

Bell Bros. Ltd.
Directors Minute Book No. 2
(November 1886—9/1/1899)

- 6/12/1888 Agreement sealed about lease from Mr. R.D. Shafto of about 12 acres of coal at Whitworth. [*presumably for Page Bank*]—Minute 624
- 1/5/1890 Declined to buy Trimdon & Deaf Hill collieries from Mr. W.H. Wood, acting for his father Mr. T. Wood, after an unfavourable report (about the price) had been received from Mr. A.L. Steavenson and Mr. Wm. Armstrong.—Min. 688
- 5/6/1890 Lease agreed of cottages at Thinford Bridge from Messrs. Copeland & Jopling.—Min. 695
- 2/6/1891 Hutton coal under Burn Hall Estate: agreed to lease terms—Min. 741
- 3/12/1891 Negotiations reported with Mr. W.O. Wood, on behalf of the trustees of Messrs. Burrell & Shafto, about the proposed purchase of wayleave rent reserved under the lease of Brandon Hill... (etc.)—Min. 752
- 3/12/1891 Agreed that lease of ground for erection of Wesleyan Methodist Chapel at Tursdale be signed.—Min. 755
- 23/2/1892 Purchase for £5,000 of wayleave and coal at Brandon Hill agreed.—Min. 762

20/7/1895 “Extraordinary Meeting of Bell Bros. Ltd.”

Present: H. Bell (Chairman)

W. Johnson

C.L. Bell

W.L. Johnson

& by proxy: Sir L. Bell

Col. A.F. Godman

+ Mr. H.L. Bell

Resolved: that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Thomas Hugh Bell and Walter Johnson be appointed liquidators and to register a new company, [also] to be named Bell Bros. Ltd.

10/8/1895 “A Seal for the New Company being necessary, ordered that the seal of the old company be adopted.”—Min. 1a

10/8/1895 “Ordered that the seal of the Company be affixed to the Agreement between Bell Bros. Ltd. (Incorporated in 1873) and its liquidators and Bell Bros. Ltd. (Incorporated 1895).”—Min. 2a

9/1/1899 “Extraordinary General Meeting of Bell Bros. Ltd.”

Present: Sir L. Bell (Chairman)

Hugh Bell

C.L. Bell

Walter Johnson

M.L. Bell

W.L. Johnson

& by proxy: the Hon. E.L. Slauby [?]

+ Col. A.F. Godman

Resolved: that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Hugh Bell and Walter Johnson be appointed liquidators and to register a new company, [also] to be named Bell Bros. Ltd.

“Directors Minute Book” (??)

[= Minutes of Ordinary/General Meetings]

(1899—1923)

e.g.:—

Balance Sheet for year ending 31/12/1921 (extracts)

Capital Expenditure

Cost of Works, Mines, Collieries &c. @ 1st January 1899: £752,159/19s/4d

Expenditure on Steel Works, Bowburn Colliery and other properties since 1/1/1899:

Net expenditure during 22 years, 1899–1920 including:	£1,596,012/12s/5d
Less written off out of Profits or Reserve Account for General Purposes during the same period:	£523,100/10s/9d
net expenditure:	£1,072,912/1s/8d
Total Cost brought forward:	£1,825,072/1s/0d
Plus expenditure during year 1921:	£139,467/13s/11d
Total expenditure to date:	£1,964,539/14s/11d
+ other assets etc. and investments totalling	£1,002,893/7s/11d
Total:	£2,967,433/2s/10d

[These are extracts from a typical balance sheet.

Bowburn Colliery was first mentioned in the balance sheet for y/e 31/12/1908.]

[There is no other mention of Bowburn in this Minute Book. The minutes in this book consisted almost exclusively of the acceptance of Reports of the Directors, which were in turn recorded as little more than the latest Balances and the Profit & Loss Accounts, the amount of Dividends to be paid, and the (re-)appointment of Directors.

One of the few exceptions was recorded in 9/12/1917...]

9/12/1917 “That the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to the staff both at the Head Office and at the various works for their loyal services rendered in the very difficult and anxious times through which the country is now passing.”

[Thanks to staff also followed in 1918 and 1919.]

Directors Minute Book No. 2 (November 1886—1/7/1901)

Nov. 1886 “Meeting of Directors” – Sir L. Bell, J. Bell, H. Bell and W. Johnson – = earliest minute *[in Middlesbrough archives]*.

31/12/1886 “27th Ordinary Meeting of Bell Bros.” – Sir Lowthian Bell, Hugh Bell and Walter Johnson – reported loss of £15,410/16s/4d for the half-year...

9/1/1899 “Extraordinary Meeting of the Company” appointed Hugh Bell and Walter Johnson [the Company Secretary] to be Liquidators.

24/1/1899 Bell Bros. Ltd. (Incorporated in 1899) agreed that Hugh Bell should be the sole Managing Director at £3,000 p.a. Also agreed with Sir Lowthian Bell that he and his family apply for 30,000 ordinary shares at £5 each, and that 33,340 further preference shares and £366,600 of 4% debenture stock be advertised.

And Dorman Long & Co. Ltd. agreed with Sir Lowthian Bell that DL&Co. subscribe at par for 30,000 ordinary shares at £5 and Sir LB and family, also subscribe for 30,000 (as set out) and that this total 60,000 shall be pooled for 5 years.

- [Isaac] Lowthian Bell.....21,759
- [Thomas] Hugh Bell (Lowthian’s son)3,996
- C[harles] Lowthian Bell (his son).....2,964
- E[Edward] Lyulph Stanley (his son-in-law, married to daughter Mary K.)561
- Arthur Francis Godman [not related??]288
- Maurice L[owthian] Bell (his grandson – Hugh’s son)249
- Walter Johnson (his son-in-law, married to daughter Margaret)144
- Walter L[yulph] Johnson (his grandson – Walter & Margaret’s son)39
-0

[Total:] 30,000

1/7/1901 “General Meeting of the members of the Company” = winding up of the Company. Accounts laid before the meeting by the liquidators and agreed “that the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the liquidators thereof be delivered or handed over by the Liquidators to Bell Bros. Ltd. (1899) for their absolute use and benefit.” Signed by C. Lowthian Bell, Chairman.

