LILLESHALL COMPANY HISTORY

So far as I can gather no real attempt has yet been made to produce a proper history of the Company or of the parent company - the Earl Gower & Co. What I have attempted in Part I - pages 1 to 13 and in Part II, Section 13 - pp 41 to 58, with all its shortcomings, may be regarded as the first serious attempt to fill this gap.

Much of the material in these 76 pages has been drawn from various items in the orange coloured wallet in the Lilleshall Co. collection marked "Lilleshall Co. History, etc." except that there is no material at all there with reference to the Earl Gower & Co. The account of the Earl Gower & Co. is from material I have researched during the past 20 years. It is a reliable account.

Part II, sections 2 to 14. Twelve sections are exact copies of articles from journals or magazines, or sheets of typescript from various sources, with lists of locomotives and pumping engines made by Lilleshall Co.

Section 12. Here I have made copious extracts from a series of monthly reports on the making of a set of Two Beam Pumping Engines to the order of West Ham Corporation - reports dating November 1896 to May, 1898.

Section 13. There are many sheets of typescript which formed the basis of several articles which appeared in a "Special Edition" printed by the "Express & Star" in September 1964 marking the "Bi-Centenary".

I examined the typescript and the printed paper very carefully. There were inaccuracies and generalisations which even an amateur of my standing must correct. Every paragraph was studied and any reliable information was entered into a large notebook each page of which bore a different heading - Mines, New Yard, Lodge, Snedshill Bar Iron Co., Snedshill Furnaces, etc.

Then from this and other material I had gleaned over the years, but mostly from examination of some of the many deeds and other data in the Lilleshall Company's Collection at "Southside", I set out to write up some account of the Company's history in my own words. A genuine attempt has been made to avoid errors and anything of a doubtful nature has been left out.

It is anticipated that eventually a comprehensive account of the Earl Gower & Co. and the Lilleshall Co. will be written. I hope that the material in these pages will prove a useful basis to work from, together with much valuable material to be extracted about both companies from the Lilleshall Co. collection.

In the typescript there is a terrible lack of dates, contradictory dates and confusion of one period with another, giving the impression in one paragraph that two events took place at near enough the same time, when perhaps 30 or 40 years separated them.

When I came to write up something about the Steel Making and Steel Rolling Dept., I had to look again at the typescript (my source). In the end I made very little reference because of the confusion in the typescript.

The write up of this department will have to be carefully researched.