

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

30th. "fair streams of water very heavy and loose for working the gutter widening out, dirt sticky, will have remedied when the ground is dry." What do you think of that ?

A. - That is different to what I was working. I should not have expected to have met wet ground there. My idea of it being wet there and fair streams of water coming away is they might be intersecting another lode. There are various other reasons. According to what has been said, the rock might have tailed out. It is evident they were intersecting another lode. There must be another cause. If I had struck that unexpected thing I would have continued on the leading drives to prove the country. I have no reddish sand resting on wash. We had black basaltic clay. I do not remember any reddish sand and gravel. If I did see any it would not suggest any change. It is customary to get more changes in alluvial gutters. The report of February 28 th. "blocked out ground came down bringing strong streams with large quantities of sand, water came away in the No. 3 drive, water is increasing - will suspend tomorrow, think pool accumulated beneath the rock" was utterly different to anything I have met. I would not have allowed the men to go on blocking if that happened.

Q. - Manager says "On the next day water same, considerable amount of sand coming away causing a lot of trouble, started parties in wash, water same although sand is not so troublesome.

South West drive crushed a good bit owing to the water coming away"

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A. - It depends on the work they were doing if it was right to do that. If I thought it was a pool overhead I would attempt to locate it. A considerable amount of sand coming away is a common occurrence. All the sand that comes away leaves a reservoir most decidedly. If it was coming from a pool overhead it was possible for that pool to block. If it ran steadily it would be safe. If pieces of the rock came down into the vent gradually and filled the vent it would form a reservoir again if it had some soft substance. The rock would not fill it up. As to the Report of March 4th. "no improvement. another burst last night". If I thought there was a pool overhead the burst would suggest that it had blocked and allowed accumulations and then burst away. I would consider that everything was safe if every precaution was taken to barricade. Sometimes a rise is put up. I have never seen it done. It costs money. If you have not got the money you cannot do it. If the water was still troublesome and coming away in small bursts it would suggest that there was still a little water behind. It depends on the size of the burst. (Mr. Barrett quoted from reports "compelled to abandon two blocks &c" and March 6th. "the rock has given way which would account for the ground being heavy" What does abandoning the ground mean?

A. - Abandoning the two blocks was for protection of the men that would be protection if there was any danger. Between the broken rock and where he is working the water could come through

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the drives and he could barricade them. If I thought the rock had broken overhead and the pressure was crushing the ground I would simply leave the two blocks and go on working if there was a certain amount of water. He ought to use a little judgment, with these bursts of water. There was never any water on the plat. A ton of water is of very little consequence in alluvial mines. As long as the water was running steadily it does not matter how much water is overhead. If it stops and bursts it shows danger. I have seen the sand barricaded without barricading the water. It depends on the nature of the sand and the country. It might keep a portion of it back in that country. I could only guess how much it would keep it back. I would think that the increase in the number of strokes accompanied by bursts that great care would have to be taken but it appears that he put in barricades. I did not say I would take any efforts to locate the water. It all depends on the nature of the country we are working. There are some places where a rise would be no good. I would go further ahead into the solid ground and see if there was any water there.

Q. - What would these Reports convey? "Things no better, water still troublesome, water finding its way over the main drive faster than we can block it out".

A. - That would convey something rather unpleasant to my mind.

That is an unusual thing. I think I should leave the ground and

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not try to block it out. I would leave it and take the men away.

Cross-examined.

Under these circumstances I would have gone further ahead and tried the ground that is the only precaution I would have taken. If I got ground drier I would have assumed there was no danger. If the shoot was perfectly dry that would not have led me to believe there was no danger. If horses and stacks were put in that is the usual precaution. That would be the proper precaution to have taken. If Mr Harris put them in I consider he did all that was necessary, and under these circumstances probably it might have accumulated. I cannot say whether it would accumulate or not. There is in all ~~the~~ ^{pe} not any probability of the water accumulating over the old ground. On either side of the ~~grave~~ the rock was plainly visible and also overhead. I would not regard them as of importance in future in arriving at whether there was any danger as it is a customary thing. If the rock was visible I would not have thought there was any danger. I do not think any alluvial

Question:-

W.D. miner would think so. If ~~you~~ ^{you} had seen that I would have considered everything was safe notwithstanding the water that was coming in on 2

Answer:-

W.D. or 3 occasions and the sand, ^{that was} another thing. If I saw the rock plainly ahead for 30 feet I would have concluded everything perfectly safe.

