

on the low side of the bord, which may have helped to lessen the desired effect of the shot.

The weight of evidence appeared to be that there had been an overcharge of powder.

It would appear that the expansion of the layers of the stone afforded space for the accumulation of gas, which would not be readily dislodged by the air current, and there was an unusual opportunity for accumulation, owing to the fact that the pit was idle the preceding day. That the shot gave evidence of having been a more or less flaming one; that it ignited the gas lodged in the roof stone; that this combination of gas and powder flame acting on an atmosphere charged with a small percentage of gas and fine floating dust derived from the lower bords, caused an intense flame sufficient to propagate itself until it reached an intensely explosive state and self supporting, swept the two balances and the adjacent levels.

The evidence of Enoch Cox, who worked in No. 1 bord, on the same balance, supports this view. He testified that some time previous to the explosion a shot was fired in this stone, that filled his working place with flame, and ignited the gas in the stone, so that it required some effort to extinguish it. It is fair to state that the management declare they never heard of this, and that it was never reported to them.

The effect of dust and gas are referred to therein. This is one of the few explosions that have happened on this side of the Atlantic, where an opportunity has offered for an exact identification of the starting point and for an examination into the results produced. The testimony thus gathered appears to agree closely with the results of previous enquiries in this direction in Nova Scotia, and is to the effect that as yet no explosion here can be traced directly to coal dust fired by powder or by an open light. In this connection the evidence given at Springhill (see Mines Report, 1890) seems to show that when flaming shots took place, both dust and gas were present.

The Springhill coal in character resembles that of Pictou, but is, perhaps, most properly described as intermediate between the Cape Breton and Pictou County coals. It is coking, and yields