Among the properties conveyed:–

Freeholds including:

- “Mines of coal, iron and fireclay and a parcel of land at Brandon Hill in the township of Cornforth, Durham”, conveyed 12/10/1892 from [Grantor] Robert Anthony Burrell (+) George Walton Appleby.
- A copyhold plot of land held of the Manor of Cornforth, Durham, conveyed 4/2/1885 from [Grantor] Richard Blanchard.
- A plot of land situate at Coxhoe, Durham conveyed 24/12/1886 from [Grantor] Thomas Laing.
- A plot of land situate at Langley [Moor?], Durham conveyed 3/6/1891 from [Grantor] The Onward Building Society (+) William Barclay Peat.
- (and many more properties in Yorks and Cleveland and at Port Clarence)

Leasehold including:

- Page Bank Colliery with part of Brancepeth Coal Mines and other hereditaments in or near Spennymoor, leased 30/2/1861 from [Lessor] Dr. Fenwick, Trustees for 42 years from 1/4/1860.
- Mines of coal, ironstone and fireclay in the parish of Brancepeth – leased 10/11/1866 from Emma Maria Viscountess Boyne, Gustavus Frederick Boyne and Gustavus Russell Boyne for 63 years from 13/5/1864. (A portion of these was surrendered to the Rt. Hon. Gustavus Viscount Boyne 23/11/1881.)
- etc. Brancepeth (two others)

- Mines of coal, ironstone and fireclay in the parish of Broomhill and Tursdale – leased 1/5/1857 for 60 years from 1/8/1856 from Robert Claverley Bewicke (+) Thomas Fenwick.
- Mines of coal, ironstone and fireclay in the royalties of Hett, West Hetton, Clarence Hetton and Quarrington, Durham – leased 14/1/1892 for 21 years from 11/10/1884 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.
- Mines of coal, ironstone and fireclay at Hett in the parish of Church Merrington, Durham – leased 5/9/1877 for 42 years from 11/11/1865 from Rt. Hon. Gustavus Viscount Boyne.
- Beds of brick-clay under lands at Page Bank and Lowfield, Durham – leased 17/7/1877 for 26 years from 1/4/1876 from John Charles James Fenwick.
- and Leasehold cottages, dwelling houses, premises and lands at Meadowfield Place, Thinford, Low Thinford and Thinford Lane, Hett.

- 9/7/1902 "Admittance of Hugh Bell Esq. on behalf of Bell Bros. Ltd. for copyhold land in the Manor of Cornforth, ordered to be recorded in the Minutes." p.85
- 10/9/1902 "Shincliffe Royalty. Lease in duplicate from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of a small area of coal adjoining Tursdale Colliery, submitted and ordered to be sealed." p.89
- 10/9/1902 "Coxhoe Cottages. Robert Telfer's tender for erecting six additional cottages for £952/13s/0d ordered to be accepted." p.89
- 4/2/1903 Bell Bros. Directors considered repudiating purchase of Crowtrees Farm and the Wheatsheaf Public House as vendor had failed to show satisfactory title the the property.
- 4/2/1903 "Crowtrees Farm. The vendors having failed to show a satisfactory title to this property, the purchase of which was approved by the board 5th September 1900, the Managing Director reported that the question of repudiating the purchase was under consideration, the altered circumstances of the colliery having rendered its acquisition of less importance." p.97
- 4/3/1903 "Crowtrees Farm and Wheatsheaf Public House. Reported that, in accordance with the minute of last meeting, notice had been given to Vendor's solicitor repudiating the contract for purchase." p.99
- 8/4/1903 "Crowtrees Farm and Wheatsheaf Public House. It was reported that the vendor's solicitor has undertaken to show a clear title to this property forthwith and that Mr. A.L. Steavenson having recommended that under these circumstances the property should be acquired, the notice repudiating the contract has been withdrawn. The Board approved the course taken." p.101
- 8/7/1903 "Tursdale Colliery. The Managing Director, having reported upon negotiations now in progress, was empowered by the Board to arrange terms and complete negotiations with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the renewal of the principal Tursdale lease and for an additional portion of the Shincliffe royalty, and with the governors of Sherburn Hospital for a further part of the Whitwell royalty." p.106
- 4/11/1903 North Brancepeth Coal Co. Ltd. agreed to buy from North Brancepeth Coal Co. Ltd. 97 acres of coal adjoining Browney Colliery, leased from Lord Boyne (and subject to his approval) for £35,991/1s/4d over 12 years. p.112
- 9/12/1903 Tursdale Colliery. William Ramsay resigned managership. John Ramsay, his son, appointed @ £360 p.a. salary. p.115
- 9/3/1904 Reported to Bell Bros. Directors that the Crowtrees Farm purchase problems now resolved and conveyance submitted. "Reported that this matter is now completed and the conveyance submitted." p.123(?)
- 6/4/1904 "Draft lease for a further area of Whitwell Coal submitted and approved. Lease ordered to be sealed. p.123
- 8/6/1904 Browney. Negotiations in progress with Messrs. Strakers & Love for exchange of tracts of coal leased from Lord Boyne. p.126
- 6/7/1904 "Lease of Whitwell Coal. Under 213 acres adjoining Tursdale Colliery. Agreement with the Master and Brethren of Sherburn Hospital submitted and ordered to be sealed." p.127
- 6/7/1904 Wreford's land at Tursdale. Managing Director authorised to purchase. p.128
- 3/8/1904 Wreford's land at Tursdale. Purchase of 101a 2r 32p and two farmsteads of Hett Grange and Hett Mill for £2,800 agreed. p. 129
- 11/1/1905 Death of Sir Lowthian Bell reported (died 20/12/1904) p.137
Hugh Bell appointed Chairman.
Charles Lowthian Bell resigned Managership.
- 7/2/1905 Coxhoe Copyhold. Sale of a building site to Allan Johnson, 432 sq. yds. for £51/6s/0d ordered to be sealed. p.139
- 7/2/1905 Brandon and Browney land... Hett land sold for burial ground... p.145

