

## TRAGEDIES.

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## AND FISHERIES.

Oct. 5.—Complains  
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## THIRTY KILLED IN MINE AT EXTENSION

Bodies of 23 of the Victims of  
Explosion Have Been Recov-  
ered From the Workings.

Details of the disaster at Extension coal mines which occurred yesterday forenoon show that the estimated loss of life exceeds what it was believed it would reach when the Times went to press yesterday. At least 30, according to the reports sent by the staff representative of the Times who is now on the ground, have lost their lives. There are still one or two concerning whose whereabouts there is nothing definite and they may be found among the victims.

Up to noon to-day 23 bodies had been recovered, while seven are still missing.

The explosion is one which appears to have been extremely local in character. Only one section of the mine was affected and there has been very little damage to the workings even in that section.

The circumstances connected with the disaster which were published in the Times yesterday have been borne out by the later investigations which were made possible late yesterday afternoon and to-day. There was no fire in the mine. An explosion of gas from a "pocket," which is sometimes encountered, caused all the trouble. The mine is practically undamaged and work can begin again almost at once.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

(By a staff representative of the Times.)  
Ladysmith, Oct. 6.—The little city of Ladysmith is to-day in mourning for the loss of many of its best citizens. The awful tragedy which overtook the place yesterday morning has laid a pall over the city, for the men who have been taken in the midst of their labors were known and respected by everyone.

Although the death list numbers probably less than thirty, there is scarcely



EXTENSION MINE.

a family in town but has lost a friend or a relative.

Like all such catastrophes the explosion at Extension has brought forth many heroes. It has called out the best part of the men of that town. When the call went out for volunteers to enter the mine to face the dreaded afterdamp, in the faint hope of finding one or two alive, the difficulty was to decide who to choose, for the number of those who offered was legion. Every one was ready to go and the officials of the company from Superintendent Little downwards were keen on pushing their way into the dark corners where death might be lying in wait at the next step.

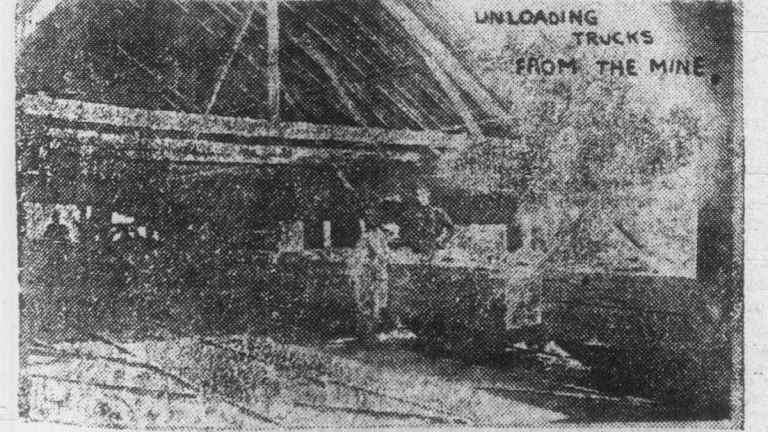
Many were almost overcome by the suffocating afterdamp and rallied only to push farther forward. Some had to be taken home to bed ill.

## Walk Into Afterdamp.

Among the victims found were some who were lost simply through an error of judgment. One large party of about fifteen apparently could not agree as to where was the source of danger. Five men, Ingram, White, Steele, McLennan and Ismister, decided that the way to safety lay in the direction of No. 3 level. They left the rest of the party and that was the last that was seen of them alive. They walked right into a bank of fire and were quickly overcome. The other ten, including Hyslop, Radford, Irving, and Bob Smith, were trying to find a way out when they were heard by Foreman Alex. Shaw, who was at the head of a rescue party. He immediately knocked a board out of a pratice and pulled them through to safety.

Superintendent interviewed.

Superintendent Frank Little, inter-



UNLOADING TRUCKS FROM THE MINE.

## Bodies Recovered

THOS. THOMAS, Miner.  
THOS. O'CONNELL, Miner.  
JAS. MOLYNEUX, Miner.  
EDWARD DUNN, Car-pusher.  
WM. DAVIDSON, Driver.  
ANDREW MOFFATT, Bratticeman.  
ALEX. MILOS, Car-pusher.  
ALEXANDER McLELLAN, Miner.  
JOHN ISMISTER, Tracklayer.  
FRED INGRAM, Bratticeman.  
ROBERT WHITE, Miner.  
WYNN STEEL, Miner.  
WM. KESSERICK, Miner.  
ROBT. MARSHALL, Timberman.  
WM. ROBINSON, Timberman.