Re-examined -

If I could see the solid rock and saw the water come in bursts I would have considered everything safe. It might have been coming from an

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other lead. If I could see 10 or 20 feet of the rock and the water was still coming away in bursts I would reckon there was a certain amount of danger. If the place was dangerous I would pull the men out. If I could see the rock and the water was still troublesome and coming away in bursts I would probably take the men away till I saw there was no danger.

To the Jury.

The wash was a tight wash, it did not require false sets, it wanted sharp picks. The rock was about 8 or 10 feet above the wash. I rose up to it in some places and it did not require false sets, it was simply a dry gutter. I came across pug. I never drove through it. I only went as far as the wash. I never struch wash in my time through the pug.

Taken and Sworn before me the

18th

day

of

June

1902

at

Ballarat

(sgd) Josiah Skewes

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Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Edward Wookey

on his oath saith, I am a Miner

residing at Bunker's Hill

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I was on the first shift on the 18th. March in the Cardigan Mine. I was working in the blocking at No. 2 during the time I was there the ground appeared safe so far as I could see. We had only one burst of water when I was there, that was about a week before the big burst. It came out of the old blocking that has come down I think. Mr Harris came down the 18th. March he was there about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. He examined the thing in the usual way and it seemed all right the ground seemed no weight on the back. He left the usual instructions I was working there about 9 months and am working there now. I have been a miner 12 or 14 years.

Cross-examined

Mr Harris examined the ground it appeared all right and quite safe, as safe as any place I have ever been in. There appeared to be no weight on the back. You could drive a set there without any timber. Mr Harris was careful about timber. All the ground was properly timbered and horses in. I relieved O'Keefe, he did not mention anything about the ground being dangerous. He never mentioned anything to me about it. I never heard any mention of the Mine being dangerous.

Re-examined -

O'Keefe was night shift we were day shift, that is how I relieved him. I never heard any discussion about water at any time. I never troubled my head about it. As long as the Manager told me to go in I went in and left the matter to him. There was no water much to trouble anybody

I have not heard reports of Manager's read I never took any notice of

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This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

reports. I never thought there was any water there to trouble anybody.

Mr Barrett read from reports "Water troublesome and ground exceedingly heavy, water coming away in bursts, water still troublesome, no change etc."

I do not say the reports are not true, there was trouble with the water.

Q. - How did he abandon blocks ?

Mr Clarke objects:-

It is not fair to say that to the witness.

Mr Barrett:-

will see

You should say that the evidence that he gave on oath is opposite to his reports.

Mr Clarke:- The report is not wrong.

The Coroner:- Mr Barrett makes that inference.

I know nothing about the crushing of the South West drive it crushed a bit. I think the crushing was bottom weight. I think it was the swelling reef when the water got on it, that was owing to the water coming away he had to abandon them. If the water comes in and causes the ground to swell I say there is no trouble.

Q.- What do you call trouble with water ?

A. - I suppose where there is a lot of water coming and the pumps could not keep it away and you could not get on the plat. No one suggested to me the question of the plat. No one has suggested to

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

residing at.....

* Christian and
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full.

me not to agree with the Manager's reports about the water. I have
been in Court when the reports were read. I say that these are fair
and honest reports of what occurred from day to day there in my opinion.
I have not been in Court before today. I have never heard them this
morning. I ahve been working there 9 months and all the concern I
took about the Mine was to earn 7/6 and go to the blocking. As far as
I knew the bursts may have occurred and I did not see them. I never
saw any except one small burst.

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W. D. C. Brown
Coroner.

