment of Simon Tate as agent for the Norwood, Dunston and Swalwell Garefield collieries replacing Mr. Brulton himself.

NEIMME-JBA-10-233

11th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to L.H. Fletcher, Allerdale Coal company, Workington, confirming the appointment of John Walker Steele as the manager of Allhows and Brayton Knowe collieries.

NEIMME-JBA-10-234

11th November 1902

Report on the proceedings against Joseph Bramwell, coal hewer, for putting a pick hole into his lamp breaching Rules 114,116 and 118 (of the Coal Mines act?) at the Hebburn Colliery C pit owned by the Wallsend and Hebburn Coal company held on the 11th November 1902 and signed by John Smailes of south Shields. He was fined 10 shillings for the breach of each rule and 8 shillings for each case reaching 30 shillings and 24 shillings in total. This was (looked over?) by Charles W. Newlands of South shields.

NEIMME-JBA-10-235

11th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to The Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, expressing his deep regret upon hearing of the death of his Assistant Inspector G.F. Bell and confirming it to the Secretary. He notes that he wasn't aware that Mr. Bell was unwell until he received the medical certificate which he encloses (see NEIMME-JBA-10-231, 1st letter) and then subsequently learned that his death had been immediate and due to heart failure. He notes that the death leaves a widow and 4 children aged from 9 years to 6 weeks old and he fears that they are totally unprovided for.

NEIMME-JBA-10-236

11th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson regarding the Timbering Rules at Northumberland and Durham, enclosing a copy of said rules and noting the absence of any details as to the distance to which the supply of wood has to be kept. He notes that he has suggested 10 yards, the length suggested in Scotland, except where it is specially inconvenient, to the Cumberland people. He also notes that the managers have begun to see the ambiguity of Rule 1 (see NEIMME-JBA-10-228 etc.) He then notes the death of his Assistant Inspector Fred Bell after a chill and heart failure (see NEIMME-JBA-10-235 above etc) and asks whether he thinks a Mr Cadman might come (as a possible replacement?).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H. Johnstone, his ex- Assistant Inspector in Scotland, informing him of the death of Mr. Bell, his Assistant Inspector (see letter above etc) and that he leaves a widow and 4 young children, the youngest just six weeks old. He then informs him of a recent golfing excursion at Seascale where he found a really good golf course where he had a game with Sandy Simpson (the brother of John Simpson) and a Mr. Adam from Airdrie, both from Scotland. He remarks that in his new position he has had what he hopes is extra work dealing with new Special Rules and getting papers in order, but adds that he believes that he will probably have less work on the whole than when he was in Scotland since there have been no weighing disputes and few exemptions, also noting that he is missing his old friends, the procurator fiscals.

NEIMME-JBA-10-237

11th November/12th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson asking him if he can find a placing for his son Gilbert in commercial training in a good office at the quayside in Newcastle. He explains that when he moved from his position in Scotland he upset the plans he had made for his sons and Gilbert gave up his studying at Edinburgh University for a possible

place in the Indian Civil Service on his advice. He apologises for asking him but argues that, despite being told he would have no difficulty finding such an office place, he has tried for three months without success. He notes that he is a steady reliable youth who is prepared to start at the foot of the ladder despite being rather old to begin such work (19) and is actively studying shorthand and type writing in anticipation.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Mr. Delevingne, dated 12th November, saying he will send Mr. Hedley's set of blue books on mining to Mr. McLaren, who can then either send those to Mr. Cadman or his own set (see NEIMME-JBA-10-236, 1st letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-238

12th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to A.A. (Ash) Atkinson, Braeside, Randwick (?), giving him advice regarding Inspectors and their involvement in civil cases from his 'Instructions' on the matter- that they should not appear in a case unless subpoenaed and that they should not communicate or supply any proofs to either party except under exceptional circumstances and then must give the same information to both sides. He adds that Inspectors are summoned occasionally, saying he himself had been called about 3 times in the 13 years he was in Scotland under provisions in the old act, noting that the new act might call up an inspector if the charge is of serious and wilful neglect but that they would probably only be cited if the parties were fairly sure of an Inspectors' views on the matter. Despite the scarcity of times he has been called, he does not entirely believe that the practice should be avoided in all cases since he believes that a public court should have access to all possible courses of information, especially when the public are deciding a difficult question. On the other hand, he does believe that if too much time began to be taken on these cases, Inspectors might be used more expeditiously. On the question of coal dust in the North of England, he raises concerns that there seems to be no thoroughly effective system for watering in place, noting that some places have watered floors, but none he has seen have been watered on the roof and sides on which the finest dust collects. He adds that he believes there are many pits in which an explosion might go a long distance because of the possibility of it being carried by the amount of dust. He encloses his report on the subject from the previous year. He then notes the death of G.F. Bell (see NEIMME-JBA-10-236, 2nd letter etc) the previous day who he believes went out despite having a chill and argues that, despite not having seen much of him, he believes he may not have been very temperate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-239

12th November/13th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.A. Lishman, Harton colliery, noting he will visit the colliery the next day at about 11 a.m. to enquire about the accident to J.B. Teasdale.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to D. Armstrong, Heriot, dated 13th November, explaining that there is nothing in the Coal Mine act compelling Local Inspectors to accompany Government Inspectors when investigating a complaint, with the act requiring all letters of complaint being treated as confidential and making sure the source of such complaints is not referred to. If the complainants actively meet up with the manager or ask to accompany the Government Inspector, arrangements can be made but the Inspectors have no power to request their presence. He concludes by saying he is glad that the suggestions made to improve the ventilation at Woodhorn have been carried out and that on his report are having such a good effect.

NEIMME-JBA-10-240

13th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to G. May explaining his belief that he has misunderstood part of the new Timbering Rules (see NEIMME-JBA-10-236, 1st letter etc). He suggests that he has misread the 1st rule as being already set rather than are to be set and that the notice he has given suggests that having props 25 feet apart in all the working places would be adequate for the purpose of preventing falls etc, which Mr. Atkinson suggests would be of little use at doing so and disbelieving that that is what he really meant.

NEIMME-JBA-10-241

December 1902

General Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Coal Mines enclosing forms to fill in for their Annual Returns under the Coal Mines Regulation act of 1887. He adds that the return should give the total amount of coal or any other mineral raised during the year 1902 including coal used for colliery consumption and used by colliery workmen. He notes that one copy is for the mines' future reference while the other should be posted back to Mr. Atkinson as soon as possible after the close of the year so he can accurately tabulate the figures, giving the final deadline for return as the 21st January 1903.

NEIMME-JBA-10-242

December 1902

General letter from J.B. Atkinson to collieries in the district asking for information on the use of coal cutting and heading machines during 1902 on behalf of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, who have applied to the Secretary of State for the information. He encloses an annexed form (see NEIMME-JBA-10-243 below) for the colliery to fill in if such machines have been used which is to be returned to Mr. Atkinson, promising that figures applying to individual collieries will be treated as confidential.

NEIMME-JBA-10-243

December 1902

General Annexed form mentioned in NEIMME-JBA-10-242 above, containing tables relating to the use of coal cutting or heading machines at collieries in 1902. Tables are provided for the name of the seam involved, a section of the seam showing the position, depth and height of cuts made by the machines, the name of the machine, the motive power employed, the tons of coal produced, the number of machines and a table to provide any remarks about the use of the machines.

NEIMME-JBA-10-244

14th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H. Collins, Langley Barony Coal and Fireclay company, Langley on Tyne, remarking that the Secretary of State requires evidence that the miners employed have agreed to forego their right to have coal weighed before an exemption from weighing at Hassondale colliery can be granted. He provides a statement to be signed by the miners to that effect.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Walker, Durham, asking him to dinner on the evening of the 18th at 6p.m. to discuss the best way of arranging the subscription amongst the staff to provide for Mrs. Bell and family after the recent death of her husband (see NEIMME-JBA-10-238 etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-245

14th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to H. Johnstone noting that he would very much like Mr. Johnstone to move to Newcastle but that he believes he and his family might not like it as much, pointing out that despite the pits being better, the managers being nice and the position of Inspector being better than in Scotland he is not liking it much in his old country. He points out that he regards Newcastle as not a very nice town to live in and that the golfing facilities are not great. He admits that despite this the change might be good and too much weight should not be given to the possible extra expense. He reassures him that should he think of applying for a position in the area, he would do all he could to help and that he believes the Home Office would be favourable to the idea with the death of Mr. Bell (see NEIMME-JBA-10-244, 2nd letter above etc) would put him nearer a possible promotion. He also notes that several inspectors would be nearing retirement age. He adds that the Sandy Simpson he referred to in his last letter (see NEIMME-JBA-10-236, 2nd letter) is a mining engineer whose brother John lives in Cumberland. He concludes that he is finding it dull living with so few of his family and looks forward to the holidays when Leonard and Alan return.

NEIMME-JBA-10-246

17th November 1902

Report on the proceedings against Paul Dent, run-rider, for breaching Special Rule 149 by not reporting B. Smith, a putter, for riding on the tail chain of the Engine plane set at the Wearmouth colliery B pit owned by the Wearmouth Coal company and represented by H.S. Stobart at the Sunderland Borough Police Court on November 13th, 1902. Mr. Dent was fined twenty shillings (and seven shillings and sixpence?) as recorded by C.W. Parker of Bedford Street, Sunderland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-247

17th November 1902

Report on the proceedings against Benjamin Smith, putter, for breaching Special Rule 106 by riding on the tail chain of the Engine plane set at the Wearmouth Colliery B pit owned by the Wearmouth Coal company (see NEIMME-JBA-10-246 above) and represented by H.S. Stobart at the Sunderland Borough Police Court on November 13th, 1902. Mr. Smith was fined twenty shillings (and seven shillings and sixpence?) as recorded by C.W. Parker of Bedford Street, Sunderland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-248

17th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Harrison Ainslie and company, Lindal Moor mines, Ulverston, confirming that they have stopped working Green Lane pit for the present and that (his return?) will be sent to him at the close of the year.

NEIMME-JBA-10-249

17th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to T.G. Jobling, Bebside colliery, Northumberland, confirming that Demster Hornsley has been appointed manager of Choppington colliery in the room of Edward Pringle and asking for the number of his certificate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-250

17th November/18th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R.S. Anderson, Newcastle on Tyne, explaining that he has been away at the weekend and promising to meet him at the Delaval Benwell old drawing shaft at 11 a.m on the 19th November to discuss unfenced shafts if Mr. Anderson does not inform him that this is impractical (see NEIMME-JBA-10-226, 2nd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain telling him he has found and encloses a copy of the Special Rules at Hemsterley colliery signed by the late Mr. Willis as the colliery is now in in his district (for inspection).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Mr. Bruins(?), House Factor, Edinburgh, dated 18th November, telling him it is OK to advertise his old house at Merchiston Gardens on Wednesdays and Saturdays and do everything he can to obtain a tenant.

NEIMME-JBA-10-251

18th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William Thomas, manager, Dean Moor colliery, Lamplugh via Cockermouth, confirming that a small pit has been sunk to prove a two feet seam from about 600 yards East of the present shaft.

NEIMME-JBA-10-252

19th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Chief Inspectors of Mines asking them to give generously to a fund to help the family of the late Mr. G.F. Bell, the Assistant Inspector, who died leaving a widow and four young children, the eldest nine years old, the youngest only a few weeks old (see NEIMME-JBA-10-244, 2nd letter etc). He notes that it is a case deserving practical sympathy and that such widows and families have been assisted regularly in the past. He adds that while he personally is appealing to the Chief Inspectors, W. Walker, the assisting Inspector in the South Durham district and an old friend of Mr. Bell, is trying to appeal to his fellow Assistant Inspectors. He promises that any

money raised will be invested for the benefit of Mr. Bells' family in the manner decided to be most desirable. He encloses a form to be filled in and sent on.

NEIMME-JBA-10-253

19th November 1902

Two letters-

The first the enclosed form mentioned in NEIMME-JBA-10-252 to be sent to Inspectors regarding the G.F. Bell fund to be paid to his bereaved family. The form contains the names of the Inspectors involved- Mr. Atkinson himself; H.Hall; J.M. Ronaldson; J.S. Martin; J.J. Robson; A.H. Stokes; W.H (Bill) Atkinson; J.Gerrard; R.D. Bain; F.A Gray; W.H. Pickering and R. McLaren. Space is also provided to show the date when the form is received, the amount subscribed, the date when the form was forwarded to the next on the list and the subscribers' signature. Mr. Atkinson notes that the amount he has given is 5 pounds and 5 shillings, he has forwarded the form on the 19th November and provides his signature.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker enclosing the type written letter NEIMME-JBA-10-252 regarding the G.F. Bell fund and the draft form (letter above) to accompany it. He notes that he has sent on his form and letter that night.

NEIMME-JBA-10-254/255/256/257

19th November(stamped), 15th November (signed by a W.L.)