This makes a total of 30.

others was as little damage as is done here.

"The first bodies found were those of men killed by fire, but those in the vicinity of the explosion were badly burned. Most signs point to the origin being in the neighborhood of 2½-level. Small parts of the brattice were blown out, but nothing very great. Most of the caves were in coal, and will have to be removed before it is definitely ascertained how many were killed. Most of the men were heading out. The rescue parties worked nobly."

Alex. Bryden, foreman of No. 3 mine, said that the fireman, Crozier, found no gas in the morning at 7 o'clock when he went through the workings. He could not account for the explosion. It might be that a feeder was struck or a derangement of a curtain or door might have caused an accumulation of gas sufficient to go off when lighted.

Bratticeman's Story.  
Arthur Glen, who was bratticing in the mine at the time of the explosion, said he felt no concussion nor heard any report. There was a rush of air and he at once realized that something was wrong. He was one of the lastest in. He did not come to the surface but remained to see what could be done towards rescue. He did not come out until the afternoon. When Alex. Shaw, the foreman, called for a rescue party, those who went in were David Davidson, Jim Easton, Andrew Bryden, Glen, Malpas and two others. They had to repair the stopping as they went as it would have been mad to have gone ahead without ventilation. There was little caving and no fire. The fans were at work all the time, but the ventilation was disturbed owing to leaks in the bratticing.

Bratticeman's Story.  
Several of the driver boys told of their experiences. One quite small lad was sitting in the bottom of his truck with the mule walking ahead. He was thrown clean out just as if he had been seized and flung forward. He drove his mule into some of the places where men were working and they piled into the box and trotted out.

Another older lad was sitting on the front of his truck behind the mule and was thrown off. He had a load of coal behind him so he left the mule and walked out.

Three separate mines," said Mr. Little, "connected with the one tunnel, and in all of these there would be 500 men employed for the shift. In No. 2 mine, where the explosion occurred, there were 183. It was a purely local explosion and hardly any damage was done to the mine. In some parts of the mine the explosion was not felt, and the men wondered what was the matter when told to hurry out. All the damage done was confined to a space of 150 yards in length.

## Recovering Bodies.

"Before the men entered the mine Fireman Crozier reported having visited every part and that all were free from gas. Two firemen are employed in each mine, but the part where the explosion occurred came under Fireman Crozier's inspection. The mine is quite damp, and this fact probably saved the workings and the rest of the men, for, had it been dusty the explosion would not have spent itself so easily.

"This is the first explosion we have ever had at Extension. Eight years ago there was a fire, but not an explosion.

"There were a number of men who could easily have got out had they known the direction of the danger. Not knowing this they walked right into the fire. I have been in three explosions, one at Nanaimo, one at Comox when No. 6 mine went off, and now this one, but in none of these

## MULES AND DRIVERS AT EXTENSION MINE.

hurried out just in time. The mule is still below.

Some of the Victims.  
Among the victims a number were married men who leave wives and families to mourn for them and to make the struggle for existence alone. Robert White, who is about 40 years of age, leaves a wife and six children. She is a sister of Thos. O'Connell, who was one of the victims, and a daughter of Thos. O'Connell, sr., so well known in Ladysmith.

Wm. Kesserick leaves a wife and three children.  
John Hewitt, sometimes known by the name of Ward, leaves a wife and one child.

Thos. O'Connell, a single man of about 22 or 23 years of age, was recently elected manager of the Ladysmith football team. He was the son of Thos. O'Connell, formerly of Wellington, but who has lived at Ladysmith ever since the Extension mine opened. He is night watchman on the police force.

James Molyneux, a single man 31 years of age, was an expert walker, a splendid singer and was one of the Canadian volunteers who served in the South African war. He has a number of medals which will be forwarded to his people. His funeral is being arranged by the Eagles.

William Quinn was a young man of about 20 years. His father, his step-father, and a brother have all met their death in coal mine disasters.

Fred Ingham was a well known

mining man. His brother Jay for years helped in a Nanaimo hospital as a result of a mine accident.