(sgd) Edwin Wootkey
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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Patrick Bowles

on his oath saith, I am a Miner

residing at living at Trunk Lead

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I was engaged in the Cardigan Mine and I was in the same shift as the last witness. I was not mates with last witness. I was mates with John O'Brien. We were working the blocking strip up No. 2 shoot. In N. 2 shoot when I was there everything was all right. I never heard of any bursts of water when I was there. I only worked two shifts there on the Monday and the Tuesday. I was employed on the surface. I heard there had been bursts of water when I was on the surface. I heard of a small burst. I heard the men talking about small bursts of water. I do not know why they talked about them. I heard them talking about them about a week or 10 days before the accident. The men who were talking about the bursts were Adams, O'Brien, Hall and several others, I forget now. I heard them say there was a burst of water and sand. I cannot say why they were discussing it.

Cross-examined -

They did not appear to regard it as any danger. I helped to put up two bores in No. 2 shoot before the accident. The first was close to No. 3 shoot and about 7 or 8 feet from the shoot. We put one up 22 feet and the other 35, and we got no water. The second one was about 5 feet ahead of the first. It went up about 33 feet I think. These bores were put up on the Sunday previous to the burst. We put the other one up on the Thursday previous to the accident I think.

Cross-examined -

The bores were in the intermediate level. The purpose of putting the
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VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

bore was to ascertain the height of the wash.

Taken and Sworn before me the 18th day

of June 1902 at Ballarat

(sgd) Patrick Bowles

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Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent Joseph Strideon his oath saith, I am a Minerresiding at Sago Hill* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I was employed 4 or 5 years off and on at the Cardigan Mine.

I was on afternoon shift on the 18th. March. I was braceman on that day.

To the Coroner - I have given evidence of identification at the claim.

To Mr. Barrett - I was braceman and puddler. The particular work going on on that day was landing dirt and puddling it in the machines. The same work as we have done any other time.

To the Jury - I heard miners discussing little bursts of water on several occasions before the flood. They would say there was a little water and sand coming away.

To the Coroner - In any mining they would be wet but nothing out of the way not more than what would happen any other day.

I never heard them say anything about danger. Some men left when on tribute because it would not pay and came back when on wages. They could not have thought it was dangerous if they did that. Mr. Harris was always present at the claim. He was generally there at 8 o'clock in the morning and he would go back at night or stop there all night sometimes. All the time he was Manager he would sometimes stop there all night. His usual hours were from 8 to 4 o'clock. He has been there till 10 o'clock and sometimes all night. I do not know what he was there all night for. He has been there on several occasions all night.

When they were sinking the shaft he used to be there all night

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sometimes. I worked in the sinking of the shaft.

To Mr. Barrett - I did not hear the men discussing the burst when the pumps increaded to 9 strokes. The burst never occurred in my shift. I recollect the time when the pumps increased a little faster. I do not say for three days. I did not hear about the ground coming down. There might be ground coming down any day.

To the Coroner - I lived in the same direction as O'Keefe. He never told me anything about danger and never said anything the other way. He left when it was too poor and came back when it was on wages.

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Ballarat

(sgd) J. Stude

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Coroner.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* Henry Neville

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a Miner

residing at Bunker's Hill

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I have had 35 years experience or over in mining. I was working putting down the shaft of the All England. Mr. Copeland was a shareholder in the claim and I believe a Director. The shaft was put down nearly 40 years ago. I cannot say exactly. There was water there in sinking the shaft. We had water with an 8 inch lift to contend with it. I was there from the commencement to the finish. I can hardly say for certain the length of the main drive. It was as far as I can remember 700 or 800 feet. The wash that was taken out was very little. There were very little workings down in the claim. The reef drive ran a little West of North, very little. A little West of the road from Mr. Walsh's that rund North and South. It was West of the Cardigan altogether and most of the workings were West of the main drive. I do not think they ever drove across the road. There was very little done to the East of the main drive. There was very little trouble with our workings. I saw one night about two or three tanks of water come away. Some would call that a burst. I would not. I do not recollect any time when the men were driveng out by water. I was there all the time from the commencement to the finish. I did not sink the first shaft. We did not get flooded out in the second shaft. The 8 inch lift took the water that was there. They never did drive as far as Walsh's Hotel. I recollect them finding the wash, a sort of surface gravel a little rubble and stone in it. I know what

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residing at

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soldiers are. I do not remember them put in. I saw Mr. Copeland work in the second All England shaft. I do not remember anything about roaring noises and water coming down in the All England shaft. I have worked in the Cardigan since the disaster. I am Boss of one of the shifts at the present time. The reef is like pug and when you get a bore in it gets choked. I worked at the Cardigan Mine about two years ago in Mr. Skewe's time. I have formed an opinion as to whether came from that caused the deaths of the men. I think it was likely that it might have come from a fresh run of ground. I formed the opinion because the mentold me that the wash had widened out and they had stopped driving in No. 2 and the colour of the dirt was changed.

