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Coal-ownership in the Forest of Dean

by C. E. Hart
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NOTES

KINGSWOOD ABBEY CHARTERS

An important sale at Sotheby's in June 1945 is of interest to the Society, it having been the last portion of the Library of Francis F. Fox, of Yate House, Yate, who was a prominent Member, Chairman of Council for some years, and President of the Society. He had formed a large library of books and original records relating to Bristol and Gloucestershire, and contributed some valuable articles to *Transactions*, and in every way was a great supporter of the Society. In the sale mentioned lot 748 was a collection of the charters of Kingswood Abbey, there being 48 of great importance as records of the Abbey from 1225 to 1444. They were added to Mr Fox's Library in 1898 and Mr Vincent Perkins, of Wotton under Edge, another strong member of the Society, undertook to transcribe them for *Transactions* (xxii, pp. 178-256). Mr Perkins mentions that the charters were offered at Sotheby's in 1895 as part of the Cholmondeley collections (which contained many important papers concerning Gloucestershire), when they fetched £45. At the sale in 1945 a strong effort was made to secure them for the County Records and bidding was taken to considerably more than the earlier sum mentioned, and reluctantly the chase had to stop. The documents are calendared in the fifth volume of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

ROLAND AUSTIN

COAL-OWNERSHIP IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

In 1889 Sir John Maclean contributed to *Transactions* vol. 14, pp. 356-69, some extracts from a Regard of the Forest of Dean made in 1282. The correct reference to the document, which is in the Public Record Office, is For. Proc. Tr. of Rec. No. 31 (E.32). Sir John gave in

full the portion of the Regard dealing with the working and ownership of iron-ore in the Forest, but he omitted *inter alia* the interesting portion dealing with coal. This is given below :—

De carbone maris. Radulfus de Abenhale habet fossatum carbonis marini in balliva de Abenhale et capit inde carbonem. Et Rex nichil inde capit.

Domina Cecilia de Michegros clamat capere eodem modo in balliva de Bikenore
 Custos balliva de Staunten capit eodem modo in balliva de Staunten
 Walterus de Astune capit eodem modo in balliva sua de Blakeneye
 Nicholas de Lacu clamat capere eodem modo in balliva de Lacu
 Comes Warwychia capit similiter carbones maris in bosco suo de Lideneye.

Nescitur
 quo
 waranto

Dominus Rex capit carbones maris si inventi fuerint in ballivas de Bers, Rywardin, Magna Dene et Parva Dene.

Translation :

Concerning sea-coal. Ralph of Abenhall has a sea-coal pit in his bailiwick of Abenhall and takes coal thence. And the King takes nothing thence.

The lady Cecilia de Michegros claims to take in the same way in the bailiwick of Bicknor.
 The Keeper of the bailiwick of Staunton takes in the same way in the bailiwick of Staunton.
 Walter of Aston takes in the same way in his bailiwick of Blakeney.
 Nicholas of Lea claims to take in the same way in the bailiwick of Lea.
 The Earl of Warwick takes likewise sea-coal in his wood of Lydney.

It is not
 known
 by what
 warrant

The Lord King takes sea-coal if it is found in his bailiwicks of Bers, Ruardean, Micheldean and Littledean.