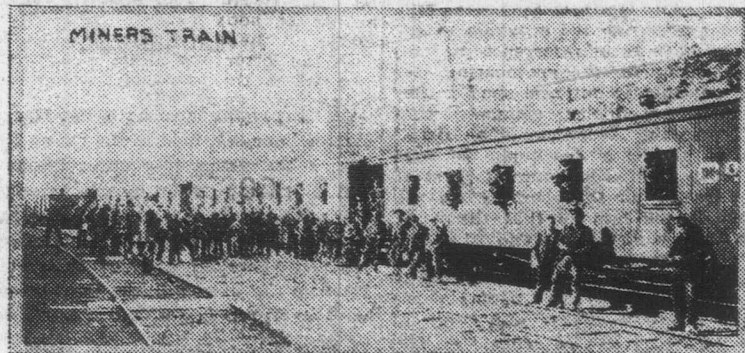
John Wargo leaves a wife and nine children.

BODIES OF FIVE  
VICTIMS FOUND TO-DAYInquest Formally Opened at  
Extension and Adjourned  
For Few Days.

(By a Staff Representative of the Times.)

Ladysmith, Oct. 6, noon.—This morning an inquest was opened in the Arlington hotel here by Coroner Davis on James Molyneux and Thomas O'Connell, whose bodies were brought down from Extension last night. The following jury was empanelled: Wm. Fraser (foreman), Frank Forrest, Robert Freethy, K. McCaskill, Robert Gear, James Burns, Wm. Rolston and Percy Wench.

After viewing the bodies the inquest was adjourned for a few days. Since midnight five more bodies have been recovered. They are those of



MINERS' TRAIN.

Alex. McLellan, John Ismister, Fred Ingham, Robert White and Wynn

converted into a temporary morgue, and grouped around on the floor were stretchers laden with their burdens. The faces of most of the men were unrecognizable except to their nearest friends.

Some of the bodies had been removed to Ladysmith early in the evening and one had been taken to Nanaimo. Work was continued all night removing the debris in order that the other bodies might be reached.

HON. JAMES DUNSMUIR  
LEAVES FOR SCENEHe Feels Very Keenly With  
Respect to the Loss  
of Life.

Hon. James Dunsmuir, president of the coal company, left this morning for Ladysmith and Extension, called there by the disaster which has taken place in the mines there. He feels very keenly the loss of life in his mine, and will remain at the scene as long as he can be of assistance. According to the report received by Mr. Dunsmuir from the mine shortly before he left for Ladysmith this morning, the men unaccounted for were 23 in number. There was no fire in the mine and no damage done to it according to the message. Mr. Dunsmuir said this morning the accident was difficult to account for. It must have been due, he said, to a "blow out." The information he received was that there was practically no damage and there was nothing to prevent work starting up again immediately the bodies were recovered.

FATHER CAINE HAS  
GONE TO LADYSMITHHe Will Offer Consolation to  
Bereaved and Assist  
Where Possible.

Rev. Father Caine, of this city, immediately upon hearing of the disaster at Extension last evening, made arrangements to visit the place and offer whatever consolation was possible to the bereaved. He accordingly left

Rescue Work Continues—Damage  
Purely Local and Due to  
"Pocket" of Gas.

this morning for Ladysmith and will remain there several days.

Some months ago Father Caine conducted a mission among the miners of the Extension mine. During that time he became intimately acquainted with them. He formed a very high opinion of the men and felt as soon as he heard that disaster had come to the camp that his place was there. Accordingly he dropped all the work on hand in Victoria and left for Ladysmith. A large proportion of those who have lost their lives, Father Caine says, were Roman Catholics. He knew nearly all the men who were the victims of the explosion.

Father Caine has had a good deal of experience in mining camps in various parts of the world. He lived in Lancashire, Eng., in the mining area for some time, and later was in various camps in Australia, notably in Coolgardie. He is thus well acquainted with mining conditions and is admirably adapted to comfort the bereaved at a time like this. He says he will remain with the sorrowing as long as he can be of service to them.

TWO MORE BELIEVED  
TO HAVE PERISHEDLoss of Life May Reach 32—  
Steadily Clearing  
Mine.