Report on the conditions etc. of dressing rooms at the Iron Ore Mines of Cumberland, in alphabetical order. Bigrigg is reported as having two wooden buildings with steam pipes, about 25 people using them with room for more and being clean and in good order. Cleator has no accomodation and only a small wooden building which is only used by two or three people, which is deemed unsatisfactory. Crossfield is said to have a brick building with a fireplace and steampipes which is used by about 18 people with room for more and is found to be clean and in good order. Crossgill is found to have a wooden building used by about 15 people which the report notes could be kept cleaner. Crowgarth has a very clean wooden building with good arrangements which around 8 people are using. Eskett has practically no completed accomodation, but the mine is not found to be working at present. Falcon, Gillfoot Park and Wyndham mines have a comfortable room which has been converted from an old engine house which accomodates about 40 persons but is capable of accomodating many more of those working at the mines. Frizington Parks and Mowbray have a small building for the purpose built since the January circular (about the necessity for dressing rooms?) but so far none of the workmen have availed themselves of the facilities. High House has two small buildings available, but only two or three people use them. At Hodbarrow, all the miners use the dressing rooms provided. Jacktrees has a wooden building which is used by about 6 men with room for about 6 more, although the report claims that the building will be enlarged if and when required. Kelton and Knockmurton have provided since January a small building with room for about a dozen persons but at the moment only 3 or 4 people are using it. Longlands has a stone building with an open fireplace which about 9 people are presently using, with room for a few more. Lonsdale has a small wooden bulding which 3 or 4 people are using which the report finds inadequate for its purpose. Margaret and Montreal are found to have satisfactory accomodation, while Moor Row has no accomodation at all. Moss Bay has a wooden building with steam pipes which has been enlarged since January and has approximately 20 people using it. New Parkside has no accomodation while Pallafat is utilizing an old engine house as a dressing room with satisfactory results for the approximately 44 people who are using it. Park House has a brick building which, while not very clean, is otherwise satisfactory. Parkside's wooden building which is used by around 15 people could also be kept cleaner according to the report. Post and Moor Row has a wooden building with

steam pipes and hot and cold water, presently accommodating around 30 people with room for about 10 more. Ryke (?) House has satisfactory accommodation, which has been extended since January. Townhead has a wooden building with steam pipes which about 33 people are using with room for more which has been found satisfactory. Ullbanks' accommodation is deemed satisfactory at present, but it is noted an extension will be required as the mine develops. Ullcoats small wooden building is deemed unsatisfactory, being too small and crowded to be kept clean although it is noted a new and more commodious room is about to be erected. Winder has a wooden building which has hot and cold water and a shower bath- used by around 7 people, the report finds it to be kept very clean and tidy. Finally, Woodend has a wooden building with steam pipes and hot and cold water which will need more accommodation as it is presently kept full. The further accommodation is promised by the mine.

NEIMME-JBA-10-258

17th November (stamped)

List of subscriptions of Inspectors of Mines to the Oswald Memorial Fund providing various amounts amounting to 96 pounds and 17 shillings and including these Inspectors and their Assistants- F.N. Wardell, J. Mellors and J.R.R. Wilson; C. Le Neve Foster, G.J. Williams and O.R. Jones; H.Hall and D.H.F. Matthews; W.B. Scott and W.H. Pickering; J.M. Ronaldson, T.H. Mottram and A. Pearson; J.S. Martin and C.L. Robinson; J.T. Robson, F.A. Gray, J.D. Lewis, G.F. Adams and F.N. White; A.H. Stokes, W. Hepplewhite and H.R. Hewitt; W.N. Atkinson and H.R. Makepeace; J.B. Atkinson, R. McLaren and H. Johnstone; J.L. Hedley, G.F. Bell and W. Leck; J. Gerrard, W. Saint and G.B. Harrison and finally R.D. Bain, J. Plummer and W. Walker.

NEIMME-JBA-10-259

19th November/20th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain telling him he hardly thinks it necessary to send out an amended statutory register and will not do so unless Mr. Bain sends them out.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to P. Bolam, Seaton Burn, Dudley, dated 20th November, confirming receipt of his letter confirming that the accident to George Thompson has led to his death.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 20th November, asking for a copy of the Civil Service benevolent fund report/prospectus as he wishes to get something for it for the widow and family of the late Mr. Bell (see NEIMME-JBA-10-253, both letters etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-260

20th November/21st November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W. Walker, Durham, confirming receipt of Mr. Walker's cheque for 5 pounds and 5 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund and promising to see what can be done with the Civil Service Benevolent Fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-259, 3rd letter above etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to John Wilson, M.P., Dunning, dated 21st November, promising to help a Mr. W.H. Telfer and adding he would be very pleased to have him in his district. He adds that he has settled down in Newcastle but does not like it as much as Edinburgh (see NEIMME-JBA-10-245). He then notes the members of his family who are away from home- Mabel in America, Bertram at Wallyford and Howard with Alan at Loughborough. He also adds that he has so far failed to find a place for his son Gilbert in a good shipping office at the quayside (see NEIMME-JBA-10-237, 1st letter). He concludes that he has had a few days grouse driving, but has found the birds too quick for him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-261

23rd November 1902

Report on the proceedings against Ralph Palmer, Lampman and Waiter on, on the 22nd November, for tampering with the winding engine by unlocking the engine and setting it in motion, detaching the cage and sending it to the bottom of the pit on the 6th November at the A pit at South Tanfield colliery in Stanley owned by James Joicey and company and overseen by manager Robert Kay. The man was fined two pounds and eight shillings by J.A. Ormsby of Durham (for contravening rule 131?).

NEIMME-JBA-10-262

24th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Howe and company, Carlisle, confirming that a new shaft has begun to be sunk at Cocklakes Alabaster mines.

NEIMME-JBA-10-263

23rd November/24th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Alan Greenwell, Colliery Guardian Office, enclosing a review of Bron's Coal fields of Scotland and asking for proof. He promises to return the book with a corrected proof.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Ramsey, manager, Pegswood colliery, noting that he will visit the colliery the next day at about 10.30 a.m. to enquire about the death of Thomas Workman.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R. Robinson, Longhorsley, dated 24th November, asking him to provide the date of the accident to Mr. Robinson's father and his age and adding that he hopes his eye will be all right soon.

NEIMME-JBA-10-264

24th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Hepplewhite, Nottingham, confirming receipt of his cheque for three pounds and three shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-260, 1st letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson commiserating with his being 'laid aside' and hoping he will soon be all right again. He adds that there is nothing particular in hand and asks him to send (his) doctor's certificate if required under instructions page 5 (of the coal mines act?).

The third from J.B. atkinson to the Northumberland Whinstone Company, Newcastle on Tyne, replying to their enquiry about the abstract of the Factory and Workshops act and Quarries act. He notes that the new abstract replaces the old and requires to be posted along with the Special rules of the quarry. He adds that if the General Register requires to be signed by Mr. Atkinson, he will do so when next at the quarry.

NEIMME-JBA-10-265

24th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George H. Askew, Drayton Domain collieries, Cumberland, confirming that the no.3 pit at the colliery is completely worked out and that the Annual Return is enclosed and that the plans and sections of the mine are being forwarded to the Home Office.

NEIMME-JBA-10-266

25th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J. Smith, secretary, Allerdale Coal company, Workington, confirming the appointment of John Walker with a second class certificate as the undermanager of Brayton Knowe colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-267

24th November/25th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown (the Under Secretary of State?), stating that no proof of form of return was enclosed with a letter dealing with the breaking of winding ropes received on the 22nd November and presenting his compliments to the undersecretary.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Patterson and company, Edinburgh, dated 25th November, enclosing their account for removal from his previous address at 18 Merchiston Gardens, their receipted account for repairing glass in the wardrobe door and a cheque for 49 pounds, 18 shillings and one pence. He asks that they return the account receipted and that they can keep the other. He provides the calculation for his cheque at the end of his letter, with their removal account of 50 pounds 17 shillings and 7 pence minus the charges for damages of 19 shillings and 6 pence.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.T. Stoker, Colliery Office, Ouston, Chester-Le-Street, dated 25th November, thanking him for providing sinking sections and the mens' report for the accident to Thomas Ritson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-268

25th November/26th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Bell, Scarborough, thanking him for his recent letter with enclosure and providing him with details of the usual charges for the places he names (incurred by his son before his recent death? see NEIMME-JBA-10-260, 1st letter etc). He suggests 14 shillings for the 14 miles to the Dinnington Augusta pit on November 3rd; 8 shillings for the 8 miles to the Delaval Benwell colliery on November 4th; 3 shillings for the cab, 6 shillings and 4 pence for the return fare and 4 shillings for the cab to the colliery to Widdrington Station and then Stobswood colliery on the 5th November; 14 shillings for the 14 mile trip to Seaton Burn colliery on November 6th; 3 shillings cab fare, 4 shillings and 4 pence return fare and 6 shillings for the cab to the colliery for the visit to West Sleekburn via Bedlington Station on November 7th. He adds that he doesn't know the hours from home to calculate further but suggests that on the 5th and 7th November they would exceed 10 so he should claim the (extra?) 6 shillings and 8 pence. He concludes that he has sent off the October expenses but has heard nothing back as yet having not sent them off until after the death of Mr. Bell's son.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.Hall, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, dated 26th November, noting that the Special Rules for the Isle of Man were reportedly established at the Foxdale mine on the 27th April 1901 and at a number of other quarries from the 12th February 1896 onwards. He adds that duplicate signed copies of the Special rules do not seem to be included in the papers of the late previous Inspector Mr. Hedley and asks whether he received these or any other of his papers when he got the major portion of Mr. Fosters' district. He asks him to look into the matter.

NEIMME-JBA-10-269

27th November/28th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Allan Greenwell, Colliery Guardian Office, the Strand, London, returning the corrected review of Bron's Scottish Coal Fields (see NEIMME-JBA-10-263,1st letter).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Ernest Scott, Close Works, Newcastle on Tyne, dated 28th November, noting that he visited the works both that day and the day therefore to try and see either Mr. Scott or Mr. Mountain both to get some information concerning the Home Office Electricity in Mines committee and to ask about the possibility of one of his sons (Gilbert) getting a job in his line of business (see NEIMME-JBA-10-260, 2nd letter etc) since he had written previously on the subject on the 10th November. He adds that he can visit the works at any time on the 1st December that is convenient to him.

The third from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, dated 28th November, asking whether the person in question can help him to find a position for his son Gilbert in a good commercial office on the quayside which he has so far failed to do despite looking for the three months since he moved from Scotland necessitating his son's relocation and need for said position (see letter above etc). He continues that he has heard a Mr. Fowens (?) may have a vacancy and that the unknown receiver has some influence on him, saying that if he could help he would be very much obliged.

NEIMME-JBA-10-270

29th November 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Laurence Thomson and Foulis, Glasgow, telling them that in connection with their letter concerning the Glenraig Colliery explosion he is loath to give opinions to either party regarding civil actions arising out of accidents and it is also contrary to his job instructions.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H. Johnstone. He thanks him for the cheque for 1 pound and a shilling for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-268, 1st letter etc). He then mentions that Mr. Atkinson's son Bertram should have left him by the time he receives the letter, adding that he hopes he gets through. He then goes on to mention a report in the Scotsman newspaper about the Blantyre Farm prosecution which he believes is likely to cause more stir and judging from his previous experience in appealed mining cases is likely to be upset. He asks for any further details Mr. Henderson might have on the subject. He then adds that he has still not heard anything about a possible successor to the late Mr. Bell except for a letter from the M.P. John Wilson from Falkirk suggesting a Mr. Telfer (see NEIMME-JBA-10-260, 2nd letter). He notes that Mr. Telfer was 2nd in the exam when a Mr. Cadman was appointed and that in previous cases the Home Office have appointed a 'second man' to the next vacancy. He then complains he has not played golf for a month (although he may go on the moor that afternoon), the atmosphere in Newcastle is almost as thick and bad as in Glasgow and that the surroundings of his new home are depressing compared with Edinburgh.

NEIMME-JBA-10-271

29th November/30th November 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Ernest Scott, Close Works, Newcastle on Tyne, saying he will be glad to meet with both Mr. Scott and Mr. Mountain at the Union Club the next Monday for lunch at 1p.m. to talk further on the matters previously discussed (see NEIMME-JBA-10-269, 2nd letter).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, promising to meet as arranged at his office on the 28th November at 2.45 p.m. for a meeting concerning Timbering Rules (see NEIMME-JBA-10-240 etc) He notes that his letter now suggests the meeting starts at 3 p.m. but that either time will suit his train's arrival.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to M.Ford, manager, Washington colliery, dated 30th November, saying that he will visit the colliery the next day to enquire into the accident to Joseph McCourt. He asks if Mr. Ford can send a trap to take him to the colliery from Usworth station where he expects to arrive at 2.27 p.m. since this would allow him time to catch the 3.28 back to Newcastle the same day.

NEIMME-JBA-10-272

29th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, giving his observations and suggestions on a Revised Scheme for Annual Reports of Inspectors of Mines he had been sent by the Under Secretary which he returns. He notes that the tables provided should be printed on good paper suitable for writing on, complains that the subdivision of accidents amongst the various tables proposed would need a far greater amount of statistical work to be done despite its purported aim to impose as little statistical work as possible and finally proposes that any Special Report made by an Inspector and published as a parliamentary paper should be reproduced in full along with his Annual Report.

NEIMME-JBA-10-273

29th November 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, on the subject of the breakage of winding and hauling ropes at collieries and a proposed form to be sent to owners with the annual return form to record it. He returns the proposed form with some suggestions about it. He notes that a shaft winding rope very rarely breaks and safety catches or devices attached to the cage to grip the guides in the event of the rope breaking are not used as far as he knows. Detaching hooks are commonly used in the district, devices which are attached to the cage chains so that if the cage is drawn up to the pulley wheel the rope is disconnected and the cage suspended. Ropes are more commonly broken on underground roads where men are allowed to ride in tubs drawn by machinery, he suggests, while pointing out that the term inclined place used in the draft form are vague. The term, as used in the district, means a self acting incline where the train of loaded tubs are drawn up by means of a rope with a train of empty tubs, a practice on which no men are allowed to ride. On main and tail rope haulage roads, which are always more or less inclined and in mines dipping from the surface where the empty train of tubs takes in a rope which is used to haul up the loaded train by machinery workmen are sometimes allowed to ride. He also mentions that the safety catches used on underground roads are different in design from those suggested for use in shafts.

