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VOL. 22.

MORE BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND

The Remains of Eight of the Victims of Friday's Coal Mine Explosion Removed to Surface.

THE WORK OF EXPLORATION STOPPED

Cave-in of Roof Prevents Any Further Progress at Present—The Funeral of D. McInnes Took Place To-day.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The first bodies have been recovered from the shattered shaft in the Union mine. Such is the intelligence received from the scene of the late catastrophe this morning, which removes the apprehension felt by even officials of the mine that it might be a fortnight before the remains of the men could be brought to the surface.

The first body to be taken out was that of Duncan McInnes, who, with Munro and some Japs, was in the workings in proximity to the tunnel connecting with No. 5 shaft, and hence in the direct path of the rescuing party as they worked their way in from the latter. Near him was found the body of a Jap, and it is probable that before this paper reaches its readers Munro's body may also be found, and possibly others.

The announcement that the first of the men have been taken out is reassuring, indicating that the gangs which have worked so faithfully ever since the catastrophe are now steadily overcoming the difficulties in their way.

This is all the more pleasing, as telegrams received last night gave little encouragement in the reporting of progress. It appeared that when the shaft was reached at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, the rescuing party had been within 70 yards of No. 6 workings, and they expected to have to push their way through debris and wreckage, a distance of 140 yards, before they would come on any bodies. It is possible that this estimate may have been erroneous, or that the bodies were found nearer to the entrance to the tunnel through the defective running of the men to that place, and before they were overpowered by the fatal gas.

The difficulties with which the rescuers had to contend were of the gravest kind. No. 5 shaft was full of gas and the daring fellows who were charged with the work of recovering the bodies had to take air along with them, and in spite of this successive rushes of damp drove them back. The repairing of the brattice work and other timbering also had to be prosecuted under the same discouraging conditions, the nails being driven with wooden mallets for fear the steel head of a hammer striking the nails would cause a spark and lead to another explosion. When working they were obliged to keep near the floor, blowing the gas to float above them as far as possible.

At the hour of filing this dispatch, too, the grave doubt was felt as to whether No. 5 fan was large enough to carry air all through No. 6, and up to No. 5. To give effect to the work of the fans, the repaired timbering had to be stuffed with such materials as were obtainable.

Later in the afternoon at 4 o'clock, the outlook was much brighter. Underground Manager Matthews, who seems to have labored most unparingly and almost unceasingly ever since the accident, came out of No. 5 shaft and reported that work there was progressing very satisfactory.

It was found that he had descended to a point which is 85 feet of the bottom. He found the shaft free of gas, and no damage done by the second explosion.

By the time a comparison of information had been made by the officials of the mine familiar with the probable positions of the men when disaster overtook them, and the conclusion was reached that two-thirds of the bodies would be recovered without pumping. Some, however, will never be reached until the bottom of the shaft is free of water. Those who are believed to be at the very base of the workings are the overman, Wm. Walker, sr., and a number of Chinese. It is not known whether or not there are any more whites.

At the Base of the Shaft, although it is believed there are one or two others.

Premier Dunsmuir returned on the noon train today from the scene of the accident, accompanied by the solicitor of the company, C. B. Pooley, K. C.

Telegrams of sympathy have been received from all parts of the country, including one from the Ottawa government, and subscription lists are being opened at different parts of the country for the alleviation of the distress which will follow the sad affair.

Realizing that all hope for the entombed men is past the residents are making preparation for the interment, and dispatches from the mine intimate that caskets and other accessories necessary for the proper burial of the men are already provided, pending the recovery of the remains.

Mayor Hayward to-day received a telegram from Mayor Carthew, of Cumberland, thanking him for the message of sympathy and offer of assistance conveyed in his dispatch, as published in the Times yesterday, and stating that there would be many cases of distress among the widows and fatherless children.

Emptying the Mine. (Special to the Times.) Nanaimo, Feb. 19.—Yesterday Mine Inspectors Morgan and J. McGregor, with miners MacMurtre and Priest and others attempted to enter No. 6 mine from No. 5, and got within 70 feet of where MacInnes was working when they met a dense wall of fire damp and after damp. The condition of the mine baffles description, big beams reduced to toothpicks and brattice were scattered every way.

A gang was put to work repairing, using copper-headed hammers, hardwood mallets and nailheads covered with leather to prevent sparks. Morgan said a single spark there might cause an explosion far worse than the first. The men had to lie on their stomachs to work. Some fainted from inhaling the fumes, and had to be hauled out and sent to the surface.

Finally the attempt was abandoned, and attention turned to No. 6 shaft, which was got ready for the cage. A sounding showed 35 feet of water at the bottom of the shaft, showing the mine completely flooded. The cage got down sixty feet from the surface of the water without encountering gas. As the big pump was destroyed at the first explosion the water had to be bailed out, and an attempt made to explore the mine to find the bodies in that way.

Bailing out started last night, and work will be maintained by order of Premier Dunsmuir night and day till the mine is cleared and all the bodies are recovered.