- 6/6/1905 Tursdale New Lease. "To be examined in the usual way and the Managing Director authorised to accept and seal if approved." p. 150
- 10/10/1905 "Tursdale Colliery. The Managing Director reported the need of obtaining further supplies of coking coal from this Colliery and read a report of Mr. A.L. Steavenson dated 7th October recommending a shaft to be sunk to the north of the present pits at an estimated cost of £37,000.
"Ordered that the Board approved of the necessary preliminary steps being taken for sinking a pit at a point to be approved by the Managing Director for working that part of the Tursdale royalties which lies to the North of the Hett Whin Dyke and that Mr. Steavenson be requested to prepare the necessary detailed plans and estimates to be submitted to the next Board meeting." p.158
- 10/10/1905 Bell Bros. Directors agreed that "the necessary preliminary steps be taken for the sinking of a pit, at a point to be approved by the Managing Director, for working that part of the royalties which lies to the north of the Hett Whin Dyke and that Mr. Steavenson be requested to prepare the necessary detailed plans..."
- 7/11/1905 Tursdale New Pit. Mr. Steavenson was not yet in a position to submit further estimates and plans. p.160
- 7/11/1905 Bell Bros. Directors agreed to purchase Bowburn Farm, "on which it is proposed to sink the new pit. The farm contains 114¹/₂ acres and the price agreed upon £3,300." p.160
- 5/12/1905 "Tursdale New Pit" Plans for railway sidings for £3,208 + £3,500 approved by Bell Bros. Directors for the erection of 20 houses for the sinkers (including streets) + two high-pressured boilers, a second hand engine for sinking etc. to be purchased at a total of £6,000 + £3,500 for the cottages. p.162
- 9/1/1906 Browney and Page Bank Schools. Leased to Durham County Council for 21 years with effect from 6/11/1905 at £46/10s/0d and £30/18s/0d respectively. p.163
- 6/2/1906 Conveyance of Bowburn land submitted to Bell Bros. Directors p.164
- 6/2/1906 Authority given "to the Managing Director to arrange erection of 100 Miners Cottages, say 34 at Coxhoe and 66 at Bowburn during the next two years, at an estimated average cost of £160 to £170 each... and that Tursdale Coals shall maintain them and pay rent to the Special Reserve fund" [to which the cost of the cottages would be charged]... at 5% per annum [etc.] p.166
- 6/2/1906 Salaries of three Managing Directors approved, w.e.f. 1/10/1904, as follows:
Hugh Bell, Bell Brothers £3,000
Arthur Cooper, [Dorman Long & Co.] & North East Steel Co. £1,000 + £3,000
A.J. Dorman, Dorman Long & Co. £3,500
plus 6% of the profits of the three companies divided equally between them.
A.J. Dorman was to give up his fee for being vice-chairman of Bell Bros. w.e.f. 1/1/1905. p.167
- 6/3/1906 Death reported of Charles Lowthian Bell. He had been put in charge of blast furnaces at Walker-on-Tyne in 1881 and succeeded John Thompson as Manager of the Works at Clarence in 1887... p.168
- 8/5/1906 Chairman [Hugh Bell] authorised to seal a separate lease for the Shincliffe royalty. [*"separate"? i.e. separate from the "Tursdale new lease" – was that Bowburn?*]
- 8/5/1906 Chairman empowered to lease 3 acres to Durham Rural District Council "for sewage irrigation" for the Bowburn cottages. p.175
- 12/6/1906 Agreement with NER submitted and ordered to be sealed [for sidings]. p.176
- 12/6/1906 Report from Mr. Steavenson approved recommending acceptance of tender of Messrs. James Johnson Ltd. of East Boldon for the "Bowburn Sinking". p.177

- 12/6/1906 Walker Cottages. Agreement reached with Sanitary authority re alterations required. p.177
- 12/6/1906 Walker Land. Board authorised sub-leases of a portion of this land to Messrs. Buchanan, Boat builders, at £50 p.a. subject to right of access to the river and to consent of Newcastle Corporation. p.177
- 10/7/1906 “Revised draft of new lease of the West Hetton & Co. Coal royalties. Engrossment ordered to be sealed.” p.178
- 10/7/1906 Reported to Bell Bros. Directors that the “contract for sinking of Bowburn Pit [had been] signed by contractors”. *[This is the first reference to “Bowburn Pit” although “Bowburn Sinking” is referred to on p.177. However the Durham Advertiser referred to the sinking of a new colliery “at Bowburn” being close on 16th January 1906.]* p.178
- 10/7/1906 Further £14,000 voted for sinking, buildings, machinery and railway (not including cottages) making total (with £6,000 voted 5/12/1905) of £20,000 to date. p.178
- 7/8/1906 Agreed to offer field no. 236 to Joseph Hodgson of Cleadon near Sunderland who had applied for land on which to build cottagers in the neighbourhood of the new Bowburn pit. p.180
- 4/12/1906 “Freehold Farms. Ordered that the five Freehold Farms of Standalone, Crow Trees, Hett Grange, Hett Mill and Bowburn, purchased from the Special Reserve fund, be conveyed to the trustees appointed under the minutes of 11th April 1905 and 10th April 1906 as Joint Tenants in trust subject to a lease to be by them granted to the company of these lands and of all buildings erected or to be erected thereon for a period of 30 years. “The lease to provide for the company managing or letting the farms, receiving all rents, and discharging all charges and liabilities and erecting cottages or other buildings thereon. p.186 “The company to pay yearly to the Special Reserve fund 5% interest...” (etc.) p.187
- 4/12/1906 “Coxhoe and Bowburn Cottages. That £1,504/2s/9d, the cost of erecting 14 cottages on the copyhold land at Coxhoe, be charged to Profit and Loss and not to the Special Reserve, and that no more cottages be built upon the land under this minute. “That a third row of 32 cottages, making 96 altogether, be erected at Bowburn, and the cost charged to the Special Reserve fund.” p.187
- 4/12/1906 Bell Bros. Directors authorised erection of third row of 32 cottages, making 96 altogether. p.187 *[Note: Only 31 were actually built in this row, i.e. Steavenson Street evens.]*
- 4/12/1906 Richard Harle = Manager of South Brancepeth and Browney, with salary raised to £504 p.a. M.R. Kirby = Engineer, Mines and Collieries, with salary raised to £336. p.187
- 8/1/1907 Further £20,000 voted for the purpose of sinking and equipping the Bowburn pit, making £40,000, and Mr. Steavenson to report to the February meeting. Also “Ordered: that Mr. Steavenson be instructed that the Board desires the new pit to be equipped for raising 500 to 600 tons of coal daily from the Busty seam and the old or Quelch’s pit to be carried down to the same seam to serve for ventilating purposes. The large coal (about 20%) to be cleaned on belt and sent away as Best Coal, the small passing the screen to be sent to Clarence to be washed there for the Coke Ovens.” p.189
- 12/2/1907 Agreed to purchase for £650 about 45,000 tons of Brockwell Coal belonging to Ralph Richardson. p.190
- 11/6/1907 Tursdale Hauling Engine. Messrs. J. & G. Joicey & Co. Ltd.’s tender of £1,623 net was accepted. p.197
- 11/6/1907 Bowburn Heapstead and Cleaning Belt. The Managing Director was authorised to take tenders and place orders. p.197
- 11/6/1907 Cottages near [sic] Bowburn. The purchase of Messrs. Robson & Toulson’s Cottage near the Wheatsheaf Inn for £120 ordered to be charge to the Special Reserve. The purchase of Mrs. Kipling’s cottages also authorised at £200. p.197