Cross-examined -

I think the old shaft has no connection with the Cardigan lead at all. In the second shaft they never struck the lead they had in the first shaft. I would not say that it is not the lead they had in the first shaft or a part of the lead.

To the Coroner - I know the Cardigan. In the Cardigan and the All England the reef is something similar. The All England reef is a little softer and more like pipeclay than what I have seen in the Cardigan. I have seen in the All England on one occasion when it was stopped, two feet closed right up coming from the laths and the drives cleaned up and the drives standing just as well as ever. I have not seen the roc-k there. There was never

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on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and Surname in full.

any ground come down to see the rock. The ground seemed to go thr
through the laths and fill the drive up.

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of June 1907 at Ballarat

(sgd) Henry Neville

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Coroner.

Wednesday afternoon 18th June

[No. 53.]

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* Thomas Stephen Hart

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

(Wednesday afternoon)

I am a Lecturer in Geology and mining and Curator of the School of Mines Ballarat. I received certain specimens brought from the Cardigan mine to the School of Mines. At the request of the Mines Department I visited the Cardigan mine. I was accompanied by Mr. Robert Bryant as Expert for the Mines Department. and by Mr. Baragwanath Surveyor. It was on the 3rd. June when I visited the Mine. When we got there we went below. and we went out to the balance shaft and up to the intermediate level and we went along it as far as the No. 2 shoot and from there we went up the rise from a branch drive at the side and we went to the face where they had been working just previously. The men were not working there then. We made some measurements and collected some samples along the drive of material which had been laft by the water. and noticed the few pieces and we returned to the surface and we went through the paddock at the surface to the West of the shaft and looked for traces of any surface subsidence. We were shown water coming in near the No. 2 shoot but at the opposite side of the intermediate level and at the upper new level the ground was considerably filled with timber and what I saw there was at the back portion of the drive from the top of the rise. The older portion was alluvial quartz with a few quartz resting on the bed rock. Towards the front the material contains pieces of basalt grit in a mass. of

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full.

clay and this clay was evidently subject to movement at some
This was shown by

time. The many polished surfaces and from the clay in various

trucks and just on the forward end of the drive there was a

piece of timber showing apparently a cap piece. We did not

see anything more of material in that drive. We collected a

number of samples along the intermediate level and examined

them subsequently. They consisted of sand with clay lumps of

various characters some of them evidently derived from the bed

rock and some probably alluvial quartz. There was one fragment

of lignite and some lignitic earths from clay. I examined the

clay specimens for infusorial but did not find any in them. I

found no other diatoms and I found samples. The presence of

these diatoms in some of the samples which have been given to

me by others amongst those which were said to come from Mr.

Baragwanath. I did not find any infusorial in the samples which

I collected myself but I found some in one of the samples which

were left at the School of Mines. There was nothing else of

any special character. Further, there ^{was another} ~~were some~~ samples that I

was given at the office at the surface. The exact point of ori-

gin I did not understand. It consisted of a sandy drift cemented

together with a form of pyrites. All the materials which I

collected with the exception of those which were fragments of the

bed rock and the remainder of the materials are deposited in

lacustrine and fluvial conditions such as ~~are~~ may have been

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expected in the bores of the shaft though the details given in the bores are insufficient for any exact comparison. (Mr. Barrett read from Mr. Harris' evidence "Since the burst I have found infusorial earth ----- lake beds") The stone is what is generally called infusorial earth but the name was given to it under a misapprehension as to the real nature of the organisms and it is more accurately described as diatomaceous earth. The atoms being minute vegetable organisms known as diatoms. The material had been found previously apparently in two of a series of bores which were put down. It is recorded with a query in the Mines Department report of the No. 6 bore and the sample was reported by Prof: Krause about No. 2 bore. the date being before No. 6 bore was made. There seems to be no possibility of any confusion. At the depth which it was found in the No. 2 bore there is referred to a white clay which may be the way in which it was reported We had a sample in the museum and Prof: Krause sent to the Mines Department on this sample. What they described as infusorial earth was found in two of the bores apparently. There is a query put against the record in No. 6 bore. In No. 6 bore it was certainly found. The diatomaceous earth or diatoms may accumulate under a variety of conditions either lacustrine or marine. But the geological conditions in which it has been found may probably be lacustrine deposits.