NEIMME-JBA-10-274

29th November/15th December 1902

Two letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-273 above.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to James Oliver, collector, Edinburgh, asking for a rebate on the demand made by the Edinburgh and District Water Trust for 2 pounds concerning his previous house at 18 Merchiston Gardens as he left the house on the 25th July and will not occupy it again.

NEIMME-JBA-10-275

1st December 1902

Plan containing statistics for November 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-276

1st November(December?) 1902

Report on explosions during November at mines and collieries in the district. The first on the 10th November occurred at Bedlington colliery when a charge of 1 and a third pounds of compressed gunpowder was placed in a hole 3 to 6 inches deep bored in the bottom stone of a coal seam. When a fuse was lighted and did not explode, the injured man returned to it, it exploded. The second explosion on the 13th November occurred at the Berenne Iron Ore mine where an injured man appears to have held his candle to a small shot force by fuse of gelignite not noticing the fuse had begun to run. The shot eventually exploded. The third and final explosion noted in the report happened at the Seaton Burn colliery on the 17th November leading to the death of a man who was engaged at a wooden box containing rather more than a pound of compressed gunpowder in a tin cannister. The lighted candle he was using eventually led to the gunpowder being ignited. The report was signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-277

1st December/2nd December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to V.A. Ritson, Newcastle on Tyne, thanking him for his letter concerning his son Gilbert. He adds that he hopes something turns up for him soon and that in the meantime he is busy studying short hand and type writing (see NEIMME-JBA-10-269,3rd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.M. Ronaldson, dated 2nd December, thanking him for his five pound contribution to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-270,2nd letter etc). He adds that he hopes that his son Bertram has got through since he has written pretty cheerfully about the unspecified experience and ends by complaining that the atmosphere in Newcastle is almost as thick as in Glasgow, making a great change from his previous home in Edinburgh (see NEIMME-JBA-10-270, 2nd letter etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Mottram, dated 2nd December, thanking him for his one pound and one shilling contribution to the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc). He adds in a post script that he would like it very much if he came to the area (to take Mr. Bells' position?) but that the educational facilities aren't very good and that he has not heard who is likely to come (to take his place?).

NEIMME-JBA-10-278

4th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to R.F. Spence, Backworth Colliery office, near Newcastle on Tyne, confirming the appointments of William Morton and William Pettigrew as the undermanager of Backworth Maude pit in the room of Mr. John Smith with a 2nd class certificate and the undermanager of the Backworth Blue Bell pit respectively. In a post script, he asks whether the John Smith who was previously cited as the undermanager of the C and Maude pits still acted in that capacity for the former. Similarly, he asks whether Robert Richardson, previously cited as the undermanager of both the Blue Bell and Algernon pits, had only been replaced by Mr. Pettigrew in the former capacity.

NEIMME-JBA-10-279

4th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.R. Raisbeck, clerk, Parish Council office, Irthington, Carlisle, confirming receipt of the letter he had previously sent to his predecessor the late Mr. Hedley enclosing a copy of the Rules and Regulations applied to the felt(?) Quarry which his council would like to see similarly applied to their Three Horse Shoes quarry. He promises to look further into the problem.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. Thompson, Mining Offices, Birtley, County Durham, telling him that the form he mentions does not need to be filled in as the case brought against the Ouston East colliery for cruelty to ponies was not brought under the Coal Mines act.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Ernest Scott and Mountain Ltd, Close Works, Newcastle on Tyne, thanking them for returning the papers he had left with Mr. Mountain and providing a list of electrical plant the company had provided to collieries in the Newcastle district.

NEIMME-JBA-10-280

4th December/5th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H. Richardson Hewitt, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Derby, thanking him for his contribution of one pound and one shilling to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-277,3rd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.R. Makepeace,, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Wolverhampton, thanking him for his cheque for two pounds and two shillings as a contribution to the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.T. Robson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Swansea, dated 5th December, thanking him for his contribution of five pounds and five shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see letters above etc.) while agreeing that such demands have become too numerous of late and that the Commission on pensions should be informed of the matter.

NEIMME-JBA-10-281

4th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable A. Akers-Douglas, M.P., His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall, submitting a report recommending the renewal and reviewing season tickets for the North Eastern Railway and the Maryport and Carlisle Railway. Mr. Atkinson reports that the former season ticket amounted to sixty-five pounds and three shillings while the cost of the season ticket was thirty-two pounds and six pence. In the latter case, the amount covered in the last five months was seventeen pounds eleven shillings and ten pence while the season ticket for six months cost fourteen pounds and fourteen shillings. He suggests that a considerable saving to the public service could be effected if a review was made.

NEIMME-JBA-10-282

5th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Woof, Shipley colliery, Alnwick, on the subject of the colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-283

5th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.R. Raisbeck, Clerk to Parish Council, Irthington, Carlisle, returning the proposed rules/regulations for the Three Horse Shoes quarry (see NEIMME-JBA-10-279,1st letter). He adds that Mr. Nicholson has explained that they cannot be looked upon as Special Rules under the Quarries act but he can see no objection to those being posted up at the quarry as long as the first page is omitted. He also encloses an abstract of the Quarries act.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J. Stanley Cowell, Hylton colliery, Sunderland, confirming receipt of a letter with two enclosures relating to the death of John Donnelly or Hail. He also acknowledges receiving a box containing a specimen of Whin or Cinder coal for which he is much obliged.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.R. Raisbeck, clerk, Parish council offices, Irthington, Carlisle, asking him to add 91A, three Horse Shoes, Irthington, Irthington Parish Council to his list of quarries in Cumberland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-284

6th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, confirming receipt of a letter concerning his claim for repayment of 24 pounds, 4 shillings and 5 pence for the rent of his previous residence in Edinburgh. He explains that as soon as he was told he had to leave, he put his house into the hands of a House Agent to find a tenant and put up a board indicating it was to let. The House Agent advertised it and has had it in his list. He also notes that he talked with the landlord and asked for his assistance in finding a tenant and that the liability for the rent of the house commenced on the 25th July 1902. He concludes that he has received a letter that morning from the house agent which leaves him hopeful that a tenant has been secured for the remainder of his lease (see NEIMME-JBA-10-274, 2nd letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-285

6th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Throckley Coal company, Throckley Colliery, Newburn, confirming that the company have acquired the Heddon colliery and that Mr. J.B. Simpson will act as Agent for it with Mr. J. T. Cheesman and William Musgrove appointed as its manager and undermanager respectively.

NEIMME-JBA-10-286

5th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, remarking that a letter he has received discussing his actions regarding the examination of workings before repairing shifts as required by General Rule 4 of the Coal Mines act is somewhat vague. He assumes that the wording regarding the fact that Mr. Atkinson has brought the matter to the attention of the owners implies that the Secretary of State disapproved of his actions, but since they have been taken something further should be done. Referring to his letter from the 6th August 1902 (See NEIMME-JBA-10-18/19/20) and its referral to the exploding gas accident at Woodhorn colliery on the 4th July and the three deaths that resulted, Mr. Atkinson reiterates his belief that the admission made by the colliery that they did not always examine the area before repairing shifts as required by General Rule 4 was worth pointing out, as well as the admission made by several other large collieries that they did not always do so either. He also notes that it was pointed out that the Special Rules in force in the district were not framed as though such examinations were necessary. He also points out that his instructions to bear the matter in mind and take any opportunity that may present itself to get the Special Rules amended are also not particularly clear and he would like more particular instructions from the Secretary of State.

NEIMME-JBA-10-287

5th December/6th December 1902

Three letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-286 above.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. Smith, manager, Preston Colliery, South Shields, dated 6th December, asking him to fill in particulars regarding the prosecution of James Patterson on the form enclosed in copying ink and then return it.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to E.G.V. Stokes, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, dated 6th December, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-280, all three letters etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-288

7th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.J. Hall, manager, Ashington colliery, asking him to return the Prosecution Return form he left with him on Friday last completed.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson asking him to call on the 9th of December as he would like to discuss several matters including Special Rules. He suggests that he makes a call somewhere and arrive at about 4 p.m., then they can have dinner at 6 and he can return on the 8.50 express.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Charles Henderson, manager, Cowpen colliery, Blyth, saying he will visit the colliery the next day at about 10.30 a.m. to enquire into the accident to George Nicholson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-289

7th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to M. Ford, manager, Washington colliery, confirming receipt of a notice concerning the death of Joseph McCourt.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin asking him to send details of what was done at the last meeting concerning the Timbering Special Rules in the district as well as a copy of the print he had prepared on the actions taken in other districts (see NEIMME-JBA-10-271, 2nd letter etc). He provides a proposed rule which might get over the problem regarding the responsibility for setting the timber and prevent the necessity of having three separate rules. He suggests that it be made clear that the persons responsible for setting the timber and other roof supports should place them in accordance with a particular Special Rule and that no person should be allowed to work in any place where the roof is not so supported.

NEIMME-JBA-10-290

7th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J. B. Atkinson to Captain Desborough, secretary, Electricity in Mines committee, Home Office, London, noting that he has returned the list sent to him and has marked it in accordance with the terms of his previous letter from the committee, but notes that the marking is only approximate and he has no information on any accident that has been caused by electricity.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R.H. Longbotham, Ings Foundry, Wakefield, thanking him for speaking on behalf of Gilbert to Mr. Elliott of Drunford and Elliott regarding a placement (see NEIMME-JBA-10-277, 1st letter etc) and adds that he hopes something may come of it.

NEIMME-JBA-10-291

7th December/9th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Mr. Bruins, Edinburgh, enclosing a confirmation of the telegram he sent concerning his old house in Merchiston Gardens, Edinburgh (see NEIMME-JBA-10-284 etc). He notes that a Mr. Millar is quite willing to sublet the house and that he will be able to secure the tenant who has offered (this). He notes he has a break in one and a half years time and the proposed tenancy would fill up that time. He adds that some tenant pictures he left could be bought by a tenant, left until his term is up or could be removed immediately.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. (Bill) Atkinson confirming receipt of his cheque for 3 pounds and 3 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-287, third letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-292

9th December 1902 (stamped)

Report on the proceedings against Frederick Barrow, Hewer, for having a match in the Linton colliery mine owned by the Ashington Coal company on December 3rd 1902 and thereby contravening rule 123 of the Coal Mines regulation act. He was fined one pound and eight shillings as overseen by Charles Alderson of Morpeth and the mines' manager, J.J. Hall.

NEIMME-JBA-10-293

9th December 1902 (stamped)

Report on the proceedings against James Patterson, pump attendant, for having a pipe and tobacco in his possession down a mine at Preston colliery, North Shields, owned by the Preston Coal company, contravening Special rules 102 and 123 and being fined 1 pound and 15 shillings, on the 5th December 1902, as witnessed by R.F. Kidd of North Shields and the colliery manager Archibald Smith.

NEIMME-JBA-10-294

10th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H.W. Allan, Gembank Foundry, Glasgow, remarking on his request concerning ganister in Scotland. He thinks there is real ganister in Scotland underlying some of the coals in the lower measures but that it is not worked. The nearest to ganister that is worked that he knows of and he believes might be worth trying for Mr. Allan is very silicious fireclay at Griffiths and other mines at Bonnybridge, which is close enough to sometimes be known as ganister. He continues by comparing the fishing in the Tyne unfavourably to that in the Scottish rivers, remarking he hasn't been able to catch any fish even with a club he joined on the North Tyne. He adds that he hopes to try the Eden (river?) in Carlisle the next season. He notes that he has settled in Newcastle fairly well despite the fact that all but two of his family are away- one in America, one still in Scotland and two at school in Leicestershire (see NEIMME-JBA-10-277, 2nd letter etc). He asks Mr. Allan to visit if he is in the area and mentions his seven weeks staying at Alnwick during July and August where he did have some success trout fishing, concluding that he will miss the loch fishing he used to do and in a postscript mentioning a 40 pound fish on the Lochy(?).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the National Telephone company, Newcastle on Tyne, asking them when they will be able to complete the installation of a telephone in his home since the lack of one is causing him much inconvenience.

NEIMME-JBA-10-295

10th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain confirming receipt of his cheque for 5 pounds and 5 shillings and also a cheque for Mr. Gerrard for 5 pounds for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-291, 2nd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck confirming receipt of his letter warning of the potential danger of the drowned mines at Windergill and Crossfield to their adjoining mines and asking him to keep these places in view and draw attention to the officials to what is required in similar cases under the Coal Mines act. He advises against him visiting on the next Saturday as he does not know where he will be on that day.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A. Pearson thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see first letter above etc). He adds that he does not know when he will next be able to visit Scotland, remarking that he does not think it will be before a successor to Mr. Bell is found. He adds that he thanks him for his offer of hospitality and that 4 pence a mile seems rather low for a motor car allowance unless the car itself is already paid for by them.

NEIMME-JBA-10-296

10th December/11th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H.T. Rutherford, solicitor, Blyth, enclosing a print of the Timbering Special Rules as established in the collieries in Northumberland (see NEIMME-JBA-10-289, 2nd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to I. Gerrard confirming receipt of his 5 pound cheque for the G.F. Bell fund sent by Mr. Bain (see NEIMME-JBA-10-295, 1st letter above) and remarking that the coal owners have handsomely contributed to said fund as he shows in an enclosed (note? letter?). He adds that he enjoyed his day at Slaggyford and hopes Mr. Gerrard got home all right, noting that he will be glad to see him when he comes to visit the sinkings or at any other time.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Tweddle, Seaton Delaval colliery, Northumberland, dated 11th December, confirming receipt of a report under General Rule 38 for the Hastings pit.