- 11/6/1907 "Crow Trees Farm. The Board sanctioned the offer of an acre of land to the Durham County Council for the site of a school for £200." p.197
- 11/06/1907 Bell Bros. Board of Directors sanctioned the offer of an acre of land on Crowtrees Farm to the Durham County Council for the site of a school for £200.
- 3/7/1907 Conveyance of coal bought from Ralph Richardson ordered to be sealed. p.198
- 7/8/1907 Shincliffe and Houghall Lease of coal royalties – engrossment ordered to be sealed.
Burn Hall coal royalty – Chairman authorised to settle terms of lease.
Boyne Hett coal lease – Chairman authorised to settle terms of lease. p.199
- 7/8/1907 Further £20,000 authorised for new pit etc., making total of £60,000.
- 7/8/1907 Tursdale Colliery. Agreed to erect 40 workmen's cottages on Standalone Farm at £150 per cottage. p.199
- 10/9/1907 Bowburn School and Crowtrees Farm. 5,684 sq. yds. (less 164⁴/₉ for road) to be offered to Durham County Council for a school at £200 and a strip 8 ft. wide on the east side for widening the road to Heugh Hall and Cassop Moor. p.201
- 10/9/1907 5,684 sq. yds. of land offered by Bell Bros. Directors to Durham County Council for a school for £200. p.201
- 10/9/1907 Bowburn Heapstead and Screens. Confirmed contract with Messrs. M. Coulson & Co. Ltd. for £4,450, and £50 if finished within specified time. p.201
- 10/9/1907 Jane Kipling. Agreement for wayleave at Bowburn ordered and sealed. p.201
- 8/10/1907 Letter from Mr. J.J. Hopper dated 27/9/1907 read and plans for houses near Hare & Greyhound considered. Board was prepared to give up a narrow strip of land north west of the pub free of charge but not prepared to discuss rest of land till some houses built and plans approved. Would be willing to lease a number of houses for workmen at rental based on 7.5% of cost of erection, but only if built to approved plans. p.204
- 12/11/1907 Further cottages agreed, as per plans approved by the local authority. p.206
- 7/1/1908 "Chairman reported that the Busty Seam had been reached in the new pit at a depth of 104 fathoms 2 ft. and that the sinkers are now proceeding with a drift from the Harvey Seam in the old pit [*i.e. Quelch's*] to the Busty Seam in the new pit for ventilating purposes." p.208
- 11/2/1908 Small exchanges of land agreed by Bell Bros. Directors (confirmed 8/12/1908) p.212
- 11/2/1908 "Mr. Steavenson's Report on the Mines for 1907 taken as read, a copy having been sent to each of the Directors" p.210
- 11/2/1908 "Coal royalty at Coxhoe. Submitted: proposed terms of letting to Bell Bros. Ltd. [of] 55A 2R 16P of coal belonging to Rowland Burdon Esq..
The terms were approved and the M.D. authorised to accept the lease and execute necessary deeds."
Certain small exchanges of land at Bowburn (not itemised – but possibly near the Hare & Greyhound) were also sanctioned. p. 212
- 7/4/1908 "Bowburn Pit. The Chairman reported that the new shaft, begun 24 July 1906, was completely finished and lined to the Busty Seam at the depth of 103 fathoms 2ft on 2nd April 1908." p.216
- 7/4/1908 "Shincliffe Royalty. Lease dated 26 March 1908 submitted." p. 216
- 7/4/1908 Mr. Burdon's Coal. The chairman reported that leave had been obtained for proceeding to drift into this coal from the West Hetton Royalty." p.216
- 21/7/1908 "Tursdale Colliery. Authority was given to obtain tenders and to order a New Winding Engine for the Colliery and to seal the renewal Lease of the Hett Royalty belonging to Lord Boyne." p. 219

- 21/7/1908 South Brancepeth Colliery. Closing of Yard Seam reported. p. 219
- 6/10/1908 Wingate Grange Colliery. Agreed to consider making an offer to buy this Estate. p.223
- 8/12/1908 Bowburn. Exchanges of land confirmed between Bell Bros. and Messrs. J. Nimmo & Co. Ltd. and between Bell Bros. and Mrs. Janet Kipling. p.225
- 8/12/1908 Wingate Grange. £150,000 offered - confirmed. p.225
- 8/12/1908 "Bowburn. Applications for Church accommodation. Consideration of these postponed." p.225
- 12/1/1909 "Bowburn Colliery. Reported that of 191 cottages for which plans had been passed by the Local Authority, 137 have been erected at an average cost of £154 each, exclusive of land but including street-making and drainage, and that it was desirable the remainder should be built at once, and that a Manager's house and houses for the Overmen should be put in hand shortly. "Ordered that the rest of the Workmen's Cottages be proceeded with and that plans be prepared for the Manager's house and the Overmen's houses. "Ordered that the applications for sites for places of worship be left to the decision of the Chairman." p.226
- 12/1/1909 Reported to Bell Bros. Directors that of 191 cottages authorised by the local authority, 137 had been built, at an average cost of £154, excluding land but including streets and drainage. Agreed to put in hand plans for a manager's house and houses for the overmen. [137 = *Durham Road (32) + Steavenson Street (32 + 31) + Clarence Street (16 + 26)*] p.226
- 12/1/1909 Boyne Hett Lease. Terms agreed. p.226
- 12/1/1909 Wingate Colliery. Offer amended to £160,000. p.226
- 9/2/1909 "Yearly Reports. Mr. A.L. Steavenson on the Mines. taken as read, copies having been sent to each of the Directors. p.228
- 9/2/1909 Crowtrees Farm. Authority given to deal with claims by Mr. Lee "for alleged loss of water and other damage to his property" p. 229
- 9/2/1909 Wingate Colliery. Offer of £160,000 withdrawn. p.229
- 6/4/1909 Bowburn. Plans and estimates for two foremen's houses approved – proceed. p.233
- 6/4/1909 Bell Bros. Directors approved plans for two foremen's houses.
- 11/5/1909 Board agreed to offer site as indicated to the Vicar, subject to conditions re mineral rights and compensation etc. p.234
- 8/6/1909 "Bowburn Mission Room". Letter from Vicar accepting site offered. Agreed that land be conveyed in conformity with the Declaration of Trust dated 12/2/1907. p.236
- 6/7/1909 Mr. Steavenson reported to be very ill – sympathy to Mrs. S. p. 239
- 9/11/1909 Thrislington Colliery. Mr. Steavenson's report received. Board decided not to make an offer for purchase of this colliery. p.244
- 8/2/1910 Yearly reports for 1909, including Mr. Steavenson's on Mines, taken as read. p.247
- 8/2/1910 "Burn Hall Coal Lease. Agreement with Lord Boyne for a third drift through barrier ordered to be sealed." p.248
- 10/5/1910 Death of Mr. Alexander Sowerby Hay, one of the Directors of the Company since its formation in 1899. p.252
- 6/9/1910 Browney Sidings: Agreement whereby NER provide additional sidings. p.256
- 6/9/1910 "Heugh Hall & Quarrington Hill farms. The Board authorised negotiations for the purchase of these farms, or either of them, at such price as may be approved by the Chairman." p.256
- 6/9/1910 Bell Bros. Directors authorised negotiations for the purchase of Heugh Hall and Quarrington Hill Farms. (Price: £11,750 — 8/7/1913) [Note: This did NOT seem to have included either Quarrington Grange farm or Hill Top farm.]
- 6/9/1910 Walker Leasehold. Sold for £2,000 to G. Armstrong & Co. Ltd. p.257
- 11/10/1910 Walker Leasehold. Surrendered to Messrs. Sir W.G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. Ltd. for £2,000. [Letter from Messrs. Dees &

