

Damaged Document(s)

VERY FADED DOCUMENT

22nd March 1902
to 12th May 1902

786

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

William Mansfield,
James Hunter, John
Daniel O'Hare and
John Bay Hunter.

at

Boardman
and
Ballant

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

18th May 1902

786

Delivered in PM
Coroner's

16446

Sept 19. 7. 02

Referred for the information of
the Secretary for Mines

W. H. H.

M. D. Brown

18. 7. 02

Noted and returned with
thanks to the Secretary to
the Law Department.

RECEIVED
24 JUL 1902
C. L. O.

For Secretary for Mines
to make supply
23/7/02

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

State of Victoria, }
to wit.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lord King Edward VII., taken at *the Cardigan Mine at Cardigan near* Ballarat, in the State of Victoria aforesaid, the *Twenty second* day of *March* A.D. 1902 in the *Second* year of the Reign of our said Lord the King before me, WILLIAM DICKSON, Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King for the said State upon the view of the body of *bodies of William Mansfield and James Hunter* then

WD * Juror's Christian and sur- and there lying dead, upon the oaths of * *John Dethorpe, Foreman, George Hodge, William Longton, Alfred Nelson, Samuel Hemmings, James Black, William Henry Matthews, William Mackay and Alexander Thompson:* At the City Court House at Ballarat on the second day of April 1902: At the said mine at Cardigan aforesaid on the third day of April 1902: upon the view of the body of John Daniel O'Keefe then, and the lying dead upon the oaths of the said John Dethorpe, Foreman, William Longton, Alfred Nelson, Samuel Hemmings, James Black, William Henry Matthews, and Alexander Thompson: at the Trades Hall at Ballarat aforesaid on the ninth day of April 1902 before all of the said Jurors: at the City Court House at Ballarat on the fifth day of May 1902: at the Trades Hall aforesaid on the 19th day of May 1902: at the Supreme Court House at Ballarat on the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth days of June 1902 before all of the said Jurors: at the said mine at Cardigan aforesaid on the twentieth day of June 1902 upon the view of the body of John Cay Hunter then and there lying dead upon the oaths of the said John Dethorpe, Foreman, and all of the other Jurors first aforesaid: At the Supreme Court House aforesaid on the seventh, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth days of July 1902, before all the said Jurors.

good and lawful men of Ballarat, in the said State, who being duly sworn and charged to

inquire, upon the part of our Lord the King, when, where, how, and by what means the

said *William Mansfield, James Hunter, John Daniel O'Keefe and John Cay Hunter* came by *†* ~~their~~ death do say upon their oath that *†* on

† His or her.

‡ Here state cause of death if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly, using the words of the verdict of the Jury.

the *Nineteenth* day of *March* 1902, in the mine of the Cardigan Proprietary Gold Mining Company at Ballarat aforesaid they died from injuries received from an inburst of water and sand.

in the said mine through an accident
in such mine.

There is not in the opinion
of the jury sufficient evidence to
enable them to say what was
the cause of such accident - the
source of the influx of water
and sand not having been
proved. They say such accident
was not attributable to the
culpable negligence of Andrew
Harris the mining manager of
such mine, nor to any
omission to comply with
the provisions of the Mines Acts.

In witness whereof as well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to
this Inquisition put their hands ~~on the day and year and at the place above~~
~~mentioned.~~ *W.D.* ^{12th} day of July A.D. 1902,
at Ballarat aforesaid

W.D. Dickson

P.M., Coroner.

* Here let each Juror sign his
own name, or make his own
mark.

John A. Smith Foreman.

Samuel Trembath

James Stewart

William Longton

William Henry Matthews

Alfred Nelson

George Hodge

Wm. Thompson

William Mackay

CORONER'S

This Deponent*.....

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a.....

residing at.....

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Andrew Harris recalled -

To the Jury - I filled up all I could - all I could stow I
stowed and I built horses and culverts.

Case closed for the Crown.

**Damaged
Document(s)**

Taken and Sworn before me the eleventh day
of July 190 2 at Ballarat

W. Dickson

Wm Coroner.

257

267

VICTORIA POLICE. [47.]

Dallara

Station.

Central

Police District.

22. 3. 1902

Report of Serjeant Diggs 277+
relative to Fatal accident at Gardian Proprietary G.M. Coy

I hereby report that about 2 Am. 10th inst. a quantity of water rushed into the underground workings at above named mine. Three men were working below at the time. Three escaped, at once to the shaft and were brought to the surface. Two others were rescued alive yesterday, and two day. The bodies of William Mansfield age 52. and James Hunter age about 50. were recovered. dead. and are now in a room adjoining the engine house at the mine.

