

# CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*.....

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

residing at.....

\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

If we block the ground it always comes down. It breaks and comes  
down. The larger the area the greater the fall of ground. In the  
old ground workings we encountered reddish sand, Since the in-  
burst of the 18th. I have not seen any traces of red sand in the  
ground. By red sand I mean reddish wash. The Eastern works are  
deeper than where we are working. The water could not have come  
from the East. The Eastern workings are 18 feet 6 inches lower  
than from No. 1 to No. 2. The water could not have accumulated  
there as it would have brought the reddish water with it. I have  
made careful search for that and have not discovered any reddish  
water or sand. "Heavy description" means swelling. The char-  
acteristic of the ground in that particular gutter is of a heavy  
swelling nature like yeast and flour. By that I mean the air gets  
into the reef or clay and causes it to press or swell against the  
timber. The reef of the drive does not suffer a great deal, the  
legs break. It is the action of the air getting into the clay as  
we open it up and when the water touches it is worse than ever.  
That causes the legs to give way and not the cap pieces. That was  
the characteristic of my workings all through. Right through the  
history of the mine. I did not consider there was any weight  
overhead. The cap pieces were very little broken. The legs were  
broken and brought in at the bottom. As we were working along on  
either side we had the rock laid bare. As we came down we could  
see the rock overhead. Under these circumstances I never heard of

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bores being put into the rock, to bore it.

Mr. Barrett objects "No such thing has been said as to bores being put into the rock".

Bores went to the rock and not through the rock. I have never heard of a bore being put up to the rock when it is bare on each side. I did not think there was any danger whatever. Since the inburst I have not been able to discover the stone or infusorial earth. It is usually found in Cardigan. That is the only place I have seen it. Previous to the inburst I have never seen it.

Mr. Barrett objects - "He never saw any". "He told me he knew mine nothing about the ground except his workings".

I have never seen it in the Cardigan mine before the inburst about here though it existed in one portion in the bore but I never saw it. I never saw any sign of it before the inburst. Since the inburst there is a good deal of it coming away. This stone is usually found in lake deposits that is deposits of the ~~distinct~~ <sup>extract</sup> lake beds. I do not think it came out of that working. Since the inburst I have found the stuff produced fossilised wood and infusorial earth and rock. Prior to the inburst we have got nothing in the mine of that kind. It never came from any of the workings about. The old ground that is abandoned we put in stacks for the purpose of seeing that the ground was properly drained. We put a culvert on the ground and across stack built with firewood. It is 5 feet long by the width of the drive. They are crossed in order

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to give the water a free way to come through. The drive is filled with this hollow firewood. It is stacked to the roof. It would be 4 or 5 feet high according to the height of the drive. There were nine or ten put in. All that were necessary were put in. It is not possible for the old ground to have contained the water that has been pumped. The old ground would not contain the amount of water that was deposited in the first 24 hours. Since the accident there has been a developement in the workings. My theory as to these boulders being present is that it is a narrow channel filled with basaltic boulders of a very open nature. Loose basaltic boulders. A separate channel outside a wash channel altogether. I call it a separate channel or fault. A fault is when anything exceptional comes into the bed rock or silurian. It means a break in the bed rock. The increase of water had made no appreciable difference in the height of the water in the shaft. The water did not rise 3 inches on the plat. The bursts were not causing any difficulty whatever. It raised it 3 to 4 inches on the plat at the most. From the time of the last increase of water to the time of the accident, the water continued to decrease gradually. It was down to half a stroke per minute from those workings. There is no truth in the statement that the tributors left because there was danger in the mine. I had plenty of applications from men who knew the character of the ground, to work there. They were district miners. That is miners