Mr. Barrett quoted "infusorial earth and rock" from evidence.

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There are some lignitic shales amongst those samples. There is a sample more like lignite amongst the samples I collected myself. There is nothing that would cause me any surprise at all in what I have collected. It is what you would expect to find in lacustrine and fluviatile deposits and agrees with materials found in the neighbouring parts of Victoria. I have no information of what was found in the parts which were exposed in the workings of the Cardigan mine. (Mr. Barrett read from Mr. Fitches evidence as to the infusorial earth and fossilised wood) The infusorial earth and fossilised wood would be probably associated with lacustrine deposits and the fossilised wood would be associated with fluviatile deposits.

Cross-examined -

I mean by lacustrine deposits that it is generally applied to those deposits which are formed on the beds of lakes. They may either be the remains of organisms which have grown there or have been deposited there. It is practically the same thing as coming from a lake bed. If none of those were present in the mine before the accident and after the accident they were present it would lead me to conclude that the rush of water would have disturbed some lacustrine deposit. I found no traces of surface subsidence. I examined in a North Western direction to a point which was said by the Surveyor to be over the No. 2 shoot and we examined the character of the surface round there and found no

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evidence of any settlement of the surface at all. The particular points I looked on myself as points which would likely give evidence. There was no evidence of accumulation of water and no places where it had been accumulating before. There was no cracking of the ground and no falling of trees. I saw no traces of subsidence over the places we visited.

Re-examined -

I would expect to find lake beds in that country. They are of common occurrence in the volcanic country here. Old Lake bed does not imply water. There is no necessity for an old Lake bed to contain the water. It would suggest a deposit of water in a Lake bed which had broken away.

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W. J. O'Connell

W. J. O'Connell

Coroner.

(Sgd) Thomas S Hart 165

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* William Henry Fisheron his oath saith, I am a Mining Managerresiding at Howitt Street Wendouree* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I have had 35 years experience in alluvial. I have been Manager of alluvial for 20 years managing the Spring Hill and Central Leads for 6 years past. On Sunday the 15 June I inspected the underground workings of the Cardigan at the request of the Mine Manager Mr. Harris. A man named Alexander accompanied me. After leaving the surface I examined all the drives from the main shaft up to the balance shaft and also to the ladder way up to the intermediate level I found them all secure and all double timbered where required. All was in perfect order as far as the timber was concerned. I did not see anything else except that I found everything in perfect order. My object in going down was, to see if there had been any carelessness in the works of the mine and in putting in the shoots. I did not examine with any other object. Everything was closely timbered. There was nothing else to see. My theory as to the accident is based on what I have heard and I have seen nothing that would assist me in forming an opinion as to what caused the outburst. I could have formed the opinion without the examination. My theory about the cause of the accident is based on the run of pug or belt of clay. I do not think it is the margin of the gutter. I think it is an intrusion of the two leads. I believe if there was a drive put in from that bed of clay they would come to another deposit. That would not be anything unusual in an alluvial mine. It is what I would naturally infer. I have