Two other men named John Hunter and John F. Keefe. are still below and are believed to be dead. Mr. Harris the mine manager and Mr. Fitches. Inspector of Mines. are both of opinion that these bodies will not be recovered for over a week as the mines will have to be cleared of debris. and the work can only be done very slowly.

D. Scott examined the bodies when they were brought to the surface. he pronounced life to be extinct. both bodies are very much bruised and mangled. Mansfield's head being smashed. the legs & arms of both are broken.

W. D. C. R. E. S.

Comes

Dallara

3578

W. Diggs
Sgt 277+

Damaged
Document(s)

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * William Henry Mansfieldon h^{is} oath saith, I am a minerresiding at Pago Hill.* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I have today seen the body of William Mansfield deceased in the changing room at the Candean Proprietary Gold Mining Company. Deceased was my father. He was employed in the mine. I last saw him alive on the 18th March 1902 about 11 p.m. at his house where I live. He left the house to go to his work at the mine. He was in his usual health then. Deceased was married. He was 44 years old on 1st June last.

W. H. Mansfield.

Taken and Sworn before me the 22nd day
of March 1902 at Pardigant
W. Dickson
Coroner.

POOR ORIGINALS

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

on h/o oath saith, I am a

residing at

Joseph Stride
Miner
Rago Hill.

I have this day
seen the body of
James Hunter deceased
in the changing room
at the Cardigan Proprietary
Company's claim.
have known deceased
about 26 years. He
was married - about
57 years old. I last
saw him alive at
midnight on Tuesday
18th March 1902. I saw
him in the cage as it
was leaving the surface.
He was a miner employed
at the claim. Deceased
was then I believe in
his usual health.

Joseph. Stride

Taken and Sworn before me the 22nd day
of March 1902 at Cardigan
W. Dickson
Coroner.

POOR ORIGINALS

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Joseph Stride

on his oath saith, I am a

miner

residing at

*Sago Hill.**Christian and
Surname in
full.

I have this day seen the body of John Daniel Okeefe deceased in the changing room at the Cardigan Proprietary Company's claim. I have known deceased 18 years. He was a single man - about 25 years old. He was employed in the mine as a miner. I last saw him alive at midnight on Tuesday 18th March 1902. I saw him on the surface, between the engine house and the shaft, on his way to enter the cage to descend the shaft. Deceased was then in his usual health.

His right leg has been broken and I think his neck also.

Joseph. Stride

Taken and sworn before me the *Third* day
of *April* 1902 at *Cardigan*
W. D. Gibson
Coroner.

POOR ORIGINALS

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent

on h^{is} oath saith, I am a Inspector of Mines

residing at

Ballaarat, and have* Christian and
Surname in
full.

the supervision of the Adelaide
operations at the Cardigan
mine. We are within 10 feet
of No. 2 shoot where we
expect to find the body of John
Hunter deceased. It is a very
critical position - the mine
is bad and it is absolutely
unsafe to leave it. Most of
the outcrops are employed at
the work. When we reach
the No. 2 shoot it may be possible
to reach the source of the inburst
of water. The Managers (Mr. Harris)
the men and I intend if possible
to get to the source of the trouble.
If all is clear we shall
ret to the shoot within 3 days.
If otherwise it is uncertain
when we may reach the point.
If the source cannot be reached
through the shoot it will mean
to reach it that a months downing
or sinking will have to be done.

The men cannot be spared
at present to attend the inquest
without the endangering the recovery
of the body of John Hunter. In my
opinion an adjournment is absolutely
necessary. I have not heard the mine
is to be closed down when the body
is recovered and do not think it likely
Such a step will be

Taken and Sworn before me the ninth dayof April 1902 189

at

Ballaarat

taken

W. Dickson

Coroner.

G. L. Fitcher

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

George Henry Fitch recalled

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

We are just now at

about the place I expected in
 9th April last we would reach
 after a months work. The
 body of John Hunter has not
 been recovered. The source
 of the inburst has not been
 found. We are just now
 starting to go out. A
 drive of 40 feet has to be
 made to No. 2 shoot from
 top of new rise. A water
 use is being put in to
 take the water away and
 about 30 feet have to be gone
 yet. Bores have failed
 to take the water away
 owing to the broken nature
 of the ground. There is nothing
 at present that would be of
 any information to the Jury.