NEIMME-JBA-10-297

11th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the owners of the Priestman collieries, Newcastle on Tyne, confirming the appointment of Robert Crombie as the undermanager at Lily Drift colliery, Rowlands Gill, with a 2nd class certificate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-298

11th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to M. Ford, manager, Washington colliery, confirming that he will be at the Glebe sinking pits the next day at about 1.30 p.m. and that he would like to see him there to discuss a matter to which his attention has been called.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker confirming that he has received the cheque from Mr. Plummer for 2 pounds and 2 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund which Mr. Walker sent (see NEIMME-JBA-10-296, 2nd letter etc). He adds that he hopes Mr. Walkers' interview with Mr. Troup will prove satisfactory.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Lambton, Durham County Colliery Enginemans' and Boiler Minders' Association, Durham, promising to look further into the question of the winding engineman at the Washington Sinking Pits.

NEIMME-JBA-10-299

12th December 1902 (received)

Report on the proceedings against William Downing, horsekeeper, for taking a tobacco pipe into the pit at Hylton colliery owned by Wearmouth Coal company and therefore contravening rule 101 of the Mines Regulation act on November 29th 1902. Mr. Downing was fined five shillings and eight shillings as witnessed by W. A. Kidson of Sunderland and the manager J. Stanley Cowell also from Sunderland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-300

12th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, in which he supposes that the late Mr. Bell left his home at about 9 a.m. on the 31st October and arrived home at about 7 p.m., that underground inspections were made on the dates on which room allowances were charged in November and that he has asked Mr. Bells' representatives to forward the probate of his will to the Home Office for inspection so that payment of the balance due his estate can be made (see NEIMME-JBA-10-298, 2nd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to D.W.F. Matthews, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Chester, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to S. Messenger, manager, Brigham quarries, Brigham near Cockermouth, confirming receipt of his letter intimating the closing of Broughton Craggs High and Low collieries due to the depression in trade.

NEIMME-JBA-10-301

12th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Bell, The Valley, Scarborough, asking him to attend to the matter of forwarding Mr. Bells' will to the Home Office for inspection as balance due to the estate cannot be made without such an inspection being made (see NEIMME-JBA-300, 1st letter above). He notes that he received a memo from the Home Office to that effect that morning, and that he has replied to Inspectors wishing to subscribe to the Fund for the widow and children that the sum raised will be invested for the benefit of Mrs. Bell and family as subsequent considerations will indicate to be most desirable. He asks for Mr. Bells' ideas on the matter while also noting that he wishes to hold onto (Mr. Bells?) books and stationery for the time being as they may prove useful to any new assistant when he arrives.

NEIMME-JBA-10-302

12th December/13th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.H. Mottram saying he would be very glad to see him at new year if he is coming South and hopes he will stay all night if possible. He adds that he would speak to the Home Office on the matter he mentions (replacing Mr. Bell? see NEIMME-JBA-10-301 above etc) if he thought it would do any good, but thinks it would be considered presumptuous. He adds his own theory that Mr. Telfer might be appointed without having to take an exam as he came second to a Mr. Cadman previously and men have been appointed on this basis before. He adds that he now supposes he will like his new district very well despite the charms of Scotland (see NEIMME-JBA-10-294 etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.R.R. Wilson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Leeds, dated 13th December, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-300, 2nd letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-303

13th December/14th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.A. Kershaw, Cowpen, Rebside(?) remarking that his complaint concerning damage to church property made by mining operations does not come under his department's remit. He suggests that he consult a solicitor or mining engineer.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to George B. Harrison, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Swinton, Manchester, dated 14th December, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-302, 2nd letter above).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.H. Stokes, Green Hill, Derby, dated 14th December, thanking him for his contribution of 3 pounds and 3 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc). He also mentions the conditions of the widows of Mr. Hedley (see NEIMME-JBA-10-53, 1st letter) and Mr. Bell, remarking that Mrs. Hedley has got into a low way while Mrs. Bell is a brisk sort of person who will probably manage.

NEIMME-JBA-10-304

13th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to John Sisterson, Bower colliery, Tarsset, North Tyne, on the subject of Bower colliery.

NEIMME-JBA-10-305

14th December/15th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H. Gibson, East Holywell colliery, confirming that he will visit the colliery the next day to go down the pit and discuss the case of Elias Biggs. He hopes to arrive at Backworth station at about 11 a.m. and walk up the line to the colliery if a carriage is not sent down for him as he hopes.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Williams, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Bangor, dated 15th December, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-303, 3rd letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-306/307

15th December 1902

Report on the JP3 Brayton Domain mine in Aspatria owned by Joseph Harris of Brayton Domain collieries, in Brayton, Cumberland, in which the coal in the yard band seam was discontinued from working on the 27th October 1902 due to the exhaustion of said coal as witnessed by the surveyor Leonard J. Bates using the magnetic meridian of 1879 system and signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-308

15th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, asking for clarification of the position of the Secretary as regards the establishing of Special Rules at Mines whether under the Coal Mines or Metalliferous Mines act or Quarries under the Quarries act. He notes that when asked from time to time to certify copies of Special Rules as being legally established he should, under the Coal Mines act, have a signed copy of said Special Rules on hand to compare with the copy that wishes to be certified, but, as he found when he went over the copies of said rules handed over to him by the widow of the late Mr. Hedley many did not have such a copy. He

notes that the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887 requires that established Special Rules should be signed in duplicate under Section 51(2) and, while admitting that under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872 Section 24 (which also applies to quarries by Section 2(1) Of the Quarries act of 1894) the necessity for signing in duplicate is not specified, the practice has been to do so anyway with Mr. Atkinson noting that he has many signed copies for said mines and quarries in his possession. He asks for direction about how to proceed regarding those mines and quarries under the latter rule for which he does not hold a signed copy and also those for which a duplicate seems legally necessary. He adds his presumption that in some of the cases where he has no signed copy the owner's possession of one will be sufficient evidence that the Special Rules are legally established.

NEIMME-JBA-10-309

15th December 1902

Two letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-308 above.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.H.B. Forster, Cramlington collieries, noting that he will visit the colliery on the 17th December to enquire into the accident to Thomas Batey. He proposes arriving at Seghill at 9.57 a.m. by train and asks whether an engine can be sent to take him to the colliery, while also asking that any witnesses to the accident be present if they are not in the pit when he goes down.

NEIMME-JBA-10-310

15th December/16th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J. Dyer Lewis, Cardiff, thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-305, 2nd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.A. Gray, Penarth, thanking him for his cheque for 3 pounds and 3 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see above letter etc). He continues that the fund is necessary since the Home Office, when asked for help on several occasions in the past, have said that there were no funds available. He adds that the Commission on Deferred Pay, which is now sitting, may be able to change matters. He also notes that the letter he received had been tampered with in transit.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.H. Pickering, dated 16th December, thanking him for his contribution of 3 pounds and 3 shillings to the G.F. Bell fund (see both letters above etc) while apologising for placing him below a Mr. Gray in the list of possible contributors after being told he was senior to him. He also notes his approval of the Home Office giving way on the question of winding men out of quarries (see NEIMME-JBA-10-273 etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-311

16th December/17th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson providing him with a list of all the places in Northumberland and North (?) Durham he has been able to discern that use Coal Cutters machines- Ouston A and Andrews House in Durham

and Haylerigg, North Walbottle, Ashington, Backworth, Cowper, Cramlington, Wallsend and Shilbottle in Northumberland. He returns a list sent by Mr. Nicholson.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Martin asking him to send the cheque for 3 pounds and 3 shillings he promised for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-310 passim etc). He also asks a question about the Haldane and Cumberland Metalliferous mines.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson, dated 17th December, reporting finding enclosed signed copies of the Special Rules for Postelthwaites Moor Row mine, Barrule quarry, Langley Fireclay mine, Harsondale (previously Castlebog) colliery, Four Laws colliery, Gummerton colliery and Coalclough colliery. He also encloses a book with a list of Quarries with Special Rules (see NEIMME-JBA-10-308 etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-312

16th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren noting that he has received papers from him but that he needs the cheque for 3 pounds and 3 shillings he promised for the G.F. Bell fund to close the matter (see NEIMME-JBA-10-311, 2nd letter above etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R.O. Brown, Elswick colliery, noting that he will be at North Elswick colliery on the 18th December at 10.30 a.m. to see the place where the accident to Robert Hartley occurred. He adds that the surroundings of the area must not be disturbed.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to H.Hall asking him for the cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings he promised for the G.F. Bell fund (see 1st letter above etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-313

16th December 1902 (received)

Report on the proceedings against the putter Thomas Parkin for jumping onto the engine set while in motion contravening Rule 106 of the Coal Mines Regulation act at the Wearmouth colliery B pit owned by Wearmouth Coal company and signed by H.J. Stobart, manager. The incident occurred on December 11th and the defendant was fined forty shillings and eight shillings and six pence as witnessed by C.W.P. Barker of Sunderland at Sunderland Borough Police court.

NEIMME-JBA-10-314

17th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to I.J. Walker, Whitley Bay, providing him with the address for Mrs. at Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to L. Morison, Cramlington, providing him with papers containing relevant information about the Cumberland Coal field. He recommends papers by Matthias Dunn and J.D. Kendall in volumes 8 and 32

respectively of the Transactions of the North of England Mining Engineers, the first concerning the Cumberland Coal field and the second the structure of same. Mr. Kendall, he advises, also wrote a paper on the Whitehaven Sandstone series touching on the Cumberland coal field while R. Russell wrote a paper on the extension of the West Cumberland Coal field southward and northward under the St. Bees sandstone for volumes 10 and 8 respectively in the Transactions of the Federated Institute of Mining Engineers. He adds that these sources tend to think that a large dip fault throws the new red sandstone in to the North.

NEIMME-JBA-10-315

17th December/18th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren thanking him for the money order for 3 pounds and 3 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-312, 1st letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Donald Bain confirming receipt of his letter asking for information about the document sent by the Home Office concerning gases in coal mines. Mr. Atkinson, despite receiving nothing from the Home Office on the subject, has a suspicion as to what the document refers to and suggests that he hand over the document to the Miners Union to do something about it or possibly send it on to the colliery owners.

The third from J. B. Atkinson to James Oliver, Edinburgh (etc) Water Trust, dated 18th December, apologising for not informing him of his vacating his Edinburgh home at Merchiston Gardens (see NEIMME-JBA-10-291, 1st letter etc). He explains that he leased the home for 3 years at Whitsuntide 1901 and that since he left the house on the 25th July 1902, he had placed the house into the hands of the Home Factor Mr. Bruins who found a widow lady tenant whose name he doesn't know to take on the house for the remainder of his term. He argues that he will find it hard to pay water bills in two cities at the same time as well as all the other expenses he has paid towards removal.

NEIMME-JBA-10-316

18th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to William English, Halton colliery, Corbridge on Tyne, confirming the appointment of Weddle English as the undermanager of the colliery in the room of George English. He asks for the number of the formers managers certificate.

NEIMME-JBA-10-317

18th December/19th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker, confirming receipt of the postal orders for 1 pound and 1 shilling from O.R. Jones for the G.F. Bell fund that Mr. Walker sent and noting that he has acknowledged receipt of same (see NEIMME-JBA-10-315, 1st letter etc). He notes that all but two of the chiefs have now paid what they promised to the fund, and the two who haven't he has reminded while he has also received the list back. He adds that when all the returns from the Assistants have been gathered, they will need to have another meeting.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, confirming receipt of his cheque for 5 pounds and 5 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc). He adds that the Coal Owners fund is very substantial being 1200 pounds at his last count while the fund would probably not reach 100 pounds. He adds that he has sent him Metalliferous Return funds and that he is being kept pretty busy with no word as to the appointment of a new man.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.R.D. Lynn, Her Majesty's Coroner, The Union Club, Newcastle upon Tyne, dated 19th December, confirming receipt of his letter informing him of the date and location of the inquest on Robert Lynn which he says he will attend. He also thanks him for the brace of grouse he has received that morning.

NEIMME-JBA-10-318/319

19th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson, Hedgefield Offices, Blaydon on Tyne, reporting on an explosive accident at North Elswick colliery on the 16th December involving Curtis and Harvey's Bulldog Gunpowder, injuring the hewer Robert Hartley (see NEIMME-JBA-10-312, 2nd letter). After investigating the area of the accident, Mr. Atkinson finds fault with some of the conclusions reached by the manager Mr. Brown about the accident in his report. He thinks that the men involved were in a position that should have been safe and that the managers' comment that they were too near was doubtful. He also suggests that the manager blaming the blown out shot unequivocally for the accident was misleading, suggesting that the manager evidently had doubt as to the cause. Mr. Atkinson also suggests that there was gas present in the drift district of the Beaumont seam of the colliery where the accident occurred, reporting that when he visited the area the air current was feeble and he could hear gas singing through the coal at the face of Mr. Hartley's work area. This, he suggests, contradicts the undermanager John Barnaby's report that he had found no trace of it at 7.30 a.m. of the morning of the accident (the accident occurring at about 9.15 a.m.), implying that such a verdict treated an important matter lightly. He concludes that gas was present and had been a contributory part of the cause of the explosion, igniting as the shot was lighted and leading to the burning of Mr. Hartley's arms and legs. This was also corroborated, in his view, by the deputy Samuel Gibson who fired the shot reporting that Mr. Hartley had been 2 yards further away from the shot than Mr. Gibson himself who had retired 10 yards from the shot and around a corner. Another hewer in the headways, James Casson, had retreated still further and was behind a sheet. Gibson reported a reddish coloured flame passing above him when the shot exploded and injured Mr. Hartley. Mr. Gibson further admitted that he had not examined the place immediately before firing the shot, but had done so 10 or 15 minutes earlier and found it to be safe. Mr. Atkinson also found that a cap of a quarter of an inch on the lamp in the area which he believes would make it an unsuitable area to fire shots. The poor ventilation, furthermore, he finds is not in accordance with General rule 1.

