



“No.92 - An Eminent Engineer:

We endeavoured to form an institution for the purpose of supporting disabled men, the widows and children, to which the coal owners consented to subscribe one halfpenny per chaldron on all the coals exported, to which the men were requested to join and contribute sixpence in the pound from their wages, both which together would have formed a fund which would have supported the disabled men, the widows and children, in great comfort. The men thought well of it at first, but after meetings and discussions their jealousy got the better of their prudence, as they thought it impossible that their employers could offer such a boon without having some selfish motive in it and that it was in fact what they called ‘a take in,’ intended as a fraud upon them.”

Report by Dr. Mitchell, South Durham Coalfields, *Royal Commission on Employment of Children in Mines* (1842)

“Our men only get a fair crack of the whip when they have their hands and brains and muscles in the industrial world, and when they are not able to stand up and play their part it is a terrible thing for them.”

RJ Taylor, MP for Morpeth, Thursday 5th March, 1936

“Ma faither was a miner all his life, working at Auchlochan Collieries except for the years he did service in the army during the Boer War... From the time of his serious injury in the pit, he had to have a stick to get him about but he was uncomplaining. I think miners considered themselves lucky to survive to old age without having some completely crippling injury or being killed.”

Nancy Prosser in Jim Hamilton, *Lanarkshire Coalminers and their Wives: Reminiscences from Coalburn & Surrounding Villages*, (Edinburgh, 2003), c. early 1900s

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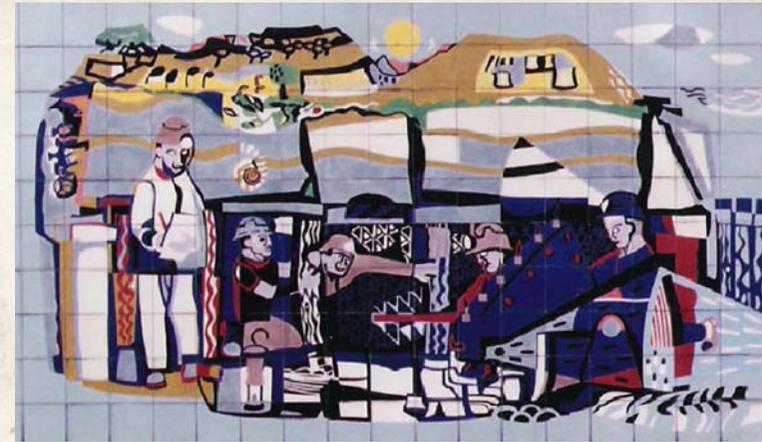
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“His father’s toil had been so excessive as to make him stoop like a victim of curvature.

That had been just as well, because his father’s wages were so low it would have been impossible to count them standing up straight.”

Gwyn Thomas, *Sorrow For Thy Sons* (1937)

Mural image by Michael Edmunds, *Untitled*, 1959.
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