

REPORT
OF
THE
1908

MINE EXPLOSION
AT
HANNA

At a meeting held in the Hanna Mine Office of the Union Pacific Coal Company on July 8th, 1908, to consider the advisability of, and method to be pursued in, opening No. One Mine, the following were present.

Mr. John J. Hart,
Mr. Morgan Griffith,
Mr. W. Tait,
Mr. Andrew Brown,
Mr. Geo. Poide,
Mr. John McNeil,

Mr. A. E. Bradbury,
Mr. T. H. Butler,
Mr. Chas. Higgins,
Mr. Moses Harvey,
Mr. H. K. Bennett,
Mr. Thos. Gibson,
Mr. Grant Reutt,

Mr. C. L. Black,
Mr. John Dykes,
Mr. Jas. Woods,
Mr. John Hates,
Mr. J. E. Pettit,
Mr. Thos. Fahy,

The following is the more important part of the discussion that took place at the above meeting.

Mr. Hart suggested that a permanent Chairman be chosen. It was moved and unanimously seconded that Mr. ~~Hunt~~ Bradbury be made Chairman. W. C. Jones and Mr. Fahy were chosen as Secretary and Asst. Secretary respectively.

Mr. Bradbury stated the purpose of the meeting and asked for suggestions from all present as to the best course to follow in opening the mine.

Mr. Gibson: I think it advisable to have the State Mine Inspector present.

Mr. Bradbury: I expected Mr. Bird on Train No. Four this morning and know of no reason why he is not here. It might be well to wire him and get an understanding as to when he will be here, if it is thought best. I think myself the State Mine Inspector should be present.

Mr. Hart: Even though they are not going to open the mine again for operation the Coal Company feels that ~~stark~~ they have a certain moral duty placed on their shoulders and they wish to open the mine to recover the bodies, except that they will not undertake to recover any body at the risk of any more lives; no more lives will be lost in that mine. The widows and orphans expect that the Company will do everything that they can do, regardless of what it may cost the Company and

this will not be done, but we cannot expect to recover the remains of these poor souls at the risk of a single life. The desire of the Company is to do this duty if it is safe, and in calling together so many they are not endeavoring to avoid any responsibility whatever but they do want to have the concentrated wisdom and experience of any and all that are experienced along this line of work; the Company is in a receptive condition - they will do whatever the majority of this meeting may deem wise and safe. For that purpose there are representatives of the Company here, we have asked a representative of the State, we have asked representatives of the employees of The Union Pacific Coal Company and we have asked outsiders and I believe we have asked no one but what is capable of giving the safest and best advice in a matter of this kind. If the mine can be opened safely and the bodies can be recovered the Company is ready to do it; if the mine is unsafe the Company will not do it until it is safe. If examination shows that through decomposition or on account of the length of time that the poor men have laid in there that the bodies are unrecognizable we all have another duty to perform and seriously consider in connection with the people left behind; in other words, we may try to recover bodies and there be no bodies that are recognizable and we have to take that into consideration. We may as well bring that matter home to ourselves and do the very best we can.

Mr. Pettit: I would suggest that we get into communication with Mr. Bird, if possible. I move that Mr. Bird be telegraphed to.

Mr. Hart: While I am willing to second that Motion I think we should not wait until he gets here, there being so many of us here now. I second Mr. Pettit's motion.

It having been moved and seconded a message was sent to Mr. Joe. Bird, State Mine Inspector, Diamondville, asking when he would be here.

TO
STENOGRAPHER
CITY ATTORNEY
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Mr. Hart: It was not my intention to take any decisive action until the arrival of the State Mine Inspector, if he is going to arrive. If the representative of the State is simply delayed for a few hours well and good; if the representative of the State is not going to be here we will act anyway, according to the judgment of this meeting.

Mr. Gibson: I would ask that the Superintendent of the Hanna Mines state the condition of the mine at present.

Mr. Hart: The present Superintendent, Mr. Butler, was of course appointed after Mr. Briggs's death and was told that he had nothing to do with that mine except to see that the watchmen were placed there and make their reports promptly and attended to their duties; the daily reports of these watchmen are all on file in this office. These men were picked out for their especial fitness for work of that nature; that is, their knowledge of fire and gas and they are both old and experienced miners, as I understand it, and they can give much better reports than the Superintendent. One of these men, Mr. Brown, is here now and will tell us what he knows of the conditions at the East Side.

Mr. Brown: We have been there since the explosions of March 28th and find that the indications, to my knowledge, are that there is still fire raging down there. One time when you go to the stopping it will be pulling in and another time it is pushing out. So much oxygen gets in some way or another and the gas expands and pushes out, overcoming the pressure of the outside atmosphere. Our reports all show pressure one time and pulling in the next. I know for a fact that there is a fire down there as I was building stoppings before the explosion. There is no doubt but it is a dangerous proposition to go down there, in any case.