- Thompson about this was presumably from their solicitors.] p. 259
- 8/11/1910 John Thompson. Ordered that seal be affixed to Counterpart of Lease of 6 cottages at Thinford Bridge. p.260
- 6/12/1910 Mr. A.L. Steavenson. Agreed that Mr. A.L. Steavenson retire at end of year "from the direction of the Mines and Collieries of the Company, which he has held since the year 1862, and take the position of Consulting Viewer at the same salary." p.261
- 6/12/1910 "South Grange Farm. The Board authorised the purchase of this farm from Messrs. Ferens and Love for the Special Reserve fund." p.261
- 6/12/1910 Bell Bros. Directors authorised purchase of South Grange Farm. (Price: £4,000 — 14/3/1911)
- 10/1/1911 South Grange Farm. Purchase confirmed. p.263
- 10/1/1911 "Freehold farms. Ordered that the valuation of the Hett farms be written down to £1,500 and the Standalone farm to £1,000, and that the Crowtrees and Bowburn farms (apart from the cottages erected thereon) remain at £1,481, and that the yearly deduction of 2% for depreciation upon these farms shall now cease to be made." p.263
- 7/2/1911 £4,847/12/4 written off the Bowburn Cottages account ("cost of erection to be written down to £25,000") p.264
- 14/3/1911 "Burdon's Coxhoe Royalty. The Board were informed that a question had arisen as to the ownership of this Royalty, between the Company's lessor, Mr. Burdon, and Messrs. Walter Scott & Co. Ltd." p.267
- 14/3/1911 South Grange Farm. Conveyance and Declaration of Trust submitted. Purchase for £4,000 – £3,000 debited to the Special Reserve fund and £1,000 debited to Bowburn Colliery. p.267
- 11/4/1911 "Tursdale School. The Durham County Council Education Committee having enquired about a site for a new school at Tursdale Colliery, the Board authorised the offer being made of a site on the Standalone farm near the New Cottages." p.268
- 11/4/1911 Browney Colliery. DMA complained that Bells hadn't built all Colliery houses promised – only 17 out of 36. Agreed to build the other 19. p.268-9
- 9/5/1911 Page Bank Institute. Members sought enlargement and improvement. Refused (for now). p.270
- 13/6/1911 Tursdale School. DCC had accepted offer of site at £200. p.271
- 13/6/1911 "Old Cottages at Tursdale Colliery. The District Council requiring costly alterations to be made to these cottages, it was decided that instead of carrying out the alterations, a beginning should be made as soon as may be convenient, with the erection of ten new cottages on the Standalone property." p.271
- 13/6/1911 "Burdon Coal royalty. Letter read from Messrs. Burgess, Taylor and Pryor [?] dated 8th June 1911 stating that the Minerals in this royalty belong to their client Colonel Davis and requesting the names of the Board's solicitor in case of non-compliance with the further requests made in the letter." [no action minuted!] p.271
- 8/8/1911 Browney Pumps. £4,000 expenditure sanctioned for pumping machinery "to deal with a large influx of water" p.273
- 8/8/1911 "Bowburn Colliery. The Chairman reported that the men having gone on Strike without notice, and that the men's action has been condemned by their Association and the owners have the support of the Coal Trade Association." p.273
- 10/10/1911 Browney School. DCC to purchase the school [i.e. owned by Bells till then]. Agreed in principle. Price to be agreed. p.276
- 7/11/1911 Browney School offered to DCC for £800, not including Schoolmaster's house. p.277
- 9/1/1912 Browney School sale confirmed. Credited to Browney Colliery. p.279
- 9/1/1912 "Tursdale Colliery. Maurice Bell reported that a considerable expenditure will be required during 1912 for the further development of the Coal Royalties held in connection with this Colliery and that Mr. Henry Armstrong has been asked to advise thereon. Mr. Armstrong's Report will be submitted to the Board in due course." p.279

- 9/1/1912 New School at Tursdale Colliery. Purchase money now received for sale of site - credited to Special Reserve fund. p.279
- 5/3/1912 "Sir Hugh Bell was prevented attending the meeting, being detained in London to attend a meeting of the Industrial Council in connection with the Miners' National Strike." p.282
- 5/3/1912 "Miners National Strike. Mr. Maurice Bell reported that in common with all the Miners connected with the Miners National Federation, all those employed at the Company's collieries had come out on strike on February 29th and that, from the 1st March, the Mines, Collieries and Quarries and other works were laid idle, and that the Clarence furnace were being damped down, provision having been made as far as possible against serious permanent damage to the Mines and Coke ovens and other property of the company." p.283
- 16/4/1912 "Miners Strike. The Managing Director reported that the National Federation of Miners had declared the strike ended on the 6th instant and that those on the books of the firm had been anxious to resume work at once, but owing to the want of steam from the coke over boilers, the collieries were as yet only gradually getting into full work.
"During the Strike, the amount of wages paid to officials, enginemen and others, at Clarence and at the Mines and Collieries amounted to £8,260, and the Coals, provender and other stores to £6,889. ...
"Mr. Maurice Bell was requested to convey the thanks of the Board to those officials who had rendered valuable assistance during the strike and to distribute among them a sum of money, the amount to be fixed by the Managing Director." p.284
- 7/5/1912 Record of "entire satisfaction with the efficient preparations made by Mr. Jones and his colleagues in the Management of Clarence for the stoppage of the works during the recent miners strike..." p.286
- 7/5/1912 "Burdon Coal Royalty. Mr. Maurice Bell reported upon the present position of the questions arising out of the Company's workings in this royalty under an agreement for lease granted to them by Rowland Burdon Esquire under circumstances which were reported to the Board at previous meeting.
"The board approved of the steps already taken, and authorised Mr. M. Bell to continue the negotiations for a settlement with Messrs. Walter Scott & Co. Ltd." p.286
- 11/6/1912 "Mr. Henry Armstrong. Letter read dated 3rd June with a preliminary report upon the steps to be taken for an increased output of coal from the Tursdale royalties.
"Mr. Armstrong indicated a probable Expenditure of £120,000 being required to include alterations and improvements at Tursdale, the sinking and equipment of Heugh Hall pit, and building houses for the workmen, the whole Expenditure being spread over 8 or 10 years.
"He recommended that the erection of new pulley frames and a new Winding Engine with house and foundations at Tursdale should be taken in hand at once, to enable automatic appliances being introduced to meet the new Mines Act and these should be such as will deal with the increased output when required." pp.287-8
- 11/6/1912 Mrs. Proud's Land and Cottages at Tursdale. Mr. Maurice Bell authorised to buy at not more than £1,500 - freehold to be vested in the Trustees of the Special Reserve fund, which should pay about one fifth of the cost, the rest being charged to the Colliery, "which will have the use of the cottages rent free, and be free from all claims for damage to the land." p.288
- 9/7/1912 "Weekly Pays at Bowburn Colliery. Notice having been given by the workmen at Bowburn Colliery, to be paid their wages weekly, under §96(2) of the coal Mines Act 1911, it has been arranged to begin weekly payments of wages at this colliery as from Monday 15th July." p.289
[Reference was also made at this meeting to (National) Insurance Act 1911 arrangements.]
- 9/7/1912 Proud's Cottage, Tursdale Colliery. Agreed to buy at £1,425, purchase to be completed 13/5/1913. p.290
- 6/8/1912 Mr. R.L. [Robert Lisle] Kirby [Secretary] appointed Director w.e.f. 1/9/1912. p.291
and Mr. Arthur Dorman [≠ A.J. Dorman, who was already on]