Unless something unforeseen
 occurs I think the source
 of the inburst may be reached
 in 3 weeks time.

G. H. Fitch

Taken and Sworn before me the

19th

day

of

May 1902

189

at

*Ballaarat.**W. Dickson**W*

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* William Baragwanathon his oath saith, I am a Government Mining Surveyorresiding at Ballarat.* Christian and
Surname in
full.

In consequence of instructions I received from the Mines Department,
I made an underground survey of the Cardigan mine. That survey
"A" was finished last Tuesday. I produce plan (Exhibit "A").

Witness explained plan to the Jury. It is a plan of the under-
ground ^{level} ~~alluvial~~ with the exception of new work. The blue is the
lower level into the balance shaft. The green is the intermediate
level. The plan shows position where bodies were found. No. 2
shoot shows where disaster is supposed to have taken place. Two
drives have been put in for an escape. There are doors for escape.
There is the shaft with the different strata passing through and
they are down 80 feet in the bed rock again having driven and the
balance shaft is shown and there is a ladder way, so that the
water could go down the ladder way and not into balance shaft. The
green is the bed rock. There are bores that they put up from the
intermediate to basalt rock that is through the bed rock. The No.
2 shoot is shown and the new rise they put up. I made my dis-
tances from point to point.

To Coroner - The balance is 39 feet 7 inches from rail to rail.

"B" I produce Mr. Reginald Murray's plan of Ballarat West. It is a
geological plan of the goldfields. The Cardigan mine is not shown
but it would be a little outside - West of Winter's Freehold.
The plan is about twenty-five years old. I produce Government

"C" Parish plan of Cardigan (Exhibit "C") I have marked on it the
position of the Cardigan Mine and the Reform No. 5. All England

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 190 _____ at _____

Coroner.]

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full

No. 1 and 2, No. 1 and 2 Winter's Freehold Ballarat West. The

"D" scale is shown on the plan 40 chains to the inch. This plan (Ex.D)

is part of the parish of Cardigan in the vicinity of the Cardigan

Mine and it is drawn to a scale of eight chains to the inch to show

bores in the neighbourhood of the position of this shaft. No. 1,

bore, No. 2 bore and about sixteen chains further North, there are

three other bores, 4, 5, and 6 there. There is also a section of

the same bore, both of the shaft, and No. 1, 2 and 3 bores.

To Mr. Clarke - The bores are the Government Diamond Drill bores.

Taken and Sworn before me the 10th day

of June 1902 at Ballarat

W. Dickson

Coroner.

(sd) William Baragwanath

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Alfred Millwood Wharton Simms.

on his oath saith, I am a _____

residing at _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I am Manager for Mr. Peacock who is the Legal Manager of the
Cardigan Proprietary Gold Mining, Company No Liability and has
been for some months.

WD "E"

I produce
Letter from Mr. Peacock (Ex: "E")

"F"

I produce minute book (Ex: "F") of Director's meetings with
certificate of registration annexed.

Bundle of correspondence put in and not marked.

Taken and Sworn before me the 10th dayof June 190 2 at Ballarat

(app) Alfred Millwood Wharton Simms

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Andrew Harris

on his oath saith, I am a _____

residing at _____

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I am the Mine Manager of the Cardigan Proprietary Gold Mining Company. I reside at 199 Dana Street, Ballarat. I was in the service of the Company, as Manager from March 2nd. 1897 to the 22nd. March 1898 and from the 12th. September 1901 to the present. That Mine is an alluvial mine. Before I was employed with the Company I was not employed as Manager to any other alluvial mine. I had experience as a working miner in alluvial for about thirty years. That, was before my appointment to this Company. I was the Manager at the time of the disaster. It occurred on the morning of the 19th. of March at about 1 o'clock in the morning as near as I can get at it. On the 19th. of March I arrived at the Mine at about half past ~~si~~ three in the morning. A messenger was sent to me. When I arrived at the mine the pumps were stopped and I was informed that the Mine had been flooded and that there were seven men below. The cage was down with Joseph Stride and Stephen Hall on it. At about a quarter to four they came up with Mr. Simpson in the cage. He was one of the men working below. From the statements from Simpson and Heggarty and McGrath who had got up before I arrived at the mine, and told me that the mine had been flooded about that time - one or half past one - and that two of the truckers were entombed on the top of the balance shaft and as far as they knew there were two others that were dead near the No. 1 shoot, the cage was sent

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 190 _____ at _____

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*.....

on h oath saith, I am a.....

residing at.....