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about Ballarat from whom we had the applications. We put a rod touching the roof of the wash and there was no water in it. The reason why I did not report to Mr. Fitches was I did not consider it of sufficient importance. I did not think the water was troubling us enough to add any danger. I based that on my previous experience in this and in other mines. It was a little more than we had in October. There was nothing important in the increase. The bottom of the rock is the hardest portion. It is the part over the head of the drive. To bring that rock down it would require some abnormal pressure and there would be no possibility of that rock coming down unless there was some break or fissure in the rock. There is no probability of it coming down except there is a very large area open. Where I was working the wash was 40 to 50 feet wide. There was no great area there. In my opinion there must have been some break or fissure in the rock to have caused the accident. I could not have in any way provided against that by taking any precaution unless I knew the fissure was there. I would have no means of discovering the fissure. The fissure would be exposed when the ground came down. If the ground came down 2 or 3 days after we worked it and the fissure was then exposed or opened up the water would come through. I crawled through the ground and examined it carefully and saw no water accumulated there. As to the cause of the accident my opinion is that the rock had tailed out or there had been a

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fissure going through the country. A recent development had thrown another light on it and it may perhaps have some important bearing on it before it is over. I could see nothing there that would reasonably lead me to believe that there was a dangerous accumulation ahead of me. If I was going to work again tomorrow at that mine, I would follow out the same arrangements as I have done before. If a drive had been constructed from the balance shaft to the No. 2 shoot the lives of the men would not have been saved because they would not reach that part, they were killed in the shoot. My Report to my Directors was a detailed report of the internal workings. We always kept our ground well timbered.

Re-examined by Mr. Barrett -

As to yeast being put into flour I have no idea to what size it would swell. The ground is of that description. As soon as the moisture touches it it starts to swell out like yeast and flour. We took out 4 feet by 6 feet and in 48 hours it has been closed. Portion of the cause of that closing would not be pressure but from the reef itself. I suppose you would call that pressure, the spongy nature of it. We have a great deal of it in the Cardigan Proprietary. It followed all up the gutter. I said the pumps were in fair order. It is not entered up that the pumps were in fair order. We did not enter up all these little things and &cs. There is nothing in the records about the pumps not being in order.

The record book was kept for the Inspector of Mines. I did not

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paste in the press reports. It is not my work. Everything I considered was in good order. The pumps were repaired four days after the disaster. They would not throw twice as much water after they were repaired but about 10 or 15 per cent more. Not 50 per cent. The pumps had a great deal of wear and tear previous to that from the time of the disaster till we repaired them during four days. I did not think it necessary to keep the pumps in order. As to the statement in the letter in the 10th. October "The All England shaft is full to the surface so we could get no idea of the water or other matters" Mr. Ryall's letter of the 5th. October explains that. In October I had a discussion with Mr. Ryall with the probability of tapping the new run of ground. I do not know what "in reference to the water coming in" means. It would refer to the burst that took place on the 3rd. October. I and Ryall had conversation and he wrote a letter and I went over to the All England shaft to look at it. It does not refer to the sweating of the water. It refers to the burst on the 3rd. October. I wrote to Ryall saying that I had seen the shaft and it was full of dirt. I did not go over with the idea of seeing whether it came from the All England Company. I could not see how the water could come from the All England. The ground coming down in October was not in consequence of water.

Letter of 23rd. October and November 5th. (read by Mr. Barrett)

"Blocking <sup>had</sup> out to be stopped" That was nothing to do with the

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the pressure of water. I said yesterday I never put in bore with the view of ascertaining whether there was water overhead, I still adheree to it today. I put them up to test the height. I said to test the character of the ground to Mr. Clarke. It is no different to what I said yesterday. The object of boring is to test the character of the ground overhead and you may have various reasons. One reason is the thickness of the wash and another the value of the wash and if there is any water and you make your provision against it. I never put a bore in for the express purpose of looking for water. On the top of the wash I found pug. It has held water back. If it is holding water I go <sup>through</sup> ~~through~~ the pug. I did not go ~~from~~ <sup>through</sup> the pug. Before I had bursts we had five and a half strokes and when we had the burst it rose from five and a half to nine, that is the increase. There was no increase until the 28th. February. Then we got the inburst. I did not think it necessary to mention inbursts to anyone except the Directors. I am not a geologist. In sinking the shaft I was there and sunk a portion of it. There have been petrified fruits found in the Haddon Lead. I have known petrified fruits being found in the deeper portion of the mine. 100 feet from where we were working. A different wash dirt from what we were getting from this end. If I found any at the end where we were working it would surprise me. It would convey some idea as to the finding of the fossil fruits. There is nothing very staggering about it. It

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would never convey to me the suggestion that I had met with exactly what I have met in the other part of the ground. It was only found after the disaster.

