

could not do better than ask Mr. Wilson, who knows more about that powder, to tell us something about it.

MR. WILSON—The investigation seems to have been very thorough, and from my knowledge of that powder and of the ingredients, I would infer from the description here given, that it has been the result of impact of a piece of coal or other material from the face. It would be pretty hard to get that powder exploded by concussion; we have laid one cartridge within two feet of another, and tried that. In that case we have not found that an explosion occurred, but we have found that direct impact will set it off, for instance, a bullet from a gun.

MR. FERGIE—Would it be possible for one of these cartridges to explode by the roof falling on it?

MR. WILSON—I would say not, as the roof falls from a small distance, and does not get up sufficient speed.

On motion the meeting adjourned until 3 p.m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

MR. FERGIE—I have here a telegram from Mr. Stuart re the carrying of explosives on the I. C. R. The question is, whether or not we should petition the Government in regard to the matter.

MR. WILSON—Our Company has been in correspondence with the Railway Department during the past month in regard to carrying dynamite—rates, conditions, etc., and it took considerable time to get a definite answer. When we did, it was "No." We withdrew from any further correspondence in the matter.

#### DISCUSSION ON MR. ALEX. McNEIL'S PAPER.

(CONTINUED.)

MR. FERGIE—There have been two or three opinions as to the size of the areas. Mr. Willis thought they should be increased to 1,000 by 1,500 feet.