- also appointed Director w.e.f. 1/9/1912 p.292
(These two filled vacancies left by the deaths of C. Lowthian Bell and A.S. Hay.)
- 8/10/1912 Tursdale Winding Engine. Mr. M. Bell to accept best tender. p. 295
- 5/11/1912 South Brancepeth Cottages. Durham County Council required back-to-back cottages to be altered or closed. Agreed to close and build 12 new cottages @ £1,760 to replace. p.297
- 5/11/1912 Browney School Buildings. Sold for £700 to Durham County Council. (Seal attached to assignment.) p.297
- 10/12/1912 “Collieries.
“(a) Mr. Maurice Bell reported receipt of a further letter from Mr. Henry Armstrong dated 14th November respecting Tursdale Colliery.
“also that additional pumping power is required both at Browney and at Bowburn to meet a further influx of water at both collieries.
“(b) ordered. That Mr. M. Bell be authorised to incur all necessary Expenditure to preserve the collieries at their present output and be requested to prepare a statement showing the expenditure required to carry out this work, and the new work recommended by Mr. Armstrong.
“(c) ordered. That Mr. Matthew Robson Kirby be appointed Colliery Agent at a salary to be fixed by the Managing Director.” p.298
- 10/12/1912 Mr. [R.L.] [Robert Lisle] Kirby [the new Director] resigned as Secretary w.e.f. 31/12/1912 but to be paid a salary (in addition to Director’s fee) for helping Managing Director with transaction of business re freeholds and leaseholds etc.
Mr. Anthony Reginald Welsh appointed Secretary. pp.298-9
- 7/1/1913 The Misses Waugh’s property at Hett. 7 year lease w.e.f. 13/2/1913 – seal affixed. p.300
- 4/3/1913 “Mr. M.R. Kirby’s Report on Collieries and Machinery at Mines for 1912 was taken as read, copies having been sent to each of the Directors. p.304
- 4/3/1913 Yard Seam at South Brancepeth – to be re-opened. p.305

- 6/5/1913 “Heugh Hall & Quarrington [sic] Farms. Mr. Maurice Bell reported the progress of negotiations [sic] (under minute of September 6th 1910) with W. Hopper Williamson Esq. for the purchase of the above Farms and was authorised to complete them.” p.308
- 10/6/1913 “Special Reserve Fund. Ordered. That the valuation of Bowburn Cottages be written down £500 p.a. beginning this year, and that the Special Reserve Fund be credited with 3% p.a. upon the balance of this and the other real estates belonging to the Special Reserve Fund.” p.309
- 8/7/1913 “Heugh Hall and Quarrington Farms. Mr. Maurice Bell reported the purchase of the above farms for the sum of £11,750 and the Board ordered (1) that the conveyance should be sealed to the Trustees of the special Reserve Fund and (2) that of the purchase price £7,500 should be charged to the Special Reserve Fund and £4,250 to Tursdale Colliery.” p.310
- 8/7/1913 “Burdon’s Coal Royalty. The proposed terms of lease from Colonel Davis were reported and agreed, and the Board ordered that the lease be accepted and sealed.” p.310

This Minute Book ended at page 311 [8/7/1913], the Directors at that time being:

Sir Hugh Bell (Chairman)	W.L. Johnson
A.J. Dorman	R.L. Kirby
Walter Johnson	Arthur Dorman
Maurice Bell (M.D.)	
Charles Dorman	

Directors Minute Book No. 2 (5/8/1913— 10/4/1923)

- 9/9/1913 “Walter Scott Ltd.—Ordered that the Company’s seal be affixed to an agreement with Messrs. Walter Scott Ltd., being a settlement of the dispute arising out of the Company’s working of coal under lease from Col. Burdon.” p.3
- 7/10/1913 Heugh Hall and Quarrington Farms—“Request to Messrs. Griffith & Co. that Mr. W.H. Wilkinson and his mortgagees will convey this property to the Trustees of the Special Reserve Fund instead of to the Company.” p.6
- 4/11/1913 Letter from Messrs. Cooper and Goodyear[?] dated 27/10/13 re Messrs Walter Scott’s claim under the Burdon coal trespass: “Ordered that Messrs Cooper & Goodyear be authorised to settle the matter for not more than £6,000.” p. 7
- 4/11/1913 £21,000 expenditure approved “to bring the present Hauling, Screening and Pumping plant up to date” p.8
- 4/11/1913 “Heugh Hall Sinking—This matter was discussed and referred for later consideration.” p.8
- 4/11/1913 “Sir William Ramsay’s experiment”—agreed to allow him to experiment on the distillation of coal “in situ” at Hett... p.8
- 9/12/1913 Letter from Mr. R.W. Cooper reporting Mr. J.B. Simpson’s acceptance of £6,000 in settlement of Messrs. Walter Scott’s claim. Mr. Simpson also wanted 100 guineas for his own work—agreed. p.9
- 9/12/1913 Sir William Ramsay’s experiment would be done in part of Mr. A. Wilkinson’s Tursdale royalty p.10
- 9/6/1914 “Bowburn Colliery—Mr. Maurice Bell reported that the water feeder in the Shincliffe district which had recently laid the pit idle for 10 days, had now been stopped back and that a motor and pump for 400 gallons per minute were being ordered as a spare for £682.” p.18
- 11/8/1914 “National Crisis...” [outbreak of war] p.20
- 11/8/1914 “Durham Rural District Council—letter of 8th August 1914 submitted and approved, accepting land for improving the highway at Cassop Grange on the terms of the Company’s letter of May 21st 1914.” p.21
- 6/10/1914 “Tursdale Workmen—Application submitted. Ordered that a reply be sent that the Board have considered the application and having in view that any sharing of work will involve a large increase in cost they regret that they are unable to accede to the men’s request.” p.24
- 12/1/1915 “Walter Scott Ltd.—Reported the final settlement of the Burdon trespass for £7,000. Ordered that the deed of arrangement and release in three parts be sealed.” p.28
- 9/2/1915 300 sq. yards of land adjoining highway between Bowburn and Cassop Moor – to be conveyed to Durham Rural District Council. p.29
- 9/2/1915 Robert Lisle Kirby died 13/1/15. “Mr. Kirby came to Bell Bros. in 1866 ... ultimately as Secretary to the present Company on its formation in 1899.” Retired 1912 and elected to the Board. Returned to post of Secretary in 1914 after Mr. Welsh, his successor, took commission in Yorks. Regt. p. 29
- 9/2/1915 Walter Johnson died 9/2/15. Entered service of Company in 1883 as joint secretary with the present M.D. Continued as Secretary till 1899. Director from 1895. p.30
- 9/3/1915 Purchase of coal from Walter Scott Ltd.—£3,000 out of the £6,000 written off against the profits of 1913 to be credited to the profit and loss account of 1914 and charged to the Capital account as representing value of unworked coal acquired under arrangement with Walter Scott Ltd. p.31