* Christian and Surname full

down and it was ascertained that there was five feet, six inches of water on the chamber. The tanks were got ready as early as possible. Bailing was started with two, 250 gallon tanks and the pumps were again started to work and after a great deal of trouble they cleared themselves of the silt that had accumulated at the bottom. The pumping and bailing were carried on with all speed. After bailing the most of that day we found, that the water had receded four inches. On the further examination two hours afterwards, we found it had risen seven inches. In an hour or two it had risen thirty feet up the shaft. The pumping and bailing were continued on till the truckers were got out and the bodies recovered. Everything was done to get the bodies out. The first discovery was - George King and William Simpson. They were recovered on, Thursday or Friday morning at one o'clock alive. William Mansfield and John Hunter's body were recovered on the following day, at the intersection of No. 1 shoot where they branch off. That is called the No. 1 branch. Hunter's body was also recovered there. The cleaning up of the drive was proceeded with and John O'Keefe's body was found sixty feet East of No. 2 shoot. It was on the third of April when the bodies were found. The bodies were smashed up. From the appearance of the bodies, I would not come to the conclusion that the earth had collapsed and smashed them. I think they would be broken up by being washed down the shoot or falling down the shoot. If the timbers had fallen down, they would not have come

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day
of.....190 at.....
Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full

down the shoot. The opinion that I formed was that they, were
smashed coming down the shoot and they had fallen to the bottom.

"G" The plan (Ex: "G") is the locality plan and the plan of the lease
also showing the working up to the end of No. 1 shoot West.

"H" I produce plan of my workings on the Western gutter (Ex: "H").
The whole of the work has been executed under my instructions at
the mine. It does not go back to, 1897. It only goes back to
September 1901. It shows the whole of my workings. I have no

"I" other plans the others are only tracings. The tracing was made
to produce here or for any reference that should be required. It
was made for me and sent to the Company since the disaster. These
are all the plans I have. I produce record book of the Company

"K" (Ex: "K") in which I have to make the entries required by the
Mines Act. It contains entries of previous Managers. The first
entries in the book are W. Nobles'. I do not know what the
beginning of the book is. Russell, Skewes, and Noble were Managers.
My first entry was on the 6th. of September. I have no other
books. I have letters sent to me by the Company since my appointment.

I produce all the letters I have received since I took charge from
"L" the 12th. of September from the Legal Manager's Office (Ex: "L")

The plan "H" is on the same scale as the portions on the top of
plan "G". One ^{portion} is 100 feet to the inch and the other 40 feet to the
inch. The tracing shows the whole of the workings. (Witness

marked on plan "H" to show where bodies were found No. 1 W. Mansfield,

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day

of.....190

at.....

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full

No. 2 J. Hunter, No. 3 J. O'Keefe). I see Exhibit "A" marked by Mr. Baragwanath. That plan is correct as far as I can tell. We have had no previous disaster in the Mine through water. Before this disaster occurred we had no warning that there was likely to be a disaster of that sort. We never got any warning of any sort from the workmen. The workmen never told me there was any danger there. I formed no opinion as to whether there was any danger. I did not consider there was any danger. I do not know that I can express any opinion. I had an opinion in the beginning but recent development has somewhat upset it. My first opinion was that we had a fissure in the rock or a tailing out of the rock. The rock has become weak and that the water has been concealed in the rock overhead. That was my first opinion. My present opinion since the development has taken place¹⁰ I am inclined to think that there was a channel of water or channel of ground filled with basaltic boulders and water on the South side of No. 2 shoot or a basaltic fault. This I may explain has not been developed, in order to form a correct opinion whether there is anything in it or not. The Inspector of Mines was Mr. Fitches. He visited me once since September in an official way. That was on the fourth of February. He inspected the Mine through. He went through every face of the mine that was open. My record book was examined and Mr. Fitches went through the mine into all the faces. The faces that were open near where the disaster occurred were three faces up the

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day
of.....190.....at.....
.....
Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full

No. 2 Rise and one below. There were no un-official visits to

my recollection. I had no knowledge of the working of the ^{all} ~~old~~ *WD*

England shaft. I made inquiries about it before the disaster

from the workmen around the locality and the old residents.