Echo 2nd. June (Mr. Barrett read report).

*WD* "Vale of mystery". These are not my words. That report is not my idea. There was some mention made of it. I did not write that. They are my ideas at present. When that development took place they were my ideas. I conveyed my ideas to Simms. I merely reported it to him. I do not know whether it came from him. That was my idea; on the date of June 2nd. I read the Echo.

Echo June 4th. (Mr. Barrett read).

I was at the mine. "The boulders it contained were held together in a solid mass". It is pretty solid. It was dry and water was still coming from ahead of it. The water was right over the top of No. 2 shoot. It has been drained. The rest of the water is coming away ahead of it from the other ground.

Mr. Clarke rose to re-cross-examine -

Mr. Barrett objects.

Mr. Clarke asked to ask a question in reference to the pumps and also as to the earth and fossilised wood.

Coroner - "He has told all about that".

*WD* Mr. Clarke - "Mr. Barrett has thrown a <sup>vale</sup> ~~vale~~ of mystery over that"

Coroner - "Mr. Harris had every opportunity to explain if he wanted. If he fell in with Mr. Barrett's views by mistake, he

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could correct them".

Witness to Mr. Clarke - "I always found the pumps quite adequate to cope with the water in the condition they were in. We got none of the earth in the higher workings and found none while driving or cross-cutting. I believe there was some found in the lower works. It must have come from overhead somewhere."

To the Jury - "The distance of the last horse from the supposed burst was six feet. That was from where the men turned in to go into their faces to work. I have not located the burst. It was put up 6 feet from where the men turned in. One party was 16 ft. North and the other about the same distance West from where they turned in. We have had no idea of constructing an air drive or escape drive from the balance shaft to the main shaft. The matter was talked over and they would like to put it through but the want of finances prevented it. It would have cost from £150 to £200. That would be about 235 to 240 feet where I would want to drive it in order to utilise the drive. The length of legs used for blocking were 4 feet and 3 feet 6 ins. The reef would not swell 50 per cent in a week on the South portion. It was not loose ground. We never had many runs. If they both met it would only leave a vacancy between the rock and the drive. There would be two feet of vacancy between the top of the rock if it collapsed.

To the Coroner - Witness here described how a man would get from the main shaft - He would have to go down No. 2 shoot and along

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WD the intermediate <sup>level</sup> ~~sheet~~ and down balance shaft and into main shaft. x

They got down the balance shaft by the ladder way and then up the main shaft. This is about 300 yards from the ladder way. If

there had have been a drive along the intermediate level it would have been of no advantage. It would never save any life. It

would be an advantage if it had been driven for ventilation, as

to the future it would not be an advantage to put it in to save x

life. The distance would be 204 feet long if constructed. <sup>straight</sup> We

were never prevented doing necessary work owing to want of funds.

The mine was just paying its way the last two or three months.

Previous to that it was call paying. The line the Cardigan is on

is supposed to be the Sago Hill and Bunker's Hill Lead. They are

draining in the direction towards the Ascot Deep Leads that is x

the Cardigan Mine. The Ascot Deep Leads is North West of Ballarat

It would be 6 miles from my claim. Going the other way it comes

off the hill and takes its rise from Bunker's Hill and Sago Hill.