[Note: Dorman Long & Co. bought Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Collieries from The Lambton & Hetton Collieries on 1/1/1914. Either this wasn't mentioned in Bell Bros. directors' minutes or I missed it.]

- 9/3/1915 “Col. R.P. Davis to Bell Bros. Ltd— Submitted: Counterpart Lease of Coal Royalty in the Parish of Kelloe (Burdon trespass) Ordered: That the same be sealed.” p.32
- 9/3/1915 Christopher Hood appointed Secretary.
- 13/4/1915 “Burdon Trespass— Ordered: That the seal of the Company be affixed to the Receipt for the Royalty paid to Col. Burdon and now to be returned.” p.33
- 7/9/1915 “Quarrington Hill Top Farm— The offer of this farm by John Pallister and Son on behalf of Mrs. Lockey the Owner was submitted and it was Ordered that the purchase for the sum of £3,000 be authorised.” p.38
- 12/10/1915 “Hill Top Farm, Quarrington— Reported purchase of this for £2,950” p.40
- 7/12/1915 Special Reserve Fund— £2,000 of purchase price of Quarrington Hill Top Farm charged to the Special Reserve Fund and £950 to Tursdale Coals. p.42
- 11/1/1916 “Ecclesiastical Commissioners— Ordered: That the Agreement with them for altering and working part of the Barrier in the West Hetton Royalty be sealed.” p.44
- 8/2/1916 J.J. Furneiss— Purchase from him of Brandon Hill Farm for £4,850 – £3,300 charged to the Special Reserve Fund and the balance to Tursdale Coals. p.45?
- 8/2/1916 “A. Wilkinson - Tursdale Lease— Terms for renewal were submitted and it was Ordered: That the M.D. be authorised to agree to terms... [etc.]” p.45?
- 7/3/1916 Lieutenant A.R. Welsh— died from wounds in France. Had been Secretary since 1/1/13 [till 9/14] p.47?
- 11/4/1916 Wilkinson’s Tursdale Farms. Offer of £16,000 for purchase was considered and the Managing Director was authorised to purchase it “at as low a price as possible”. p.48
- 9/5/1916 Tursdale Farms. Purchase reported for £15,000, £8,500 being charged to the Special Reserve Fund and the rest to Tursdale Coals. p.49
- 11/7/1916 Weardale Steel, Coal & Coke Co. Ltd.: Sub-lease from WSCCC of approx. 150 acres in New Croxdale Royalty and about 80 acres in Low Burn Hall Royalty, in the Hutton seam, to be worked to Browney, and about 46 acres in the Croxdale Royalty, in the Busty and Hutton seams, to be worked to Bowburn. Sub-lease agreed. p.53
- 11/7/1916 Mr. H. Salvin. Reported that arrangements had been made to work the Barrier in the Hutton Seam in the Burn Hall Royalty and for a wayleave of $\frac{5}{8}$ d per ton for the Hutton coal subleased from the Weardale Co. Agreed. p.53
- 12/9/1916 “Ordered: that the plant and other property of the company at the various works including cottages be insured against aircraft danger.” p.55
- 12/12/1916 Hutton Henry Colliery— purchased for £70,000. p.59?
- 9/1/1917 Agreed not to purchase Broomside Colliery. p.60
- 13/3/1917 “Reported that the Board of Trade under an Order under the Regulation 9G of the Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regs. 1914, took possession of the Collieries as from the 1st day of March.” p.64
- 10/7/1917 “Cornforth Moor Farm— Reported the purchase of this from Mrs. Shearer, Durham, for £1,000. Ordered that it be conveyed to the Trustees of the Special Reserve Fund...” £700 was charged to the Special Reserve Fund and the rest to Tursdale Colliery. p.69
- 10/7/1917 Williamson’s Hett lease expires on 1/1/1918. Agreed that it be renewed on the same terms for 21 years. p.69
- 11/9/1917 Lease of cottages at Thinford Bridge from John Thompson agreed. p.72
- 11/9/1917 Tursdale haulage. Report from Mr. Halliday was received and necessary expenditure agreed. p.72
- 11/12/1917 £2,000 expenditure confirmed for coal cutters for Tursdale. p.75
- 8/1/1918 Bowburn Colliery and Samuelson’s Shincliffe Royalty. Mr. Maurice Bell was “authorised to negotiate and arrange for working part of Samuelson’s Shincliffe Royalty coal to Bowburn shaft”. p.78
- 12/3/1918 Death reported of Greville Jones, Manager of Clarence Iron Works on 6/3/1918. p.80