NEIMME-JBA-10-320/321

2(0,1?) December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, reporting on the explosive accident at an ordinary working place in the Drift district of the Beaumont seam of the North Elswick colliery at about 9.15 a.m. on the 16th December (see NEIMME-JBA-10-318/319 above). He reports that he believes the cause of the accident to 25 year old hewer Robert Hartley which slightly burned his arms and legs to be an ignition of fire-damp caused by the flame of a shot charged by Curtis and Harvey's Bull Dog Gunpowder, which is on the Special List of Permitted Explosives. The colliery he reports is owned by the Elswick Coal company. He provides a plan of the area of the accident showing where the shot was drilled, being 2 to 6 inches deep and about 4 inches from the roof, inclining slightly upward and to the left side of the place. He notes that the shot was charged with 4 9ths of a pound of the gunpowder and fitted with exploder electric wires and was reported to be stemmed with debris of sagre (?) clay. The shot firer stated that he examined the area 10 or 15 minutes prior to lighting the shot with a safety lamp

and had found no gas present, retreating when the shot was ready to fire to kneeling by the battery, Hartley retiring even further back (see also NEIMME-JBA-10-318/319) The shotfirer reported seeing a reddish coloured flame pass above him just prior to Mr. Hartley being burned. After examining the place 2 days after the accident, Mr. Atkinson found that the shot had not done its work shaking but not throwing the coal and band and leaving 19 and a half inches of the hole left on, blowing out the stemming. He also found a cap on the safety lamp of about a quarter of an inch at the face of both the bord and the headways and also in an adjoining crosscut. The coal in the bord and headways was wet and the sound of gas could be heard singing through the wet surfaces. He expresses doubt that the flame of the explosive could have reached the injured party even if the shot had been completely blown out, reiterating his conclusion that fire-damp had been present and had ignited, noting the feeble ventilation, the lack of evidence of coaldust being used in the stemming and the dampness of the place itself.

NEIMME-JBA-10-322

21st December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, noting that alterations have been made to headings of haulage accidents and also accidents outside quarries in the complete set of forms he has been sent to fill in information for the purpose of compiling the General Report and Statistics for 1902. He argues that these alterations have been made at the last minute and have upset the careful arrangement of the classification of accidents he has made in these two areas up to the present. He suggests that these alterations not be made until they have been submitted to the Inspectors at the next general meeting and until then the old classifications may stand.

NEIMME-JBA-10-323

21st December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R.W. Berkley, Marley Hill colliery, expressing his doubts as to whether the death of William Pearson on the 5th March 1902 should be classed as being caused by a colliery accident. He asks whether Mr. Pearson would have been included in the persons employed by the mine in the annual return or be said to be employed in or about the mine or the tramways or sidings above/ below or adjacent to the mine and belonging to it and whether the accidents location could be said to have happened on ground below which the company has mining rights or a private railway passing over ground under which the company have no mining rights. He asks for his own opinion on the matter, noting that a Judge Greenwell had decided in favour of the company as regards compensation.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to the owners of Priestman collieries, Newcastle on Tyne, promising to look further into the management of the Blaydon Burn and Lily Drift collieries.

NEIMME-JBA-10-324

20th December/22nd December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Gordon Falcon, Her Majesty's Coroner, Workington, returning his telegram account with Postal Orders and stamps to the value of 8 shillings and 10 and a half pence.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren, dated 22nd December, thanking him for the gift of a cigarette case and giving him and his family regards and compliments for the Christmas season.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.S. Martin, Bristol, dated 22nd December, thanking him for his contribution of 3 pounds and 3 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-317, 2nd letter etc) and giving him compliments for the Christmas season.

NEIMME-JBA-10-325

23rd December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson, Wylam on Tyne, saying that he could meet Mr. Simpson the next day at the Coal trade office at 4p.m. or three days later on the Saturday morning to discuss (the accident?) at North Elswick colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-320/321 etc.).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson saying that he is sorry to hear that Mr. Nicholson has already posted the Annual Returns as he has just posted him circulars that need to be posted concerning broken ropes. He notes that posting these before the end of the year will do, and adding that the circulars should not be sent to drifts where no rope is in use and enclosing reports of 2 accidents.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R.W. Berkley, Marley Hill colliery, Swalwell, saying that he has received his previous letter and that subsequently he he will not include the death of William Pearson as a colliery accident (see NEIMME-JBA-10-323,1st letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-326

23rd December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George Trenwith, Burlington Slate Works, Kirkley-in-Furness, Lancashire, confirming receipt of notices of accidents that had occurred at his quarry some time ago. While noting his explanations for their late arrival, and also that his assistant Mr. Leck has mentioned the matter, he adds that any definition of serious injury, all of which have to be reported, would have to include those which lead to a fractured limb or the loss of an eye. He also emphasises that any accident which leads to personal injury caused by the explosion of an explosive, trivial or not, has to be reported.

NEIMME-JBA-10-327

23rd December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to I.G. Weeks saying that, in the case of the death of Robert Lynn, he does not see any problems arising regarding fencing as General Rule 6 only notes that those areas not in actual use need to have their entrances properly fenced across their whole width and in this case, the road was used as an air way and could therefore be said to be in actual use. He adds that he can't give a definitive legal opinion on the matter, however, and suggests that if he has any doubt he should report back and he will ask for an opinion from the Home Office.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker thanking him for sending a cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings from Mr. F. Napier White for the G.F. Bell fund and noting he has acknowledged its receipt (see NEIMME-JBA-10-324, 3rd letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-328

23rd December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, informing him that the relatives of the four men who died in the mining accident caused by the disengagement of a quantity of small coal after an outburst of fire-damp, either by suffocation by the small coal or fire-damp or the after-damp resulting from the ignition of the fire-damp are suing the owners of Glencairg colliery in Fifeshire, the site of the accident, namely Wilsons and Clyde Coal company, for damages under the Employers Liability act and that the trial will take place in the coming week at the Court of Session in Edinburgh. He further reports replying to a request by the solicitors Lawrence Thomson and Foulis of Glasgow that he is unable to comply with their attempts to gain an opinion on the explosion as it is contrary to his instructions to give such opinions to either side in civil actions involving accidents and objects to giving evidence in such cases. After receiving a summons to attend the court on the 26th December, he asks the Home Office for further instructions. He adds a postscript saying he will be glad to have the previous papers forwarded to him before that date.

NEIMME-JBA-10-329

23rd December/24th December 1902

Three letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-328 above.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson, Wylam on Tyne, dated 24th December,apologising for being unable to meet him on the next Saturday because he has been summonsed by the Court of Session in Edinburgh to appear on that day (see NEIMME-JBA-10-328 above). He asks him if it is possible to rearrange the meeting to the 29th or 30th December at the same time and place i.e. the Coal trade Office at 11 a.m.

The third from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, dated 24th December, noting that the assumption that an unidentified form was supplied to a Mr. Graham already certified in order that the message might be despatched without payment was incorrect. He adds that he expected a telegram from Mr. Graham regarding an inquest which he had arranged for Mr. Nicholson to attend but had to leave home before Mr. Graham's message arrived. Leaving the certified form, he instructed his son to copy his message when it arrived and despatch it. He encloses Mr. Graham's original message.

NEIMME-JBA-10-330

24th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Allerdale Coal company, Colliery Offices, Workington, confirming the appointment of William Thomas Popplewell as the undermanager of Allhallows colliery with a second class certificate in the room of John Walker Sticle(?) who has been promoted to manager.

NEIMME-JBA-10-331

24th December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Local Secretary, Northumberland Miners Union, Hepscott colliery, Morpeth, promising to inquire further after hearing that the local inspectors have visited the pit at Hepscott colliery and there being only one way out (see NEIMME-JBA-10-331,1st letter).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.T. Rutherford apologising for not receiving his letter concerning the death of Thomas Hedley until that afternoon supposing the delay down to extra postal traffic at that time of year. He adds that he would have been glad to go along with his unspecified proposal if he had heard sooner, noting that he had been out at an (his?) unidentified pit that day seeing the place of the accident to take up the case as soon as possible. He adds that the delay to the installing of his telephone did not allow him to get in touch, saying that the telephone people cannot install until some wayleaves are arranged adding they have given no indication as to when this will be done (see NEIMME-JBA-10-294, 2nd letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-332

25th December 1902 (received)

Report on the proceedings against the pony pater Robert Lewis at the County Petty Sessions court at South Shields on the 23rd December 1902 for going into a place at the Hebburn Colliery C pit to hew without permission, contravening Rule 102 and being fined 5 shillings. The owners of the pit were the Wallsend and Hebburn Coal company and John Smailes was the manager. The proceedings were recorded by Mr. Smailes and overseen by C.W. Newlands (solicitor?) of South Shields.

NEIMME-JBA-10-332

25th December 1902 (received)

Report on the proceedings against the pony pater Samuel Coatman at the County Petty Sessions court at South Shields on the 23rd December 1902 for going into a place at the Hebburn Colliery C pit to hew without permission, contravening Rule 102 and being fined 10 shillings. The owners of the pit were the Wallsend and Hebburn Coal company and John Smailes was the manager. The proceedings were recorded by Mr. Smailes and overseen by C.W. Newlands (solicitor?) of South Shields.

NEIMME-JBA-10-333

25th December/26th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Richard Jacobson, Hepscott, Morpeth, telling him that he has asked his assistant, Mr. Nicholson, to visit Hepscott Colliery on the 26th to enquire into the matter concerning it. He adds that Mr. Nicholson may not have received his message as he is away from home and the telegraph offices are not open due to the holiday season so he cannot say at what time he will arrive.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, dated 26th December, concerning Annual Returns, reporting that he is sending circulars concerning the breakages of ropes to be enclosed with the returns (see NEIMME-JBA-10-325, 2nd letter) and openworks forms by parcels post that day. He also informs him that the new company exploring for iron ore in the Isle of Man is the Hematite Development company of London and the two mines involved are the Mangher-C-Breck and the Post Movar both near Manghold.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, dated 26th December, following up on his demands for a coal output book on the 1st November, a Metalliferous Mines output book on the 19th November, a Prosecution book on the 22nd November and a fountain pen on the 7th November. He hopes that the first two of these requests might be fulfilled within the next week to help in making up quantities. He also adds that he hopes Mr. Ware can stir somebody up at the Home Office regarding the last request (see NEIMME-JBA-10-227, 2nd letter).

NEIMME-JBA-10-335

26th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W and I. Burness confirming notice that the case involving the Wilsons and Clyde Coal company has been settled and his attendance at court will no longer be required (see NEIMME-JBA-10-328). He also asks that the parcel addressed to him be sent to him at Parliament house from the Home Office.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Richard Jacobson, Hepscott, Morpeth, saying that, as he feared, Mr. Nicholson did not receive the message concerning the visit to Hepscott colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-333, 1st letter) and will not be able to visit until the next day between 10 and 11 a.m.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware asking him to send 50 sheets of forms for entering up fatal accidents as per page 12 of the scheme for annual reports, suggesting 40 for coal mines and 5 each for metalliferous mines and quarries. He also asks for 50 sheets of forms for entering up prosecutions as per page 13 of the scheme.

NEIMME-JBA-10-336

27th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, asking that a new Assistant Inspector to replace the late G.F. Bell might be appointed soon. He argues that during the next two or three months his time will be taken up considerably preparing a tabulation of statistics and the Annual Report and it is very inconvenient that he has no Assistant stationed in the Eastern part of the district where most of the work arises.

NEIMME-JBA-10-337

27th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck asking that he type up 3 copies each of rules regarding timber and roof supports, asking that the persons responsible for placing said timber and roof supports comply with a notice posted at the mine under Special Rule 1 and that no person shall continue to work in any working place where the roof is not supported as specified there unless they themselves place the necessary supports.

NEIMME-JBA-10-338

27th December/28th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A. D. Nicholson confirming receipt of a cheque for 5 pounds and 5 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-327, 2nd letter etc) while also noting that the envelopes concerning the broken ropes circulars do not need to have chief inspector on them with his assistant position sufficing and that he has noted what he has to say about the Hepscott case (see NEIMME-JBA-10-331, 1st letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Stewart, Glasgow, saying he would be glad to have a reply to his letter of the 24th September concerning the plan of Allerdean colliery deposited with the Secretary of State (see NEIMME-JBA-10-121, 1st letter?).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to F.J. Trump, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Penarth, dated 28th December, thanking him for enclosing 1 pound and 1 shilling for the G.F. Bell fund (see first letter above etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-339

27th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to R.G. Ormsby, Seaton Delaval, confirming that the Morpeth Quarry colliery has been stopped or laid in since the 26th March 1902. Mr. Atkinson requests that a plan of workings be prepared and sent directly to the Secretary of State at the Home Office in London.

NEIMME-JBA-10-340

27th December/29th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.G. Fitzgerald, Fleet Street, London, asking to hear from him concerning the notes regarding mining he sent to him on the 30th September 1902 (see NEIMME-JBA-10-133, 1st letter).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A. Sharp, miners agent, Maryport, dated 29th December, suggesting that one of the three proposed rules made at the last meeting for timbering special rules might be appropriate and he encloses three on a sheet (see NEIMME-JBA-10-337). He suggests the first, which does not mention the caveat regarding the workers involved putting up their own supports. He asks that this be thought over before the next meeting.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, secretary, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, dated 29th December, suggesting that one of the three proposed rules made at the last meeting for timbering special rules might be appropriate and he encloses three on a sheet (see letter above etc). He suggests the first, which does not mention the caveat regarding the workers involved putting up their own supports. He asks that this be thought over before the next meeting.