The All England claim is 1825 or 1827 feet South West from our

main shaft. I have no knowledge of their workings. Walsh's claim

was a shallow shaft sunk in Walsh's paddock. It is somewhere x

about two or three thousand feet. It is filled up. I have never

seen it. It is nearly due West from our mine. I do not know what

depth it is. I believe it is filled up from the bottom. I

imagine we were draining the whole of the higher portions of the

country with our claim. There is no other machinery on our line

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*ND* of country. I think the water was coming from the whole of the  
 Eastern workings and draining the whole of it. I think the  
 Western portion of the country would be all drained too. It  
 would get to the shaft ~~practically~~ through the shaft cutting the  
 rock and it would drain that distance. The water was running  
 towards the shaft that is the Western water is all coming towards  
 our shaft. I have had large experience of the Ballarat country  
 generally. This is a very wet country. The higher portions are  
 usually dry, the lower portions are usually wet. By lower portions  
 I mean 230 feet from the surface. We are only 150 feet down. I  
 do not know whether the country is full of springs. I have  
*ND* never seen any. The source of the <sup>water in the</sup> rocks is from undercurrents.  
 I think the water comes from the rock. I cannot say where it  
 comes from. but it is characteristic of the rock that there are  
 large fissures through it. These are known to be filled with  
 water. In all alluvial the rock contains the water. I had to  
 examine the machinery every 24 hours and I had to record e- in a  
 book. I was never asked to furnish a plan of my mine. I made  
*ND* inquiries of plans of the other <sup>Companies</sup> ~~countries~~ from people who were  
 supposed to have worked there. I was informed that there was a  
 plan of the All England and other claims but I could not get it.  
 I never got the plans and I do not know where they are to be had.  
 They would have been useful to me.

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Harris recalled.

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To the Jury - The Company never suggested to me to have flood-  
gates in the drives. We have one practical miner on our Board of  
Directors (Mr. Wright) who lives in Ballarat. He visits the mine  
about once a month, sometimes oftener.

*WD* Recalled <sup>to the Jury</sup> - all the ~~work~~ <sup>dirt</sup> that could be stowed was  
*WD* stowed and the strips filled

Taken and Sworn before me the

*10<sup>th</sup> 4/10<sup>th</sup> WD* day

of

*June*190<sup>7</sup>

at

*Ballarat**Andrew Harris**W. D. Harrison*

Coroner.



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\* George Henry Fitcheson his oath saith, I am a Inspector of Minesresiding at Ballarat\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

"Q"

*Inspector of*  
 I was ~~inspecting~~ <sup>Inspector of</sup> all the mines over the district at the time the accident occurred. I have worked 15 years in alluvial mines right off. I never had the management of any alluvial. I have been manager for 6 years in quartz. I inspected this mine from time to time and have my books showing the dates on which I inspected. My last inspection was on the 4th. February previous to the accident. On the 4th. February I inspected every working part of the mine. 8/11/99 was one date when I visited. I have taken from my book the entries relating to this Mine (Exhibit "Q") Those are all the entries in my books relating to the Cardigan. I was telegraphed for to the Mount William at the time of the disaster. I reached the mine at 2 o'clock next morning. When I arrived at the mine on the 20th. I found that the report that an accident had occurred was true. Pumping and bailing were going on at a pretty stiff rate and we sounded the water and found it was too high to get below and after examining the machinery increased the speed of the pumps to about fifteen strokes gradually. And with the increased output of water we were enabled to venture below that ~~evening~~ <sup>even</sup>, about 8 o'clock I think. We found that the water was too high to proceed, up to our necks and we came up and kept the pumps and tanks going until after midnight, 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning. We made another attempt and managed to get into the balance shaft although with difficulty to where they supposed the missing men to be. We were successful in getting the men

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Simpson and King. We found them on top of the balance shaft. We brought them down and got them to the surface as soon as possible and did not wait to argue the point and we pumped away then till we got the water off the plat and started cleaning up. When we cleaned up we sent the sand and explored the other portion of the ground we found the dead bodies of Mansfield and Hunter up towards No. 1 branch drive. One was lying on top of the debris in the intermediate drive. Hunter's body was tangled in the debris in the points where No. 1 and No. 2 junction. The body <sup>as were</sup> was broken up very much and the other body was broken up very badly. We continued the cleaning for a week or two longer and got to O'Keefe's body up ~~to~~ near No. 2 shoot 70 or 80 feet from it. It was also broken up very much. The drive was cleaned as far as No. 3. The missing body could not be discovered. We then started drives off the main drive to get into the workings to tap the water or find if there was any water there, we succeeded for a shift or two in getting a fair stream of water but the whole block <sup>ed to the</sup> ~~made~~ water stopped <sup>running</sup>. We then started operations in the left hand side of the drive for the purpose of putting up the rises for water and the main shoot. These drives have been completed, shut up and a drive driven 10 feet towards No. 2, when I was relieved by Mr. Agnew. I saw nothing there to justify me in forming an opinion why it occurred. Only the debris, the rock and infusorial earth and decayed woody matter. I cannot say why it occurred except that the ground came