William Neville, David Adams, and one of the Strides. I made

inquiries from them when I was there first in 1897 and have since

September. I learnt there was a considerable amount of reef dri-

ving done and about forty feet driven in the wash and no gold. I

learnt that there was a little water in sinking the shaft and I

believe it was sunk with a seven inch lift and primitive plant

thirty odd years ago. I made no inquiries about the Reform nor

the Winter's Freehold. (Witness explained from the tracing what

they did while he was working). He pointed out the balance way,

the ladder shaft, the intermediate level, No. 1 and 2 shoot, the

end of the workings from No. 1 shoot). That ground is worked

from No. 1. The other portion is worked from No. 2. intermediate

level, marked blue extended into No. 2 shoot. We worked out

portion of the ground. The other portion was taken out before I

All

WD took charge. It was down when I took charge. ~~of~~ the ground to the

North East of that shown on my plan "H" was worked out and was down.

When I took charge of the mine, we were on the point shown on plan.

Portion was blocked out and the ground was down where "out" is writ-

ten. No. 2 South West drive - that was up to where the cross cut

opens out. It would be 70 feet from the opening of the main wash

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day

of.....190

at.....

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full

drive. It was extended 25 or 30 feet. Cross drive was put in about twenty-five feet to the old ground. In my reports to the Company I did not describe the crosscut. I described the workings in my reports. It is only the main or leading crosscuts that are described (Witness showed where outburst occurred). All the ground to the East of it was worked out before we worked to the West then we took out the West. We worked back having taken all the wash out on one side, we went ahead and worked the wash back to that and then it came down. I looked at the surface to see whether it had subsided. It had not subsided. There is no surface subsidence of our ground and all the ground with the exception of a little where we were working has fallen in.

Question - If you cut out a lot of stuff and it falls in there must be a cavity ?

W.D. Answer - I never formed an idea of the size of the cavity overhead. There is no surface subsidence. I produce Company's letter book "M" (Ex: "M").

Mining Manager's Reports were then produced and read by Mr. Barrett. The prospecting drive in my report of the 14th. November 1901 refers to the one coming down South. We gave it up because we did not find any ground. The shoot referred to in the report is No. 1. The word "Report" means press report. The copy of the press report goes to the office and is sent to the papers. The press report is a condensed report. It is made as short as possible.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____, 190 _____ at _____

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*.....

on h oath saith, I am a.....

residing at.....

* Christian and
Surname in
full

The report of the Directors is a resumé of the whole work. I did not consider it necessary to give the whole of the information in the press reports.

Q. - If you had any-thing to make the shares go down, it would not be put in the press reports ?

A. - If I was instructed to do it. I got some of my instructions verbally. I do not know that I can show any instructions from the directors that I was to omit anything from my press reports. Report 3rd. January 1901. (read by Mr. Barrett).

The weekly reports are open to the shareholders. I communicate with the press once a week. The weekly reports to the Directors should be exactly the same as you give to the press ? (interjected Mr. Barrett)

The weekly reports included all the daily reports that go down. I was instructed verbally that the general reports were open to the shareholders.

Q. - You told me as far as I understand that you were not to give the same information to the press as to the shareholders, I said supposing anything occurred likely to send the shares down, you said - No.

A. - Yes.

I produce another instruction in writing. 18th. December 1901 (read by Mr. Barrett). There is nothing in that to justify my sending a different report to the press and Directors. I got no

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day
of.....190 at.....
.....
Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

instructions in writing to suppress any of my press reports. I have been instructed verbally by the previous Legal Manager Mr Ryall.

Q. - What instructions did you get from Mr. Ryall ?

A. - Mr. Ryall instructed me that I was to give a fortnightly report to the Directors, a full report to the Directors but to condense the report and not put down the value of the mine for this week as it may improve again next. I got no instructions from anybody else. They were the only instructions I got from Mr. Ryall for justifying me in doing what I have done.

Reports 14th., 15th. and 17th. November (read by Mr. Barrett)
Mr. Barrett asked Witness to explain difference between blocking and paneling ?

A.- Blocking is done with two logs and cap and back laths put on and paneling is only one prop put up with a lath on top. Blocking is done in loose ground - Paneling is done in tough, hard ground. You cannot work heavy ground with paneling. Blocking is required in heavy ground, and paneling in the easier ground. That is the difference.

Reports dated 21st. 22nd, 27th. 28th. and 29th. November (read by Mr. Barrett).

"N" The carbon book now produced (Ex: "N") is used because I thought it would be more convenient and quicker.

Report December 2nd. 1901 (read by Mr. Barrett).

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 190

at _____

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

In this report the drive mentioned is a drive from No. 2 shoot going to old ground.

Reports dated 6th., 10th., 14th, 15th., and 19th. and 20th. December (read by Mr. Barrett).