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nothing else to say except that I formed that opinion . It happened the same as with me in the Spring Hill when they were near the wash and they came to a point where the clay was less dense - at the point where O'Brien struck the wash either there was a break in the clay or there was a less body of clay and consequently a great pressure of water broke the bed of clay. The pressure of water would come from the South side of this clay from another deposit. About 8 months ago I had the same experience in the Spring Hill only in that instance I was expecting a body of water. I was led to expect it by the water being in that lead it was very wet. By bores I proved it. I proved the water and the height of the wash overhead, in putting up the water rise to tap the wash. The water rise was within 5 feet of the wash and it smashed it down. I do not think there was sufficient pressure to break that down. I rose up within 7 feet of the water there and it smashed that. and then I tested the bores and I found I had 75 lbs. to the square inch of water. The quantity of water must have come from the maiden ground. I concluded that it was something similar in this mine, that the water was from new ground. I found out the pressure of water came from the gutter. It was not from any change on the gutter. The country was full of water. All the run of wash in the Cardigan is concealed on the South side of the bank of clay. The body of clay is too heavy to allow the water to percolate. I believe that the

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pressure has been too heavy and there has been a burst and the
 occur
 probability is that it will ~~grow~~ again if they do not take pre-
 cautions in approaching it. The water would not accumulate un-
 necessarily no more than it would in any other mine. In forming
 my opinion I have not ascertained what that the area is of the
 ground that has fallen in nor ascertained what reservoir for
 water that would leave. I have not done so because I never gave
 it a consideration. I have got no reasons why I did not do it.
 It would probably be a good thing to do it. But I did not con-
 sider it sufficiently. It would be a difficult matter to arrive
 at the area. If you were blocking with 4 (four) feet legs and t
 the reef swung 2 feet it would not leave 2 feet between the rock
 and the ground that came down. If it only left 18 inches or 2
 feet overhead, I have no idea what quantity of water that would
 hold. I have heard some of the reports of the Manager Mr. Harris
 read. The Reports have conveyed nothing to my mind of use. I
 have heard that up to October or November it was a fairly dry mine.
 and that all along it has been virtually a dry alluvial mine until
 December. The Report of the Manager on December 30th. "Fair
 streams of water coming out, dirt loose and sticky and difficulty
 to get out of the shoot," would only convey to my mind that we
 were approaching wetter ground than we had been previously working
 I believe Mr. Harris' Reports are true. In these alluvial beds
 you will find streams of water coften. In the mine where I am

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

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

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full.

working we may drive through 20 feet and be quite wet and the next 20 feet will be dry. (Mr. Barrett quoted Reports from October to January) - The Reports would go to show that there was an alteration in the country as far as the water was concerned. (Mr. Barrett read report 3rd. October "increase of water" and November 23rd. "little water making in the face" in December "fair streams coming from the face") If I found that going on in a mine that had been dry I would be extra careful. (Mr. Barrett read from several reports "fair streams of water which requires face boards", February 10th. "whole character of the ground was changed", February 28th. "strong streams bringing large quantities of sand") Taking the reports as true it would convey to my mind that it is an occurrence which would happen in any alluvial mine. These waters will cool up and you get changes of water in ground sometimes you have the pumps going two strokes extra and back again to the same number of strokes. In any country the blocked out ground would be likely to bring large quantities of sand where the rock is so close overhead as it is in the Proprietary mine. The water would come from the natural drainage of the rock. Imagining the block ground fell the water would flow from the drainage of the rock. The rock contains a certain amount of water but not in great bodies. It may bring away a strong stream. I would not expect it to do so. If I would not expect it and it did bring it away it would not

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convey to my mind that I had struck a greater quantity of water than I expected. I understand the question as to the blocked out ground coming down bringing large quantities of water and I have answered it as far as I can possibly do so. If he did say that the blocked out ground came down and brought large quantities of sand it would not convey anything to my mind specially. It would not suggest to me to look out for squalls of some sort it is according to circumstances sometimes it might and sometimes it might not. If it had occurred and I thought it came from a pool overhead bringing large quantities of sand I should make everything secure against an accident right away. I would not wait to have the danger tumble on my head. If there was a considerable amount of sand and a pool overhead, I would make things secure against accident. (Mr. Barrett read from Report of 28th. February - Mr. Clarke asked him to read the Report correctly - remarking he did not use the words over head) Mr. Barrett - a pool that is accumulated beneath the rock must be overhead. If I thought it was only a pool I would let it run itself out. If I considered it was a permanent thing, I would make it safe. So long as the water went away steadily there was no danger. If there was a vent I would let it run so long as there was no danger attached to it. There is not a chance of the vent filling up if there was much pressure behind it. If there is a pool overhead

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