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down from the ground being blocked out and above that there would be a channel of drift and water. Between the rock and what came down there would be a cavity. There may have been water in the cavity. I have heard reports read. Previous to my hearing them read in court, I did not know anything of their contents. Either from what the manager told me nor from reading. In my case it was of importance that I should have known of the burst of sand and water that occurred in the report of 16th. March two or 3 days before the accident I think the date was. I am sure I should have been informed of that occurrence. If I had been informed of that occurrence I should have inspected and formed an opinion afterwards from my own experience to judge what would have been done. From what I have read of the reports I do not think that I would have allowed the men to go on blocking there. I would not allow men to have gone on blocking I would have considered that if a burst of water such as has been described carried some sand with it, an effort should be made to find out where the burst came from. If the ground ~~we~~ did not come down I would put a <sup>bore</sup> wall up. If the ground was down a <sup>bore</sup> wall was not necessary. I would put up a water rise if necessary. You can touch the rock 7 or 8 feet overhead in that particular part. In the extreme West end I have not seen it. Between 1 and 2 <sup>on plan</sup> I have seen it. The bore is the first thing to put up for the purpose of locating the water. A bore is always put up before the rise is put up to know what is overhead. I did

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not ask the Mine Manager for his reports. It is not my business to ask for his private reports. It did not strike me that I should ask for his reports when I was inquiring as to the cause of the accident. All I could demand is the diary. I believe I asked him if he had a previous burst of water. He said he had a few but nothing to speak of. I have heard his method of working described. There is nothing wrong with it at all. Apart from the water question there was nothing to find fault with. I examined his record book. There is no reference whatever in it as to the water bursts. I made no casual visits apart from the official. There is no more dangerous work in an alluvial mine than blocking where there is working on <sup>each</sup> ~~the~~ side. That is the working where I would expect special danger of a collapse and where I would take special precautions as to water overhead if it was deep ground.

Q. - Could there not have been more dangerous work than to be beginning at the centre piece with the workings on each side?

A. - There is a solid block on one side. I put up some bores, the first was from the intermediate level whilst cleaning out the drive. There were three bores up between the end of the blocking and the beginning of the blocking. We got into old timber, the bores went into old ground and timber and we got fast in the timber with all three of them. The inside one was put up. There were three bores put up there and they went through the bed rock and into old ground

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and timber. (Mr. Fitches marked the 3 bores on plan) Those are the three that went into broken ground. We went up the drive and started another bore about 150 feet past No. 2 in the intermediate under the blocked out ground. We put up four bores altogether. Two of them got fitchered. This means fast and broken. Two bores were lost and the remainder went through into old ground and timber without getting any water. That was about 30 feet high. That is all the bores we put on the level. We started to drive and put a bore 8 or 10 feet from the strip where the young man was working who was lost, under where the water was supposed to have come through. We had a good stream of water there for a couple of days and the bore got choked and the water stopped. The bore did not go into the water, it went into the soft stuff. The bore touched water in the dirt and that ran for a couple of shifts and closed. We put up 3 or 4 bores in the same place and two of them ran and then closed. They went into gravel, through reef then we opened up drive and put up a water rise within 5 feet of the wash dirt workings and we backed that over and bored from there and could not get any water at all. We opened out opposite No. 2 and came in and put a drive in also opposite No. 2 for a main rise and we drove from the top of that main rise towards No. 2 and bored. In every shift 8 or 10 or 20 feet we got water sometimes and sometimes not much. They were all the bores we put in. The not pumps were in good order. The clack seatings were cut away. They

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had been cut away perhaps about a month. We had to push on. We  
not

W29 were able to repair them while they were getting the men out.