NEIMME-JBA-10-341

30th December 1902

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H.(Sir Henry)Hall thanking him for his contribution of 2 pounds and 2 shillings to the G.F.Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-338, 3rd letter etc) and congratulating him on his recent honour from the King.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.Walker, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Somerset, thanking him for his cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to William Stewart, Glasgow, noting that the returns Mr. Stewart refers to only relate to the minerals worked and the people employed at the abandoned Allerdein colliery and that a plan of the actual workings will also be needed in case any person in the future who may want to re-open the mine or work in the same field can see what was done and work there in safety. He asks whether he can find out whether such a plan was made and if so, who has it now.

NEIMME-JBA-10-342

30th December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the owners of Priestman collieries, Newcastle on Tyne, remarking that he would not approve of two managers for the Blaydon Burn and Lilly Drift collieries since the two collieries are dependent on the same upcast shaft and fan for their ventilation. This would lead, he argues, to problems relating to responsibility for ventilation, if, say, one manager stopped the fan leading to the other suffering insufficient ventilation and therefore being liable for something he could not control. This, in his opinion, would lead to examples of evasion of the provisions of the Coal Mines act, specifically Section 19(2). He does add that when he brought up similar reservations to a similar case with the Ormiston Coal company while in Scotland the sheriff ruled against him but that the Secretary of State thought the decision a bad one. He continues that if the owners wish to continue with the matter they should inform him under Section 19 (1) of the Coal Mines act 1887, he would report to the Secretary of State and after his probable objection the question would go to arbitration.

NEIMME-JBA-10-343

31st December 1902

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to C.C. Leach, Seghill colliery, Newcastle on Tyne, noting that he has had no official notice of the death from an accident that Mr. Leach mentioned while travelling with him by train on the 29th December last.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Davidson and Bolam, Builders, Blaydon, telling them that while travelling from Blaydon to Rowlands Gill the day previously he passed a quarry which he was told was worked by the builders and does not appear to be on his list. He encloses the necessary papers to collate an annual return for the place, adding that they should have just received, or be just about to receive the next day, papers for the East Blaydon Bank quarry which their company has just acquired from Hugh Liebman.

NEIMME-JBA-10-344

31st December 1902

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, enclosing a telegram account for 1 pound 6 shillings and 10 and a half pence to be added to the expense account already posted, with amounts applied for by the coroner C.M. Percy and since the 25th of July for John Graham, H.J. Rutherford and Gordon Falcon.

NEIMME-JBA-10-345

2nd January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to W. Bawden, Threlkeld Mines, Threlkeld via Penrith, confirming that the mines have been closed down for the present but that this state of affairs may only be temporary, noting also that a form has been already sent.

NEIMME-JBA-10-346

2nd January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, containing a plan (of a mine?) containing statistics.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, a telegram confirming a visit to a mine (Montagu?) lying 3 and a half miles West of Newcastle railway station in a direct line.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to C.C. Leach, Seghill colliery, Northumberland, confirming receipt of papers relating to the death of Alexander Bond but asking whether the date of death being noted as the 2nd January 1902 is not an error?

NEIMME-JBA-10-347

2nd January 1903

Plan for December containing statistics, signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-348

2nd January 1903

List of five accidents caused by explosions for December 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson. The first occurred on the 13th December at Cramlington colliery when a man, carrying a bobbin of compressed gunpowder and an open light in the same hand brought them accidentally in contact while passing a tub causing the gunpowder to explode. The second occurred on the 17th December at the same colliery as the first when one of two men who had lit the fuses of two shots of gelignite at the same time and place returned to the scene after one shot had exploded thinking the other fuse had not kindled and the shot went off. The third occurred at the Barrington colliery on the 17th, when a man inadvertently approached a lit shot of gunpowder and was killed instantly when it exploded. He adds that the deceased man was an official who approached the shot via a fenced off road. The fourth explosion occurred at Buckhill colliery on the 18th when two men who had lit the fuses of two shots of stowite at the same time returned to the scene after the explosion of the first shot thinking erroneously that the second had not kindled only for it to then explode. The fifth and final explosion leading to injury occurred at the Ratcheugh Quarry on the 19th December

when, after an 18 pound charge of gunpowder failed to ignite after a hole had been sunken twice, an attempt was made to dislodge said charge with a further 4 pounds of gunpowder. When this fired, it was thought that the previous 18 pound charge had been fired off also, only for this charge to explode when a man picking out stemmings with a copper tool while attempting to charge the place again caused it to go off.

NEIMME-JBA-10-349

2nd January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, London, enclosing a form marked A filled in with all the particulars relating to the advance proof of the Return of Fatal Accidents. He points out that the order of the 3 sub-headings for said accidents in Form A and the Scheme for Annual Reports of the Inspectors of Mines for December 1902 are somewhat different, with the former order being that for Ropes or Chains Breaking, Machinery and Boiler Explosions and the latter beginning with Machinery and followed by Boiler Explosions and Ropes or Chains Breaking.

NEIMME-JBA-10-350

2nd January 1903

Plan containing statistics signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-351

2nd January/3rd January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware asking him to send three more copies of the Scheme for Annual Reports while hoping that the output books will appear in time to be of use and despairing of ever obtaining the fountain pen he asked for (see NEIMME-JBA-10-334, 3rd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H.J. Willyams, Alnwick Castle Estate Offices, Alnwick, dated 3rd January, asking for him to send a return relating to the Hulm (?) Park quarry, as accurately as possible, noting that any quarry more than 20 feet deep is required so to do no matter how often the quarry is worked as ratified under the Quarries act of 1894.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker, dated 3rd January, thanking him for sending a cheque for 5 pounds on behalf of G.R.M. Prichard for the G.F. Bell fund, while noting his acknowledgement of receipt (see NEIMME-JBA-10-341, 1st and 2nd letters etc). He notes that he has received all of the subscriptions for said fund from the Chiefs and notes that when he gets the list back from Mr. Cadman they must have a meeting.

NEIMME-JBA-10-352

3rd January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to McLaren and company, Northumberland, confirming that the company plans to start working a Whinstone quarry at Holborn near Beal on the estate of Major Leathers.

NEIMME-JBA-10-353

4th January/5th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Cadman, Edinburgh, confirming receipt of his cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-351, 3rd letter etc) and hoping he is liking (working in) Scotland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.Walker, dated 5th January, remarking on various things relating to the G.F. Bell fund (see letter above etc). He confirms receipt of Mr. Walkers' letter, circular and the list (of contributors?) about the Fund while confirming that he has received cheques or money orders from everybody bar Mr. Mellors, Mr. Saint and Mr. Robinson, all of whom he is writing to that day. He confirms that the amount received for the fund to date is 101 pounds and 2 shillings and that when all outstanding contributions are paid this should add up to 110 pounds and 6 shillings. He continues that when asking Thomas Bell what should be done with the money he suggested that it be added to the Coal Owners Fund etc. and Mr. Atkinson agreed that this would simplify matters. He also notes that he has asked Mr. Hyall to let him know when the meeting to settle the matter of the fund will be held while promising to attend and promises to inform Mr Walker also when he learns of this. Finally, on the matter of trustees he suggests that Mr. Walker, being younger than himself and Mr. Bain, would be a more suitable candidate, a young man being best in his opinion.

NEIMME-JBA-10-354

5th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to James Mellors, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Wakefield, asking him to send his promised cheque for the G.F. Bell fund for 2 pounds and 2 shillings so he can conclude the business (see NEIMME-JBA-10-353, 2nd letter above etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to C.L. Robinson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Newport, asking him to send his promised cheque for the G.F. Bell fund for 2 pounds and 2 shillings so he can conclude the business (see letter above etc).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to W. Saint, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Higher Broughton, Manchester, asking him to send his promised cheque for the G.F. Bell fund for 5 pounds so he can conclude the business (see both letters above etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-355

4th January/5th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Wilson Birkett (printed upside down) saying he has forwarded his previous letter to Mr. Leck regarding his concerns about Holborn Hill quarry and promises that the matter will have his attention.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, dated 5th January, confirming he has written twice about the new Metalliferous output book and promises to send it as soon as it arrives, adding if it is not forwarded soon he will

send the old book. He also asks whether he promised to send him the quarry returns or merely those returns specific to his district and whether he finds them necessary. He remarks that he has sent none to the Home Office yet and can send them to him, if necessary.

NEIMME-JBA-10-356

8th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to John Brown, manager, Park Home colliery, Morpeth, returning his tracing of the Bandy seam of Park Home colliery while noting it should have been sent directly to the Secretary of State at Whitehall which he asks them to do.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Wood, Tynedale colliery, Hexham, telling him that he has the plans for the Bagillt colliery and that he will be happy to see him if he calls on the 10th January at 9.30 a.m to see them.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson telling him that he is sending him an output book by parcel post that day and asking him to look in the old book to find when the Acomb colliery was last worked. He also wonders why the latter does not seem to have sent in an abandoned plan. He has also written an official letter regarding Mr. Nicholson's salary.

NEIMME-JBA-10-357

8th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, informing him that A.D. Nicholson has noted an apparent error in the amount of salary he has received for December saying that the amount for 33 pounds and 15 shillings should have read 35 pounds and 15 shillings (see NEIMME-JBA-10-356, 3rd letter above).

NEIMME-JBA-10-358

8th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Saint, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Higher Broughton, Manchester, thanking him for the cheque for 5 pounds for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-354, all three letters etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Malcolm, County Offices, Hamilton, confirming receipt of his letter concerning the Conference of Mining Lecturers. He then confirms that he has left his former position in the Eastern district of Scotland and has forwarded his letter to his successor, R. McLaren in Edinburgh.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J. Mellors, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Wakefield, thanking him for his cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see first letter above, NEIMME-JBA-10-354, 1st letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-359

8th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to F.B. (Fred) Atkinson, Shottle Hall, Derby, replying to his letter about seeing the plans concerning the Ewanrigg Estate at Maryport. He notes that if the plans have been deposited for 10 years or longer then anyone can see them by calling at the Home Office and advises him to write to W.W. Ware at the Mining Statistics Office for further details. If, however, the plans have been there for less than ten years the plans can still be seen if there is a matter of danger involved and the Secretary of State has agreed on this. He also notes that such plans can only be seen at the Home Office or in the custody of an Inspector of Mines. He concludes by saying he has returned from a wedding and everything passed off well.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W.C. Gibson and company, Fireclay Works, Scotswood on Tyne, telling him that regarding the new Statutory Register which his last letter and postcard related to he should obtain a new form that the Secretary of State has sanctioned.

NEIMME-JBA-10-360

9th January 1903

Plan marked C containing statistics for 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-361

9th January 1903

Plan marked C containing statistics for 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-362

9th January 1903

Plan marked C containing no information for 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-363

9th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck saying that he is sending him all the Quarry Returns and that all those he considers to be all right should be sent directly to W.W. Ware at the mining Statistics branch of the Home Office. The ones he considers needing amendment should be sent back to the owners, he continues, with a list of them sent back to Mr. Atkinson. He concludes by saying he is ticking off the Quarry Returns as received and that he sent him the Metalliferous Output the previous day.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck asking him not to send another form regarding Barradon colliery as he has noted it on Northumberland 22 (sic). He adds that he saw the people involved that day and they have a form.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, Workington, asking for a reminder whether the next meeting concerning the Timbering special rules is on the 13th or 20th of January as he has forgotten the arrangements.

NEIMME-JBA-10-364

9th January/11th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to C.D. Robinson, Her Majesty's Inspector of mines, Glen Bank, Newport, thanking him for the cheque for 2 pounds and 2 shillings for the G.F. Bell fund (see NEIMME-JBA-10-358, 3rd letter etc).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to William Woodhouse, Stone Merchant, Barrow-in-Furness, dated 11th January, confirming receipt of the Annual Return for Newton Quarries and adding that he should write to the Secretary of the Board of Trade at Whitehall Gardens, London, regarding his rights on the matter of railway connection.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Davison and Bolam, Builders, Blaydon on Tyne, dated 11th January, confirming receipt of his letter on the subject of Knobby's Quarry and that the quarry had been worked for a short time by him but was now closed. Hed asks him to send an Annual Return form with details from when it was working.

NEIMME-JBA-10-365

10th January/12th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson, Hedgefield Offices, Blaydon on Tyne, on the subject of Acomb colliery. He notes that the colliery was abandoned around the year 1887 and that no plan of the workings appears to have been sent to the Home Office. As he believes Mr. Simpson is the check viewer for a Mr. Beaumont whose coal was principally worked there he asks him whether the latter has a plan of the abandoned colliery since questions of danger are arising from the workings at Tynedale colliery which are approaching the Acomb workings. He concludes by asking that if the plan exists in whose custody it resides at the present time.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, dated 12th January, enclosing the list of Fatal Accidents at Metalliferous Mines and Quarries and asking Mr. Leck to add the names of the owners for all the cases as well as a short precis of all the cases he personally investigated. He adds that an examination for the position of new Assistant Inspector will be held in early February and the appointment will be made as soon as possible after that. Until then, he adds, he will be unable to get away from home much. He adds, in a post script, that he has finally received all the subs from the Inspectors of Mines for the G.F. Bell fund and that the total received was 110 pounds and 6 shillings (see NEIMME-JBA-10-364, 1st letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-366

12th January 1903

Letter from J. B. Atkinson to George H. Tripp, Home Office, writing to apologise on behalf of A.D. Nicholson, who now accepts that his querying of his salary for December was unwarranted (see NEIMME-JBA-10-357). He now accepts that he had not taken into account the increases of 2 pounds received in October and November 1902 rather

than the one pound increases he had received in previous years. He then provides a table showing the amount of salary received by Mr. Nicholson from September to August for the years 1897 to 1902.

NEIMME-JBA-10-367

12th January 1903

Two letters-

The first a continuation of NEIMME-JBA-10-366 above.

