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LEAD VALUES IN 1536 & 1537

by

R.G. Guthrie

Extract from a letter Richard Bellycis to Oliver Cromwell 14th Nov.1537.

“I have taken down all the lead of Jervaulx and made it in pieces of half fothers, which lead ammounteth to the number of 365 fothers, with 34½ fothers that were there before, and the said lead may not be carried until next summer for the ways are so foul and steep that no carriage can pass in winter.

According to the Accounts of Receiver from 4th Feb. 1536 to Michaelmas 1537 at the Suppression of Coverham Abbey, 124 fothers of lead obtained in pulling down the monastry were sold for £403-6-8d so the Jervaulx lead would [24] be valued at £1,300 even in those days when the price of lead would be low owing to the market being saturated with monastic lead.

Note:- A fother is a load of lead or 19t cwt.

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