That was about a week afterwards. The effect of repairing the  
pump was that we saved forty per cent. We could pump 40 per cent  
more after we repaired the pumps. From the knowledge I have re-  
ceived from the reports with what I have seen, I have formed an  
opinion as to the cause of the outburst. My opinion is that they  
have come to the edge of the rock. The gutter is going uphill  
very steep and they have come to a part where in the feather edge  
the ground has been blocked out and the legs have gone from under  
the table and the water has been allowed to come out. That was my  
opinion before hearing these reports and is my opinion still.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clarke -

Had this rock ~~not~~ tapered out as I imagine the accumulation would  
not have occurred. I mean by the edge of the rock that it is  
tapered out to that edge. I do not think it is possible for an  
accident of such magnitude to occur unless it comes from some place  
we know of. In my opinion this water could not have come from old  
workings. When the gutter is somewhat narrow and assuming that  
the rock is exposed on either side and the rock can also be seen  
overhead, I would not think of boring. I would not think of  
boring if I saw the rock. The infusorial earth and fossilised  
wood assists me in forming the opinion. It leads me to believe  
that the infusorial earth and the fossilised wood and rock has come

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on h oath saith, I am a

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\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

down with the stream of water from the channel which held the water above. We call a layer of drift a water channel. You don't get a lake bed on top of the rock. It is a lake in the sense of the word but something entirely dis-associated with the working. Mr. Harris is a first-class miner. He thoroughly understands his work. I know the mines in the Creswick District. They have to combat with water there very considerably, far more than in this District in some of the mines. I know the difficulty in the mines he mentioned. I have heard him say that they never used boring rods in this mine but they took precautions for all that. They always bore if they cannot see the rock but if they see the rock they do not think of doing it. I have not formed an opinion that the bodies were crushed by the timber. I believe they were blown down by the rush of the water. I have seen no red sand in the works since. The whole of the ground would never have held the whole of the water we have pumped out.

Re-examined -

I believe Mr. Harris is a good Manager as well as a first-class miner. I have heard the reports read by Mr. Barrett referring to the water. In the face of these reports any experienced Mining Manager should have taken steps to locate where the water came from and get control of it if he could not have seen the rock. If he saw the rock he should have taken other steps before he got mento work. If the water had stopped running he had a perfect right to

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.

make it run. While the water was running there was no danger.

If the water was running as described in the Reports, first with sand and the sand disappeared and then accompanied by bursts, he should have endeavoured to locate it, provided the water stopped running.

Q. - If it had come in bursts and at times accumulated, should not he have taken steps?

W.D. A. - Water comes in bursts and perhaps it will run out in an hour or two. A man knows what size the pool will be <sup>by</sup> ~~with~~ the ground that is down. 170 feet long and 150 feet wide is the size.

W.D. If it had subsided 3 feet the cavity would contain 170680 gallons equal to 782 tons beside the tons of ground brought away <sup>with</sup> ~~by~~ the various bursts. There would be about 1000 tons of water overhead

W.D. That coming away may expose the fissures in the rock. If the 3 feet of water filled up between where it had fallen away and the rock, the fissures up above, might hold water resting on the ground with enormous pressure. I think that having heard that there was that a reservoir and the knowledge ~~with~~ the falling in and the subsidence may have exposed immense water in the rock that he should have taken precautions to find it out. When it drops away you do not know what you are exposing.

Q. - Having regard to the fact that the water was coming away in bursts accompanied with the steady stream, do you think that he acted as a prudent Mining Manager in letting the men go down and

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.

block ?

A. - No, not after the Reports of the 16th. and 17th..

To the Jury -

The piece of worked out ground referred to by Mr. Barrett was 120 feet from the shoot from where the men were working when the accident occurred. The closest point is 100 feet from the shoot.

To Mr. Barrett -

I have heard of the nature of the ground. In all possibility all the ground is down.

To the Jury -

W2 It is on the East side that he saw the rock. I said that the rock tapered out, I have not seen it. By that I mean that the rock has run out to nothing. The gutter runs at a dip - the lava must have a level. I maintain that where the ground is not blocked under it the rock has had no support and hence it has come down when the ground is down. I think the rock would taper out to the West portion of the block. I know nothing of the workings of the All England or the Winter's Freehold. It is only my opinion that the rock tapered out. It is between No. 2 and 3.

To Mr. Clarke -

The rock tapered out somewhere about where the inburst occurred. If it came from the old workings the first 24 hours, would have pumped it all out. I have heard of red wash. I am satisfied that there is no red wash dirt now unless it is washed white.

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.

Mr. Harris was here recalled and in answer to Jury said "That all the wash that could be stowed, was stowed and the strips filled".