- 10/9/1918 "Tursdale Colliery. Umpire's Award, dated 31 August, with respect to the payment of consideration for working in certain places" p.89
- 11/3/1918 "Letter from Martin Eddy. Correspondence with Mr. Martin Eddy, Hon. Treasurer to the Browney Colliery War Heroes and Welcome Home Fund, asking support for this fund having been submitted, it was ordered that £10 be subscribed to the fund." p. 98
- 17/6/1918 Death was reported of Christopher Hood on 9/6/1918. He had been with Bell Bros. since 1873, ultimately as secretary. p.103
- 17/6/1919 Committee set up "to discuss whole matter of War Memorials and Peace Celebration". Committee to consist of M.L. Bell, I.L. Johnson, C. Dorman and A. Dorman. p.103
- 17/6/1919 F.W. Kirby appointed Superintendent. p.103
- 10/11/1919 "Agreement with the Durham RDC permitting erection of the Bowburn Institute Hut" reported. Signed and sealed p.111
- 10/11/1919 Coxhoe Play Centre. I.L. Johnson to enquire further into a scheme for starting a 'Play Centre' at Coxhoe. p.112
- 15/12/1919 Expenditure on additional pumping plant at Bowburn agreed. p. 113
- 15/12/1919 Resolved that no subscriptions be given to seven applicants, but four were approved, including Coxhoe Institute (£100). p.114
- 15/12/1919? Agreed not to approve donation to Haverton Hill and Port Clarence War Memorial Fund. p.116
- 10/2/1920 Agreed "that the Heugh Hall shaft be sunk to the Busty Seam for the purpose of lowering men and pumping" p.117
- 10/2/1920 Development of Tursdale and Bowburn royalties discussed. Resolved to push Tursdale Colliery development forward and therefore to build 50 cottages at Tursdale, it being understood that 50 more would be required later". p.117
- 13/4/1920 Agreement with Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council for electric lighting at Bowburn and Tursdale p.121
- 10/5/1920 Managing Director authorised to pay not more than £100 towards building of clergy house at Coxhoe, at the request of the vicar of Coxhoe. p.124
- 10/5/1920 Agreed to seal "Agreement with the North East Railway Co. for the use of a cart road at Bowburn" p.124
- 13/7/1920 Ordered to seal "Agreement with Plews [?] & Sons Ltd. for tenancy from year to year of two extra rooms for the Durham office at 59, Old Elvet, Durham" p.128
- 7/12/1920 Weardale & Consett Water Co.—Seal to be affixed to "Agreement with the Weardale & Consett Water Co. for a minimum water charge of £7/10/0 per quarter in respect of the 50 new cottages at Tursdale, which agreement terminates so soon as the water rates charged at the ordinary scale reach that amount." p.136
- 11/1/1921 Retirement of Richard Harle, Manager of Browney: Resignation accepted after 57 years with the Company. He was appointed part-time viewer instead, with payment agreed. p.138
- 11/1/1921 Death of D.W. Dixon regretted. He had served indentures as pupil of the late A.L. Steavenson, entering the Company in 1872 as surveyor and becoming Manager of Park Pit in 1874 (etc.) p. 138
- 11/1/1921 Subscriptions. Agreed that certain subscriptions and donations to objects to which other Allied Companies contribute be made by Dorman Long on behalf of the Company. p.139
- 8/2/1921 Subscriptions. Statement of expenditure during 1920 amounting to £2,857/11s/4d approved and £1,000 voted for the disposal of the Managing Director during 1921 in accordance with minute of 4/10/1899. p.140
- 8/2/1921 Donation of £5/5s/0d to Boy Scouts agreed, in response to appeal for £200,000 by the Prince of Wales. p.140
- 8/3/1921 Appeal by University Colleges of Newcastle handed to Dorman Long with recommendation to consider donation of £2,000 at £400 p.a. for 5 years, to be donated by the two companies, of which £1,000 would be borne by the Company. p.141
- 8/3/1921 Seal to be affixed to "Lease from Miss J. Kellett for 14 years from 14th February 1920 of 8 cottages at the Blocks, Thinford Bridge, Tursdale, at the total rent of £80 p.a." and "Lease from M.H. Kellett for 14 years from 14th February 1920 of 6 cottages at Thinford Street, Thinford Bridge, Tursdale,

and 24 cottages at The Blocks, Tursdale Bridge, Tursdale at the total rent of £315 p.a.” p.141.

12/4/1921 Purchase reported of Lambs Close Farm, Tursdale, from Mr. A. Fairs: 37¹/₃ acres for £1,700. £1,000 charged to the Special Reserve Fund and £700 to Tursdale coals. p.144

12/4/1921 Various donations agreed, including St. John Ambulance Brigade, NSPCC, Salvation Army, etc. (mostly about £5 or £10) and FBI (£200). p.144

12/4/1921 Miners Strike, started 1/4/1921, noted and officials thanked for doing safety work. p.144

9/5/1921 Resolved “that, in the Colliery District, no financial support be given to any of the distress funds.” p.146

14/6/1921 Sale approved of 115 sq.yds. of land at Broom Hill Farm, Tursdale, to North Eastern Railway Co. p.147

12/7/1921 Reported that Purchase of Lambs Close Farm had been completed on 8th June 1921. p.149

12/7/1921 Seal approved for “two wayleave agreements with Ralph Richardson and Mrs. Margaret Richardson respectively for the Tursdale to Bowburn Electric Pole Line” [sic] p.149?

13/12/1921 Repayment to Dorman Long was authorised of the following subscriptions... [9no. from £1/1s/0d to £500, totalling £131/10s/6d] [*This being typical entry of regular item. Between 5 and ten grants were approved on three or four occasions in 1919*] p.156

14/2/1922 Certain development work at Tursdale was suspended. p.160

4/5/1922 “Crowtrees Tilery Farm, Tursdale—The purchase from Robert Pearson Lee of this Farm comprising 28 acres of grass land with farmstead and two small cottages for the sum of £1,650 was reported and approved.” £1,000 to be charged to the Special Reserve Fund and £650 to Tursdale coals “in respect of Surface Damages”. p.165

4/5/1922 Reported that Thomas Varty had died on 15th April 1922 at age of 70 years. He was Manager of Park Pit and Skelton Minds from 1880 till his death. His father had been Manager at Tursdale. p.165

13/6/1922 Tursdale Cottages (ref. 14/2/1922)—Ordered to complete on block and the other to be roofed. p.168

12/9/1922 Terms of lease from Anthony Wilkinson of Tursdale Coal Royalty for 42 years, with effect from 1/8/1914, reported. Agreed to seal. p.171

12/12/1922 William Fletcher’s trustees—4 cottages at Thinford Row purchased for £220. p.176

12/12/1922 Refuse Tip at Crowtrees Tilery Farm leased to RDC for £5 p.a.. p.176

12/12/1922 Brandon Hill Farm—Surrender of unexpired 14 year lease of Brick making. (It was due to expire in 1935.) New lease to Frank William Goodyear of brick making royalty: 46 acres at £40 p.a. for 25 years w.e.f. 13/5/1921. [?Reference also to 99 years?] p. 177

Note: Bell Bros Ltd was voluntarily wound up and Thomas Henlock Stubbs was appointed Liquidator, by a special resolution passed at an extraordinary meeting of the company on 17/4/1923.

An Indenture dated 15/2/1924, and registered at Northallerton on 22/3/1924, between (1) Bell Bros Ltd in Liquidation (The Company), (2) T.D.H. Stubbs (The Liquidator), (3) Dorman Long & Co. Ltd (Dormans) & (4) Barclays Bank Ltd (The Trustees) declared “that Dormans were the holders of or beneficially entitled to the whole of the ordinary shares of the Company...” and all the Company’s creditors “had been paid, satisfied or otherwise provided for”. – Source: Abstract of Title of 10, Grange Park Crescent.