TO
STENOGRAPHER
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Mr. McNeil: Would it not be a very good idea to have this Fire Boss read the records for the last ten days.

Mr. Pettit: I would recommend that we hear the records for the first ten days of April as well as those for the last ten days.

Mr. Tait: I think as Mr. Brown does, about the mine "breathing". I have known of entries being walled off and we would get the same conditions; some times it would draw in and some times it would push out.

Mr. Bradbury: There is not much question but that there is fire there and the minute it is opened is the time it will demonstrate itself. Of course, the heat will naturally draw oxygen to it if there is any return and by doing so the gas in the mine might possibly be drawn across and we would get another explosion before we ever got to the fire. Has any one else any suggestions or anything to state that would be interesting, as to the proper and best way to proceed?

Mr. McNeil: The difference of the temperature inside is what I would look to most. The difference would indicate that Mr. Brown is pretty correct in his statement that there could not be a difference of thirty degrees without there was a fire. It seems to be more regular and uniform recently and I believe that to the most experienced in such things there remains an unknown quantity and we probably could not arrive at just what the conditions are and I think the most experienced could not decide as to the guarantee that the mine could be opened without loss of life. It might be that it could be opened and the bodies taken out with no accident but we know that in such cases we cannot tell and the unknown quantity remains. I have a good deal of experience with coal on fire and with the bituminous coal where the percentage of moisture is low it is almost impossible for a fire to last very long if it does not get air but I have seen lignite coal hold fire after we had thought it

absolutely walled off, to hold fire with very little oxygen. It is more than likely in this case that our efforts will probably meet with some fire; I do not think it to be the case but it is likely to be so. I can cite one case that I know of, where is walled off in Glen Rock. Some fourteen years ago fire was started in the stable; we took the mine ten years ago and naturally supposed the fire was out; we opened another mine near by and by making connection through the new mine we had a fire in two months, worse than the one they had before.

true so far as the Company is concerned and they want to have it a known quantity and we do not want any possible loss of life. If all the gentlemen here interested can agree upon some proposition whereby we can make a test of the mine as it stands now and determine whether it is an unknown or known quantity I think we can all get together and make a unanimous decision as to what shall be done and dispose of the matter one way or another; it is simply a question of getting the bodies out if we can, on the one hand, or of leaving them there on the other, if we cannot safely recover them. It might be possible to make that test by opening this stopping and running the fan - it might be possible to make the test some other way, but no loss of life will be risked.

Mr. Bradbury: You have heard the statement on the line of taking chances, as represented by Mr. Hart, and it might be well to discuss that and come to some conclusion as to what would be most proper.

Mr. Gibson: I think it would be ~~well~~ advisable for us to wait and see the State Mine Inspector and have these gentlemen who have been looking after that mine for the last three months make their statements to him. I do not believe there is a gentleman here who wants to make any sacrifice of lives, but I am willing to listen to older heads who have had more experience in mine work. I do not believe the men in the camp believe we should make any more sacrifice of lives. There may be

suggestions made by some of the gentlemen that would give us further ideas.

Mr. Hart: It was not my intention to hasten any action, nor would I consent myself on behalf of the Company to any action, until the State Mine Inspector does arrive and is a party to this conference. I simply brought that out as a suggestion for us to get our brains working and let every one have a plan by the time Mr. Bird does get here. It is not my intention to ask him to assume the whole responsibility. Some of course are very wise as individuals but none of us know as much as these.

Mr. Bradbury: I think all present here understand the intention. It is a matter of getting the proposition as it stands and to thrash it out and look it over and consider as to what we best need to do.

Mr. Hart: We will either do that work safely or we will not do it at all. Mr. Woods, you were a Gas Watch in No. One Mine just previous to the explosion, tell us what you know of the fires on the East Side.

Mr. Woods: There was a fire in No. 1 Entry, walled off at #10 Room; a fire in No. Two Entry walled off at #23 Room, and a fire in No. Three Entry with two temporary stoppings put in about a month before the explosion, between #7 and #8 Rooms. There was no fire in No. Four Entry but it was making gas in old rooms; Nos. Six and Eight Entries were making gas; in No. Ten Entry sometimes we would have no gas at all and the next time a shot was fired we would get a feeder and there would be lots of gas. We always good great care in Nos. Eight and Ten Entries as they were working double shift but had no rooms turned. Sometimes could come for a week. No. Ten Entry was making gas at different times during last January but not very often since then; when we got most of

the gas was when we were driving cross-cuts from Back to Top entries.