The letter from the Board dated 18th. December mentioned in the Report was also read. The drive going North East is the one they asked me how I proposed to work. We were driving and cross-cutting and working in the cross-cut. We were working both sides of the open place shown on plan. We were still working on the East side. We had no water at all then. The water mentioned is in another drive altogether. The ground had dipped under foot and I was asked how I proposed to work the ground that had dipped under foot.

Mr. Barrett read Report stating that Manager proposed to take out all the ground payable in the ordinary way.

Witness - That means in the ordinary way of mining, of cross-cutting and blocking. On the same day I sent a second report because the letter is only a reply to the letter from the Board and in addition to that I sent my weekly report. The stream of water came from the drive. The looser ground means gravelly ground. The stream came from the wash in the gutter. We had fair streams coming from that. None came from overhead. The fair stream of water, referred to water coming out of the alluvial. There was very little.

Q. - Do you call a very little water a fair stream of water ?

A. - Yes, it would mean about a half a stroke on the pumps.

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day

of _____ 190

at _____

Coroner.

17
12

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

A fair stream did not indicate anything unusual. I have got a record of how the pumps were working. The pumps at that time were running five and a half strokes and had been running from when I took charge till the February month having been running five and a half because there was water coming from the Eastern workings. The water was coming out of the gutter. The water was coming on the Eastern side of the shaft. The Eastern workings were all open as far as I know. I have never seen these workings. I am under the impression that they were standing because the ground was of such a solid nature. I should imagine by the nature of the country that the ground would not come down after driving through it. I never took any means to ascertain except from my imagination. There were about three and a half strokes from the Eastern workings. The men that worked the ground assured me and the previous Manager assured me that everything up there was secure. It would cost a good deal of money in order to get fresh pipes and ventilation to get up merely to explore it, to see if it were secure. I do not know that it would matter to me whether that part of the workings tumbled in or not.

Mr. Barrett - On the 20th. December there is a press report at the bottom of the report of that date.

I left out reference to the water in the press report because I thought it was of no consequence to report that the water was so little. Mining men would have laughed at it. It is in this, for

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day

of.....190

at.....

Coroner.] 18

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

the first time because I considered it was of no importance whatever

Q. - If it is of no importance, why put it in ?

A. - I kept the Company posted up in every detail but I considered it of no importance to anyone. I reported it because it is merely a progressive report to the office.

Reports dated 21st., 23rd., 27th. of December (read by Mr. Barrett)

The mine was working. It was on tribute and they could not and would not keep the parties full. That was the reason they were short-handed.

Minutes of Director's meeting 30th. December (read by Mr. Barrett.)

Q. - How did you insist upon the North West being extended ?

A. - The mine was on tribute and the tributors were not always willing to carry out the Mining Manager's instructions with regard to these drives. They were getting "funky". They were getting no gold, and they would not drive any prospecting drives.

Q. - What do you mean by giving out fair streams of water ?

A. - A trickle is a fair stream of water. It makes the ground a little heavier having to combat with the water.

Adjournment till 2 o'clock.

Mr. Barrett read - "Being very heavy and loose for working"

Q. - What is the cause of the ground being heavy and loose ?

A. - It is caused by having a little more wash in the face and you may be approaching the rising reef which causes it to slip

Taken and Sworn before me the _____ day
of _____ 190 _____ at _____

Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

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full.

towards you. It does not follow that it is water. It is not generally so. It is sometimes.

Q. - How do you propose to drain it ?

A. - By the ordinary method of cross-cutting and driving through it. I am only dealing with the water that is in the wash. It does not follow that the water in the wash is connected with the water overhead. It is only the water in the wash. It is not always directly connected with the wash. It just depends upon the amount of the alluvial. It might have a little water running through it.

Reports January 2nd. and 7th. 1902 (read by Mr. Barrett).

Going on fairly well means, the work done by the tributors.

Report 8th. January (read by Mr. Barrett).

WD The East drive mentioned is the ground back of the shoot. I wanted them to push the prospecting drive ^{South} further. I was not satisfied that they had gone far enough. It was not because I was afraid that the thing would go down ^{for if} ~~that~~ I took the supports away.

WD The reef drive would be extended from No. 2 to No. 3 shoot.

Report January 9th. (read by Mr. Barrett).

Q. - Did you say that none of the tributors left at any time in consequence of being dis-satisfied with the safety of the mine ?

A. - Yes. and never spoke to me on the subject nor me to them.

January 13th. Report (read by Mr. Barrett).

Fair work was not done by the tributors because they were short

Taken and Sworn before me the.....day
of.....190.....at.....
Coroner.)

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