(Staff Correspondent of Times.)  
Extension, Oct. 6.—2:30 p.m.—All is quiet at the mines here to-day. Only those who can be of assistance in the work of clearing the mines and recov-



EXTENSION MINE—ANOTHER VIEW.

ering the bodies are being allowed to pass up from Ladysmith to here. The relief work is going on steadily. There is absolutely no confusion, the work being done in the most methodical manner.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir is himself here, and takes a deep interest in all the work being done.

It is believed now that there may be 32 lives lost. In addition to the names already given two men, John Dulich, a miner who has a family in the Old Country, and M. Peterovitch, a Russian Pole, are not accounted for, and it is feared they may be among those who lost their lives.

There is no certainty as to when the last of the bodies will be recovered. The relief party is encountering obstructions in the way of debris which has to be removed, and it is impossible to tell when the bodies may be reached.

The first of the funerals will take place to-morrow, when two of the victims will be laid at rest.

SHOWED READINESS  
TO GIVE ASSISTANCEThose Able to Render Aid Hur-  
ried to Scene of  
Disaster.

Ladysmith, Oct. 6.—Mayor Nicholson, of Ladysmith, was at the time of the accident in Victoria in connection with his business as a builder and contractor. On hearing the news he at once hurried to the station and caught the afternoon train home. He was in grave doubt as to whether his two brothers-in-law, Archie and Albert McKinnon, might have been in the mine at the time. Fortunately, they were among those who got out.

He stated that some step would be at once taken to provide for the bereaved families, some of whom would be in great need of help.

Ralph Smith to Help.  
Ralph Smith, M.P., on hearing of the

sad event in Victoria, at once decided to return to Extension, and go from there to Extension to see if there was anything he might do to help. He was to have addressed a meeting of Liberals at Saanich, but the call of humanity was more important to him than politics.

Father Nicolayev on Spot.

Rev. Father Nicolayev also responded to a quick call back to work. He is in charge of the Roman Catholic congregation at Ladysmith, but was spending a day or two in Victoria. He left yesterday afternoon to do what he could to comfort the friends of the lost.

When the train from Victoria reached Ladysmith last evening it bore two girls whose near relatives were among the victims. When they were told of the tragedy their cries were most heart-rending. One was borne off in a fainting condition.

O'CONNELL'S FUTILE  
DASH FOR SAFETYBelieved to Have Been Ren-  
dered Unconscious by  
Dashing Against Pillar.

Extension, via Ladysmith, Oct. 6.—Sad stories are pouring in of the victims of the disaster. The sister and brother-in-law of Ingham arrived last night from Kansas on a visit.

Wargo and Messerich returned on Sunday from a hunting trip and intended to work for one day and then resume their holiday.

Rescuers resumed work at daylight. O'Connell's Last Rush.

Among the men who lost their lives



EXTENSION MINE—ANOTHER VIEW.

In this explosion there were none more popular or better known, not only on Vancouver Island, but also in sporting circles on the mainland, than Tom O'Connell, the star fullback of the Ladysmith football team. From the position in which his body was found it was evident that he had taken alarm at the first sound of the explosion and made a desperate effort to escape. He was working some distance from the exact spot where the explosion originated, and one of the few men who escaped said O'Connell had called to him and then started to run to escape the deadly afterdamp, which generally causes a greater loss of life than the explosion itself. He was found with his arms drawn up and his leg muscles still tense from the last desperate rush, more determined than he had ever made on a football field, in which he was trying to reach fresh air. In his mad rush he had dashed full tilt against a pillar in the darkness. The shock evidently stunned him and allowed the deadly gas to overtake him. His body was among the five found when the rescuers managed to penetrate past the two-mile mark on No. 2 slope.

Giants' Fight For Life.  
Alex. Milos, a giant Greek, with the frame and muscles of a Hercules, was the last of the initial quintette of bodies rescued. He had been terribly mangled and burned by the explosion, but his phenomenal physique enabled him to press on until exhausted nature finally gave way, and the afterdamp overtook him. With the exception of the one body, the head and torso of which were so badly mangled as to be still unidentified at a late hour last night, Milos' body was the most shockingly mangled of the lot. Stripped to the waist as he was at his work the flame of the explosion literally peeled the skin off until it was hanging in shreds over his hands like the fragments of a badly torn, blackened glove. The sole of one of his heavy shoes was torn clean off, and the uppers of both hung in tatters with not the slightest sign of a lace in one shoe.



GROUP OF MINERS AT EXTENSION.