Mr. Fitches continuing to Coroner -

I put my initials where shown in Mr. Harris' book because it is a cage test initial. If the cage is tested last month I go back in the diary and initial the book at the last test. The record of my visit is in a daily diary. I saw a private diary of the Manager where he entered my visit.

Adjourned till Monday 16th.

Taken and Sworn before me the 14<sup>th</sup> day  
of June 1902 at Ballarat

*W. D. A. B. O. R. N.*

Coroner.

*G. H. Fitches*

*M. 67*



## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\* William Baragwanath  
 recalled  
 on his oath, saith, I am a  
 residing at

\* Christian and  
 Surname in  
 full.

(Monday 16th. June.

Mr. Baragwanath recalled.)

Since the last Court I have made certain tracings and additions to the plans at the request of the Coroner. The first plan is (Exhibit "A") the section of the No. 1 bore is inked in. The two bores with the strata through which they have passed have been put on showing the strata. The distance of the balance shaft to where the bodies were found is put on. I have written them out "R" in tabular form. (Ex: "R") "B" Geological plan, "C" Parish plan of Cardigan, the other copies are marked the same. "D" a plan showing bores. The section has been added to it of the different stratas passed through by the bores and the shaft as well.

Cross-examined -

In the shaft there are two layers of basalt rock. The bores show that. The rock must have tailed out between those two. There was clay in the shaft and not anywhere else.

Taken and Sworn before me the 11<sup>th</sup> day  
 of June 1902 at Ballarat  
W. D. [Signature]  
 Coroner.

(Sgd) William Baragwanath

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# CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\* Ellen Hunteron her oath saith, I am a Widowresiding at Haddon\* Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

James Hunter who was killed in the Mine was my husband, and John Hunter who was also killed was my son. They left me on the night of the 18th. of March at 11 o'clock. The husband went about 10.30 and the son at 11. That was the last time I saw them alive. I have heard my husband and son speaking about the Mine on different occasions. The conversations would take place when they came home any time and when they would be having their meals. They would say it was terrible to work there. (Mr. Clarke objects "Is this evidence ?")

Coroner - "In an inquiry it is, it is evidence here".

They said it was not safe to work there. The last time I can recollect hearing them say it was not safe to work there, would be about a fortnight or three weeks before the accident. I heard something from Mrs. Hegeny. I was going to Ballarat and she said to me, <sup>about</sup> ~~when~~ <sup>on the Saturday</sup> my Jack ~~had started~~ before he got killed - that it was not safe to work there. and that they expected him to smother or drown before very long. I never said anything to them about leaving.

Cross-examined -

I was never told that the Company is liable and responsible to me and I have never discussed it with anybody since the accident. I have not been told the Company would have to pay my damages. I have never spoken about the Company paying my damages since the accident. I cannot tell exactly how long my husband and son were

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.

working in the Cardigan mine. They were working there a good while.

I <sup>do</sup> ~~did~~ not want to injure the Company. I am injured enough myself.

My son must have been working there two years or more and Mr.

Hunter was working about a year or more. He used to be often

telling me about the danger of the mine and that it was not safe

to work. And about 9 or 10 days before he got killed Mr. Jones

of Sebastopol called and he said that the place was just in a

moving mass and he was frightened to work there. Mr. Jones said

"Where are you going to work". My husband said "Where are we to

go now, things are so dull". During these two years they spoke

to me about the danger of the Mine. They said the water was

coming in. I have heard my lad say, that he had had to hold in

the water in different places in the drive and fill it up to keep

the water from coming in. They never made a statement to Mr.

Harris that I know of and never told me that they did. I cannot

tell whether they saw the Inspector of Mines. They were working a

good while as tributors carrying out the works themselves. I first

made the statement I have made here today to Constable Rogerson.

Constable Rogerson was met at his office Lydiard Street by me, I

was sent for, Mr. Rogerson asked me to come in. I cannot say

whether Rogerson came out to me. I did not see him. I came into

his office and made a statement to him and nobody has ever suggested

to me that the Company was in any way responsible to me. I have

never heard of that. I might be surprised to hear that I could

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

of ..... 190 ..... at .....

Coroner.

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