The second from J.B. Nicholson to W.W. Ware asking him when he can have the forms for the List of Prosecutions and adding that he will not be receiving a fountain pen after all (see NEIMME-JBA-10-351, 1st letter etc).

NEIMME-JBA-10-368

14th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Robinson and company, Carlisle, confirming that the company proposes to recommence mining operations at Boaterby shortly.

NEIMME-JBA-10-369

14th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to H. Richardson, Holywell House, Backworth, concerning the management of Lily Drift and Blaydon Burn collieries. He reiterates his objections to the difficulties that could arise when a manager is not in full control of his ventilation, as could possibly be the case in the management of the two collieries stated (see NEIMME-JBA-10-342). With Mr. Archer being responsible for Lily Drift and its opencast shaft and face and Mr. Watson responsible for the upcast shaft of the Blaydon Burn colliery, shared ventilation could be a problem. He notes that Mr Watson is listed as the certificated manager for both Blaydon Burn and Lily Drift collieries on the annual returns which he received the previous day and that he signed off as such on both collieries. He suggests to Mr. Richardson that he contacts the solicitors Anderson and Chisholm of Edinburgh who were the agents for the Armiston Coal company in the arbitration he mentioned in a letter of the 30th December to give him the particulars of said case.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Foster and Reed, Quarry Masters, West Woodburn, Newcastle on Tyne, confirming receipt of their notice that they opened Garelaw Quarry at the beginning of 1902 and closed it in October. He encloses an annual Return form to be filled in for the Quarry.

NEIMME-JBA-10-370

14th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, asking if the presence of both himself and Mr. I.J. Robson, the Inspector of Mines in Swansea, at the Home Office on the 20th January as entered on the list of monthly attendances is strictly necessary. He notes that Mr. Robson does not propose

attending and that he himself could be adequately replaced by Mr. McLaren, his successor in the East of Scotland district, and asks for instructions. He adds that without having an assistant in the Eastern portion of the district at that time and with no significant thing to bring to the Offices' notice it would be inconvenient for him to leave the area at the moment.

NEIMME-JBA-10-371

14th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren noting that Leonard found the list of mines for Mr. McLaren's district while rummaging among books and papers stowed in an attic. He notes that he has enclosed 4 (copies?) of these by parcel post that day and that his new district seems to be better for accidents than the East of Scotland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to M.S. Douglas, Usworth colliery, Washington, proposing to meet him at the colliery the next day arriving by train at Usworth Station at around 2.30 p.m.. He asks him to wire him early if this is not possible.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to I.J. Robson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, Swansea, noting that he has informed the Home Office of his preference that Mr. McLaren takes his place on the list of attendees at the Home Office that month and that he has written there for further instructions (see NEIMME-JBA-10-370 above). He adds that it is very cold and that there is thick snow in his area at the present time although Cumberland had none the previous day. He concludes that he has also sent a report to the Home Office noting a case in which Special Bulldog (explosive?) ignited gas.

NEIMME-JBA-10-372

14th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to M.W. Brown advising him as to the possible forging of signatures in relation to a Mr. William Pringle. He suggests that the signature of Mr. Pringle on a letter Mr. Brown gave him of the 27th October 1902 is probably genuine as he has checked it against the signature given by R.W. Pringle on a letter of the 20th June 1901 intimating the commencement of Hill colliery near Slamannan. In contrast, he thinks that neither of the signatures purportedly by James Hastie on enclosed papers are genuine after examining previous signatures on letters he received from him. He also regards as suspicious signatures by Dr. Calderwood and a certificate for a Mr. A. Cambell B.A. In the latter case, he does not think a schoolmaster would be as illiterate as the certificate indicates or that the surname would be Campbell without the p. In conclusion, he believes the affair has a bad look and that an offence has probably been committed under Section 32 (3) of the Coal Mines act of 1887. He suggests that Mr. Brown should consult the Chairman of the Board as to whether the matter should be referred to the Secretary of State.

NEIMME-JBA-10-373

14th January/15th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to G.Hunt, West Sunderland, noting that he has received a Home Office circular with some figures in it for Leybourn Hold Quarry but not the required Form of Return duly filled up. He encloses a second form of return with an envelope and asks Mr. Hunt to attend to it.

The second from J.B. Atkinson, receiver unknown, dated 15th January, noting that Mr. Woods' manager, a Thomas Williams, had called on him and saw the Bagillt colliery plans on that day and that he has now returned the plans to the Home Office explaining that Mr. Williams had previously worked in a colliery adjoining Bagillt (see NEIMME-JBA-10-356, 2nd letter). He also notes that the Acomb colliery had been abandoned in 1887 or 1888 since the year 1887 is the last year for which an Annual Return of output etc was received. He adds that he left the district involved in 1889 and does not know what was done regarding the abandoned plan but is inquiring about the matter and hopes to get a copy of said plan.

NEIMME-JBA-10-374

15th January/17th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to S.Tate, Trundon Grange colliery, County Durham, suggesting that he does not think his Annual Return for the Montagu Fireclay mine comes under his jurisdiction as the instructions note that no brickworks are to be included unless they make bricks for collieries only. He adds that the instructions on the back of the Annual Returns form under the Quarries act clearly states that persons employed at brickworks are not to be included. In conclusion, he states that it his belief that he has nothing to do with the inspection of brickworks such as the one Mr. Tate has at Scotswood. He adds that he will be at the Coal Trade Office on the following Saturday at noon if nothing turns up to prevent him and will be glad to see him then.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.C. Kayll, dated 17th January, asking for the opinion of the Council Colliery Managers Association as to the advisability of a colliery manager not having complete control of the ventilation of his mine (see NEIMME-JBA-10-369, 1st letter etc). He provides examples when such an eventuality may occur.

NEIMME-JBA-10-375

17th January/18th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.G. Bell confirming receipt of his letter regarding the Blue Books and other items at Wentworth Place. He notes that he called at the address where he took a cabload of the material and saw the widowed Mrs. Bell and found her fairly cheerful (see NEIMME-JBA-10-365, 2nd letter etc). He adds that the fund for Mr. Bell raised 110 pounds and 6 shillings for her and her family.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. McLaren, dated 18th January, providing him with statistics relating to underground inspections of mines in 1901 in Clackmannan, Edinburgh, Fife, Haddington, Kinross, East Lanark, Linlithgow and Sterling. He adds that he probably inspected some others while apologising that he cannot add statistics for quarries suggesting he might be able to glean said information from the accident book.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to M. Walton Brown, dated 18th January, asking whether the 4 sheets of questions he received from him apply only to first class certificates and, if so, what about papers for the 2nd class certificates?

NEIMME-JBA-10-376

17th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Sir Kenelm E. Digby, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, referring to the previous letter from the Secretary of State regarding the order under the Factories act allowing the employment of young males over 16 in certain industries. He suggests that the exemption to the Barrow Hematite Steel company granted in 1894 allowing the process of iron ore washing to be done in two shifts of eight hours each does not need to be renewed since it has not been used for the previous five or six years. The output from these mines, he explains, has diminished so much that there is apparently no probability that the exemption will be needed again in the future.

NEIMME-JBA-10-377

19th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, Home Department, providing him with the particulars for his district in 1902 regarding underground inspections of mines and surface inspections of mines and quarries made by himself and the Assistant Inspectors in his district. He adds that he has enclosed also a list of mines where no underground inspection was made in 1902.

NEIMME-JBA-10-378

19th January 1903

List containing statistics related to the number of inspections made by J.B. Atkinson and his Assistant Inspectors W. Leck and A.D. Nicholson of Coal and Metalliferous Mines and Quarries during 1902 (see NEIMME-JBA-10-377 above). The statistics show separately the number made underground and other inspections for coal mines and metalliferous mines as well as the number for quarries and signed by Mr. Atkinson.

NEIMME-JBA-10-379

19th January 1903

List of particulars regarding coal and metalliferous mines in which no underground inspections were made in 1902 signed by J.B. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson notes that an entirely accurate picture of this cannot be given due to the deaths of the Inspector in charge of the area on the 21st March and the death of the Assistant Inspector G.F. Bell who worked primarily in the Eastern part of the district on the 11th November. He then goes on to detail that all of the Cumberland coal mines were inspected while adding his belief that all possibly bar one or two of the fiery collieries in the Eastern part of North Durham were inspected also. He notes that some of the Western collieries of North Durham may not have had any kind of underground inspection. Finally regarding coal mines, he notes that nearly all the larger collieries in Northumberland had underground inspections. As regards Metalliferous mines, he notes that the Craig Green, Crossgill, Lennard Baw, Riggs Head and Sturdy Hole mines were not inspected underground in Cumberland while the Caw and Walua Sears mines were not so inspected in Lancashire. In Northumberland and the Isle of Man, he concludes all the Working Metalliferous mines had underground inspections.

NEIMME-JBA-10-380

19th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.H.B. Forster, Cramlington collieries, asking him to provide further particulars regarding the coal cutting machine used in the Betsey pit notably the name of the machine, its motive power, the section of cut and the quantity of coal got by it to complete his figures.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R.S. Anderson, Hebburn colliery, asking if all the coal drawn at Hebburn was worked in the County of Durham and if all the coal drawn at Wallsend was worked in Northumberland and also asking for the particulars regarding the heading machine worked at Wallsend colliery to add to the Annual Returns at Wallsend and Hebburn.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to John Sisterson, Low Fell, asking him to fill in the Annual Return for Down colliery with the required particulars and send it as soon as possible.

NEIMME-JBA-10-381

20th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to George Scoular, Whitehaven, confirming that the Oughterside Coal company in Maryport have begun to sink a new shaft at Oughterside near Bullgill with the intention of opening a coal mine and that Mr. Scoular has been appointed manager. He asks Mr. Scoular to state the number of his certificate so he can put it on the list.

NEIMME-JBA-10-382

20th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.G. Kaye, Bretton Park, Wakefield, asking him if he has a copy of the plan for the abandoned Acomb colliery as required by the Coal Mines Regulation acts since the collieries' owners the Morrisons neglected to deposit a plan of the workings at the Home Office when it was abandoned in 1887 with Mr Beaumont as its principal leasor. He explains that the owner of Tynedale colliery, Mr. Wood has been asking for a copy since he believes that there may be possible danger from water in the abandoned workings (see NEIMME-JBA-10-365,1st letter). He notes that after communicating with Mr. J.B. Simpson, the mineral agent for Mr. Beaumont, on the matter, he was told that although he could not say who has the working plan of the colliery he had sent a copy of the plan to Mr. Kaye some time ago. He asks whether he knows who has the copy at the present time and, if he has it, whether it can be forwarded to Mr. Wood.

The second from R. Richardson, Blaydon Main Colliery, asking him if any of the coal drawn to bank at the colliery during the last year was worked from the county of Northumberland. If so, he asks him to provide details of the quality and number of men employed in Northumberland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-383

20th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to William Brown, manager, Acklington colliery, Acklington, telling him he will visit the colliery shortly after noon on the 22nd January.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Joseph Robinson, secretary, Miners Union, Amble, telling him that the letter he sent to the late Mr. G.F. Bell has been passed on to him and he will visit Acklington colliery to enquire into the state of the pit he mentioned on Thursday the 22nd January at about 12 noon (see letter above).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to A. Whitelegge, Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, asking him for the name of the certifying surgeon for the Marsden Limestone Quarries near Whitburn, which are situated on the sea coast midway between South Shields and Sunderland in County Durham.

NEIMME-JBA-10-384

21st January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the Tranwell Coal company, Morpeth, telling them that he cannot supply colliery owners with the Abstract of Coal Mines act or the new Special Rules regarding spragging noting that they must apply to any colliery stationer to get what they want.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Shewan, manager, St. Hilda colliery, North Shields, telling him he cannot certify his sent copy of the Special Rules for the colliery due to his alteration of age from 12 to 13 in Rules 19,46,54,73,93 and 94. He notes that the age should be 13 in the cases of Rules 19,46 and 54 but that they cannot be altered in such a way without certain legal formalities taking place. He asks him to send an unaltered copy with the recently established timbering rules and also the copy previously certified by the late Mr. Hedley.

NEIMME-JBA-10-385

21st January/23rd January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, saying the copy of the New Special Rules and amendments to existing Rules agreed to by the committee he was sent by Mr. Martin all appear to be in order and that he has sent them back so they can be sent to his Assistant Mr. Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson, he continues, has been asked to prepare a new copy of these Rules to comply with the Prohibition of Child Labour Underground act and the Coal Mines act of 1896 and then confer with Mr. Martin on the matter. When the Rules are adjusted, they can then be proposed by the Home Secretary to apply to all the Cumberland quarries apart from one or two owned by Thomson and sons which he believes would be thought of as in the province of Northumberland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Shewan, manager, St. Hilda Colliery, South Shields, dated 23rd January, confirming receipt of two copies of Special Rules for St. Hilda colliery, one certified by the late Mr. Hedley and the other with the timbering rules added. He adds that he has certificated the latter and returns both (see NEIMME-JBA-10-384,2nd letter above).

NEIMME-JBA-10-386

21st January/23rd January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson noting that Mr. Martin has sent a memo telling of what was agreed regarding the Cumberland special Rules at the meeting held on the 13th January (see NEIMME-JBA-10-385, 1st letter above). He adds that he has asked Mr. Martin to send Mr. Nicholson the list of Rules (which he has approved of) to be amended into a fresh set incorporating the new timbering rules and the amendments to existing rules made necessary by these, the provisions of the Coal Mines act of 1896 regarding extended examination by deputies and the alteration of ages rendered necessary by the Prohibition of Child Labour Underground act. He asks Mr. Nicholson to blend these to the best of his ability and then consult with Mr. Martin over the results. He also asks his Assistant to meet him at home on the 23rd to go over the the Annual Return list and arrange how to deal with defaulters. He suggests coming at about 4p.m. for lunch at 6 for returning on the 8.50 (train).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.J. Hall, manager, Ashington colliery, dated 23rd January, confirming receipt of copies of the Local Inspectors Reports on Woodhorn colliery while noting that the reports do not mention any remedial measures to be taken regarding poines(?) rubbing against the timber and therefore breaching General Rule 17. He adds that this must be remedied. He also states that he has received notice of the accident to John Newton and that Mr. Nicholson will look into it.