Messrs. Dunsmuir and Pooley returned by the Joan last night, and went to Victoria to-day.

Mr. Pooley said the amount of gas in the mine was surprising. Fans, though working full blast, had no effect in reducing the volume.

List of Victims. WILLIAM B. WALKER, 48 years, foreman of No. 6 mine; married, leaves a widow and four daughters, his two sons being lost in the explosion with him.

WILLIAM WALKER, 20 years. GEORGE WALKER, aged 16 years. JOHN ALLISON, mule driver; single, about 20 years.

ROBERT STEELE, cager; single, about 20 years. ROBERT FLECK, from Scotland; about 40 years; married, leaves widow and six children in Scotland.

WILLIAM DAVIS, about 45, single; arrived about a month ago from Newcastle mines.

JAMES C. ROSETTI (Italian), about 36 years; married; leaves widow and one child in Turin, Italy. Had been employed at Union for 12 years.

JAMES HALLIDAY, about 45; married; leaves widow and family at Lethbridge, N. W. T. He intended to send for them in a month.

CHAS. BONA (Italian), about 30 years; married; leaves widow and family at Cumberland. He had been at Union several years.

DUNCAN MURRO, about 40; married; leaves widow and family of four at Cumberland. He arrived lately from Extension.

LOUIS SIMONDI (Italian), about 50; married; leaves widow at Cumberland, but no family. He had lived at Union about 12 years.

JOHN WHITE, about 42 years; married; leaves wife and five children, oldest boy about 16 years. He had lived at Union since the mine began, and is the eldest son of James White, overman of the mine.

ANDREW SMITH, about 40; single. Worked in the district collieries for a number of years.

THOMAS LORD, about 33; single. Lived at Union about six years.

WILLIAM SNEYDEN, about 40; married; leaves widow and large family.

PETER PARDISOVA (Italian), about 35; married; leaves widow and four children at Cumberland.

ANTOINE MAFFAIPO (Italian), 28; single. He was a late arrival.

DUNCAN MINNES, about 50 years; widower. Also a late arrival.

GEORGE TURNBULL, timberman, about 22 years; married about a year ago, and leaves a widow at Cumberland.

The weighmen reports that 64 men—20 whites, 9 Japanese and 35 Chinese—went down the mine, and not one has been taken out.

Manager's Statement. The official statement of the disaster was sent out yesterday from Cumberland. It embodies the statements of several of the officials, the most important being that of the manager, John Matthews. He says:

"I went down No. 6 that morning and got Foreman Walker and went through one section of the mine. Everything was in its usual condition. I asked him how everything was, and he said everything was all right. He said one of the drivers was off, and he had just sent for

the resident surgeon, C. A. Staples, M.D., says: "I was sitting in my office in the surgery when an explosion occurred in No. 6, but a short distance away. I immediately went to the scene of the explosion, realizing that it would be impossible for the men to get out of No. 6; and hoping that some might get through to No. 5, I started at once for No. 5 shaft. I met Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Walker, the latter of whom returned to No. 5, where an attempt was made to get through to No. 6. Mr. Walker leading a party, which was composed of Jim McNeil, Virgin Topolis and myself. We found good air travelling towards No. 6. On approaching the fourth door between the workings of No. 5 and No. 6, we met James Strange, fire boss for that section, who had been around the workings, telling the men to leave at once. Mr. Strange came with us, and we proceeded towards No. 6. We had

gone but a short distance further when we met Richard Cox, sr., Supt. Shaw and James Ashman to comply with the formalities required by the law.

A little later another dispatch was received stating that a body believed at that time to be Vincenzo Crosette was found, but this afterwards proved to be a mistake.

Further investigation proving it to be a Jap who was helper to Davis. This body was found about 25 yards from the spot where he would be working in the mine, lying with his arms outstretched towards No. 6 shaft. The back of his head was slightly burnt.

Simultaneously two other bodies were unearthed, one of which was afterwards found to be Davis, although neither was identified at the time. From the position of the bodies it was evident that the rescue party in prosecuting their work were attempting to escape when overcome by the afterdamp. The fire hall was converted into a morgue, and the bodies placed there until after the findings of the coroner's jury. The bodies were burnt a little, and were badly decomposed. It is about a mile from No. 5 shaft to the morgue. The bodies were placed in sleighs, and in this way conveyed to the latter place.

Later still in the evening another Chinaman was recovered, bringing the total number brought to the surface to eight.

In all probability this concludes the number which will be recovered at present, for at 10 o'clock last night the rescue party in prosecuting their work came to a cave-in in the roof. This blocked all progress, but it is expected that this will be got round to-day.

Pumping did not commence yesterday as the connections were blown to pieces and the shaft had to be repaired. The water was raised in large buckets, making the process very slow.

No. 4 shaft was started yesterday, as it was necessary to provide coal for the engines. The sawmills also commenced working. Work was practically suspended all over town up to that time, and will again be stopped to-day when McInnes is being buried.

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