NEIMME-JBA-10-387

21st January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to H.White, Walker colliery, confirming the appointment of Edward S. Fawcett as undermanager of the colliery in the room of the G. Fawcett (who has?) resigned. He also confirms receipt of the Annual Return, the Rope Breakings circular and another letter and promises to see him about a new fan shortly.

NEIMME-JBA-10-388

22nd January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to Henry Elliot and son, Builders and Contractors, Berwick on Tweed, confirming that they have given up Finger Port quarry and taken on the Ord quarry.

NEIMME-JBA-10-389

23rd January/24th January/25th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.B. Simpson, Bradley Hall, Wylam on Tyne, noting that Mr. Kaye who he has asked about the plan of the abandoned Acomb colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-382,1st letter etc) has replied that he sent the plan back to Mr. Simpson. He asks him if he will supply the plan to Mr. Wood in the interests of keeping Tynedale colliery safe.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to W. Leck, dated 24th January, asking him for a regular weekly report, noting that he has received none so far in 1903 and that he received them only irregularly towards the end of the previous year. He asks that these reports be sent in on the Monday reporting on the previous week.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J. Evelyn Carr, manager, Scremerston colliery, Berwick on Tweed, dated 25th January, confirming he will visit the colliery the next day at about 12 noon to enquire about the accident to Andrew Conlon.

NEIMME-JBA-10-390

24th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to J.T. Foulis apologising that since no plans of the former workings at Port Mooar, Isle of Man, were found to be deposited at the Home Office according to the Official List he cannot help him.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to H. Richardson, Westminster, reiterating his opinion that he cannot agree to the proposed arrangement for the managership of the Lily Drift and Blaydon Burn colliery (see NEIMME-JBA-10-369, 1st letter etc). He argues that if the Secretary of State disagrees with his verdict or an umpire decides in his favour the decision is taken out of his hands, but until then he cannot agree to the arrangement which he thinks is inadvisable and fraught with danger (regarding joint ventilation). He adds that if, as Mr. Richardson has stated, Mr. P.G. Watson, the given certificated manager of both collieries, never visits Lily Drift and has no control over its operations leaving Mr. Archer in sole control of the colliery, the owners of both may be contravening Section 20 of the Coal Mines act 1887.

NEIMME-JBA-10-391

24th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to F.W. Wakefield, Franciscasminde(?), Hvalso, Denmark, confirming that the Chapman Lot Iron Ore mine was closed on the 30th August 1902. He adds in a postscript that the Annual Return has been received and that no more trouble should be taken about it, promising to have an enquiry made on the spot.

NEIMME-JBA-10-392/393/394/395/396

(Stamped) 19th January 1903

Letter from J.L. Hedley, dated 3rd April 1901, to the Right Honourable Secretary of State, containing information on mines and their inspection in the Newcastle district. He notes that a large proportion of the uninspected mines in Northumberland are small and scattered at considerable distances apart all over the county. It contains: a Report of Inspections in the Newcastle District made in 1900 made by John L. Hedley, G.F. Bell, William Leck, and A.D. Nicholson giving statistics for visits and inspections to Coal mines, Metalliferous mines and visits to quarries; a list of Coal and Metalliferous mines in the Newcastle District that have not been inspected underground in 1900, the coal mines consisting of Bishop Hill in Brampton, Harrington and Rock Hill in Alston for Cumberland, Addison in Blaydon, Byer Moor in Burnopfield, Hebburn A and C, Kibblesworth in Lamesley, Victoria Garesfield in Lintz Green and West Pelton in Chester le Street for North Durham and for Northumberland Har Moor in Beal, Marmoor in Morpeth, Hillerley Crag in Wark, Brownrigg in Otterburn, Callerton in Black Callerton, Caroline in Newcastle, Chatton, Chirm in Longhorseley, Clifton in Morpeth, Earsdon Church in Backworth, Falkington in Berwick, Goatstones in Simonburn, Gunnerton in Chollerton, Hareshaw Head and High Green in Bellingham, Hollings in Ebchester, Kirkheaton in Capheaton, Long Bramlington in Morpeth, Montagu Main in Scotswood, Netherwitton, Newton, Old Bridge in East Woodburn, Old Throckley in Newcastle, Park nHouse in Morpeth, Prestwick, Scremerston in Berwick, Seaton

Delaval in Newsham, The Seaton Delaval under heading Forster, The Seaton Delaval under heading Hastings , The Shankhouse under heading Hastings, The Shilbottle and Shipley in Alnwick, The Stannington in Morpeth and the Throckley in Newburn all under heading Amelia, Walbottle in Leamington, Whetstone Mea in Allenheads, White House in Morpeth and Widdrington. The Metalliferous mines not visited are listed as the Cashgill Lead mine, the Craig Green Lead mine and the Crossgill Lead mine all in Alston and in the Cumberland district while in Lancashire the two metalliferous mines unvisited are the Cove Slate mine in Coniston and the Stainton Iron Ore mine. The statistics conclude with a summary of the coal and metalliferous mines not inspected in 1900 in Cumberland, North Durham, the Detached part of Lancashire and Northumberland.

NEIMME-JBA-10-397

(Stamped) 19th January 1903

Letter from J.L. Hedley, dated 13th June 1901, to sir Kenelm E. Digby, professing that despite acknowledging the importance of underground inspections, his other duties as Chief Inspector leave him comparatively little time to carry them out. He points out that he makes sure that an underground inspection is carried out in any important case and others are made when time permits. The whole of the correspondence concerning such inspections passes through his hands which, he argues, leaves his Assistant Inspectors free to devote most of their time to such inspections. He also argues that his area's records for underground inspections would compare favourably to those carried out in other districts. He goes on to describe his typical routine whereby he starts his working day at 7.30 a.m. with the receipt of each morning's letters, including Sundays, so he can send off instructions to his Assistants with the least possible delay. His evenings, he continues, are nearly always devoted to office work and he attended an exceptionally large number of conferences with owners on important mining subjects in the past year (1900). He concludes that during 1901 he anticipates he will be able to make a larger number of underground inspections and will continue to bear in mind that he should devote whatever time he can spare to such inspections both above and below ground.

NEIMME-JBA-10-398

25th January/26th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Mrs Roscamp, Alnwick, while apologising for the question, asks if she possesses or knows of any one who might possess the plan to the abandoned workings of Acomb colliery as the owner of a new pit is asking him for information on the old pit to ascertain of any possible dangers due to an overlap of said workings with the new pit (see NEIMME-JBA-10-389, 1st letter etc). He goes on to explain that no copy of the plan was sent to the Home Office as should have been done and asks if any copy can be found in Mr. Roscamp's papers?

The second from J.B. Atkinson to L.L. Hall, dated 26th January, asking for details relating to the accident which led to the injury to John Hall at Ashington colliery on the 15th December 1898 after his death on the 5th April 1902. Although he doubts whether the injury led to his death, having occurred more than a year after the accident, and does not propose listing it as a colliery accident, he wishes the details of his age and occupation at the time and the nature of the accident for a supplementary list he is compiling.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R.W. Berkley, Marley Hill collieries, dated 26th January, asking for details of the age and occupation of George Oates, who was noted to have died of heart failure in the Andrews House pit on the 31st June 1902, and whether an inquest was held into his death.

NEIMME-JBA-10-399

26th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Mr. Mottram thanking him for sending a cutting, remarking that an Inspector's son should have known better and that the Home Office have informed him that the examination for the vacancy involved should be held early in February and the appointment made as soon after that as possible. He argues again that his situation is awkward with his Assistants Mr. Nicholson working in Carlisle and Mr. Leck at Cleator while most of the work is required in the area where he lives (see NEIMME-JBA-10-370 etc). He goes on to mention he has heard Mr. Mottram has been enjoying games of whist and golf, noting that he has not been able to play much of the latter since leaving his temporary Alnwick home (see NEIMME-JBA-10-270, 2nd letter etc). He asks him to come to Carlisle in the Spring to play a game at Silloth and talk about the Canobie coal field and its possible connection with the Cumberland Coal field. He also asks in a postscript whether his non-appearance at the New Year means he has given up the idea of moving (see NEIMME-JBA-10-302, 1st letter).

The second from J.B. Atkinson to J.H.B. Forster, manager, Cramlington colliery, Northumberland, confirming receipt of the copy of the Special Rules for the colliery as certified by the late Mr. Hedley and the copy for him to certify. He returns the latter for him to add the new timbering rules and after these have been added, he says he will certify it and return both copies.

NEIMME-JBA-10-400

26th January/27th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to the manager, Marsden Quarries, Whitburn, South Shields, enclosing a letter by H.J. Wilson, the Factory Inspector, which he believes will provide him with the information he required concerning the certifying surgeon at the quarries.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to C. Percy, H.M. Coroner, Alnwick, dated 27th January, asking him to send a copy of the verdict of the jury in the case of the death of George Taylor at Pegswood colliery (printed upside down).

The third from J.B. Atkinson to Malcolm Delevingne, dated 27th January, informing him that there is no place except the Barrow Hematite Steel Coy's works where the exemption which allows male young persons to be employed at night in iron ore washing in his district (printed upside down).

NEIMME-JBA-10-401

27th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to G.F. Brown, Ironhead Colliery company, Durham, noting the complaints made by his Assistant Inspector Mr. Nicholson when he inspected the colliery on January 24th. Firstly, he noted that there was no proper indicator on the winding engine or mark on the rope to show the position of the cage in the shaft, as required by General Rule 30 of the Coal Mines Regulation act of 1887. Then, he mentions that the top shoe(?) at the right hand site of the cage was in a bad condition and required renewing. Finally, he noted there was no partition on the left side of the cage and on the right side required renewing with the cage generally requiring overhauling. He continues that the first complaint in particular is a serious breach of the Coal Mines Regulation act of 1887 and constitutes a source of considerable danger to the workmen employed at the colliery. He asks for any explanation he

may have for the state of affairs, while also noting that he will be glad to hear that the matters complained of have been remedied.

NEIMME-JBA-10-402

28th January 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to James Bell, Town Commissioners Office, Ramsey, Isle of Man, apologising for the confusion from not realising that, as well as their statement noting that the Ramsey Town Commissioners were not the occupiers of the Ballure no.2 quarry, there was no current occupier. He notes that if, as he suspects, the form he directed should be sent to the occupier had been handed to the Commissioners, he apologises that they have been troubled in this manner.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.D. Nicholson thanking him for sending the Annual Return Book for Coal Mines and noting he can now get on (with the work involved) He asks whether Mr. Nicholson will eventually need the book back to give details of the persons employed and mineral worked in the Limestone Measures. Finally, he asks for the Walk Mill deputies' lamp to be returned to him.

NEIMME-JBA-10-403

29th January 1903

Letter from J.B. Atkinson to F. Sanderson, Glebe Mines Ltd, Douglas, Isle of Man, confirming receipt of the Annual return and that the company are driving a level into the hill side at Manghold Head on which work began a few weeks before Christmas. He asks which mineral is proposed to be worked from there.

NEIMME-JBA-10-404

30th January 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to Thomas Coxon, Denwick, Alnwick, confirming that the Annual Returns he received from him regarding Snableness quarry will do very well as it is, seeming to be in order regarding his stating the weight of the dressed merchantable product as required, while noting that it is not obligatory to provide the value which he takes to mean the price he could get for the material at the quarry.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to C. Johnson, North Seaton colliery, saying that he has asked Mr. Dormand to hand him the letter and the enclosed form regarding the persons employed and coal raised for Newton colliery during the time it was running in the past year. He asks Mr. Johnson to fill it in and post it to him in an envelope he has enclosed.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to R.B. Dormand, manager, North Seaton colliery asking him to hand C. Johnson a letter (see above) regarding the annual return for Newton colliery as he understands he worked there and now works at the North Seaton colliery, as Mr. Dormand mentioned that day.

NEIMME-JBA-10-405

30th January/1st February 1903

Two letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to C.B. Palmer, manager, Felling colliery, noting that, as he plans to go abroad for 6 weeks from the following Monday, Mr. Palmer must appoint a new 1st class certificated manager and intimate this either to Mr. Atkinson or the owner/agent of the colliery. His undermanager Mr. Kandyside, he explains, cannot be nominated in his absence since he appears to only hold a second class certificate.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to R. Linday, manager, Netherton colliery, Newcastle on Tyne, dated 1st February, asking him to send two more copies of the Special Rules for the colliery since the ones he has sent for certification do not contain the new timbering rules. Once they have been added, he promises to sign and return them.

NEIMME-JBA-10-406*

1st February 1903

Three letters-

The first from J.B. Atkinson to W.W. Ware, promising to send out reminders as to the quarries Annual Returns and asking him to send 100 blank returns, 100 envelopes and 100 copies of a reminding circular if he has them to his Assistant Inspector, Mr. Leck, at Cleator Moor in Cumberland.

The second from J.B. Atkinson to A.C. Kayll, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne, noting that the reply the Council of the North of England Branch of the National Association of Colliery managers have given to his question, as supplied in Mr. Kayll's letter, answers a question he did not ask and ignores the perfectly general question that he did ask for an answer to.

The third from J.B. Atkinson to J.P. Martin, Cumberland Coal Association, Workington, regarding new timbering rules (Cont).