Meeting adjourned at eleven thirty A. M., to meet at one thirty P. M. and make a trip to the East Side, then to await arrival of State Mine Inspector Bird on Train No. Six as it was ascertained that he was a passenger on that train.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Gandy

The following licenses were issued:

Mr. Bird: What is the intention of the company? Is it to

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It myself, is that they ~~insist~~ are willing and ready to do any-
thing that looks systematic and that looks as if it could be accomplish-
ed without loss of life.

Mr. Bixby: That's the question -- can it be accomplished with-
out loss of life? Of course it can be opened up if they want it open-
ed but can it be accomplished without loss of life? As I said before,
one life man is worth a hundred dead ones; it can be opened but then it
is the lives that come next; what are you going to do about it? I
would like to hear how the United Mine Workers of America feel about
this affair.

Mr. Gibson: The question was talked over this morning, in regard to this matter. The officials of the organization do not think believe in making any sacrifices. We thought we would listen to the case as decided here, and the feeling among all has been that no lives should be sacrificed. Truly, as Mr. Bird says, it can be opened but one live man is worth a thousand dead ones. We do not believe in making any sacrifices, and we shall surely render all possible assistance to the Company. You have probably had more experience than we have; you can see for yourself tomorrow. They have kept a daily report in regard to the pressure and they have two men there at this time. We all realize the position of the widows and orphans but as far as demand- ing is concerned I, individually and as one of the officials, do not

make a demand; if it is going to make a sacrifice I surely will not say "Yes"; even if I had a brother or father in there at the present time I should not say to go ahead.

Mr. Bird: Of course, we are all well aware that the Company and everybody else concerned, especially the widows, would like to see the mine opened and the bodies taken out. It is going to be at considerable cost but of course that makes no difference, but how do the widows feel over it? Couldn't you compromise with these widows and keep them quiet by putting a monument up over the East Side?

Mr. Gibson: For the benefit of the gentlemen who were not here this morning I think it would be a good idea for Mr. Brown to tell what he has seen over there.

As suggested by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Brown repeated his statement made at the morning session.

Mr. McNeill: In looking over the record that was kept, taking temperature, there were days when the temperature on the following day would change thirty degrees; that is, the temperature to-day might be thirty-five degrees and tomorrow sixty-five degrees; that would indicate abnormal heat, which would cause expansion and would cause the pushing out; the thing is, in lignite coal it is hard to tell. Whether or not there is any air getting into the East Side I cannot tell but one thing we do know - there is no black damp given off, and I am quite sure the gas I saw in the lamp to-day was carburated hydrogen. To enter a mine after any explosion I think there is more or less risk and I do not think the most experienced would venture to say whether or not that mine can be opened without loss of life; it is an unknown quantity, and I know we have taken risks many times. I think there would be considerable risk in opening the mine, in this connection - lignite coal holds fire and when you think it is out it is not out; all it needs is oxygen to

create combustion.

Mr. Young: I think the best thing to do would be to leave the mine sealed, if it can be arranged that way.

Mr. Pettit: I would like to state that although we have explosive gases surging at the stopping yet if there is a fire in the mine it is not explosive near the fire for the reason that it takes a certain amount of pure air before it will fire, and the mere fact that there is inflammable gas at the stopping does not prove that there is or is not a fire in the mine. I have personal friends in there that I would like to see out and given a decent burial and would be willing to assist in doing that if I considered that conditions were ordinarily safe but at the same time I am like these other gentlemen. If the main stopping is knocked out and we get in and try to get these bodies every man will understand that he is taking a certain risk and we may be successful and we may be unsuccessful. That is how I feel in the matter.

Mr. McNeill: That is very true, Mr. Pettit, that the gas would be explosive at the stopping and might not be a way in the mine, the same as gas will burn in a gas jet. I believe that just as soon as you take air into the mine you will find that the gas will be explosive all the way as you bring oxygen up to it. It might be opened up and these bodies taken out without the loss of a life but it is a risk and it is most probable there might be an accident providing the fire is still there. It would be a very dangerous proposition to approach.

Mr. Bird: Even if there should be no fire there is still a risk. I never was in this mine but I understand it is on a very great pitch; going down a cave it would probably be a forty $\frac{1}{2}$ or forty-five degree pitch and a man working on that pitch would be overcome very quickly and would be gone before any one could get to him.

Mr. Young: You can take all of our Northern mines and I

don't suppose there is a mine up there, with possibly two or three exceptions, that hasn't a fire in it. They are walled off with rock stoppings and still there is fire in them.

Mr. Pettit: Just to get the views of those present I would like to ask - Suppose that stopping was knocked out and left open for, say, a day or a couple of days, providing that arrangements were made directly after the opening, if possible, to put a stopping further inside of this one, what would be the result of that stopping being open for a couple of days even if there was fire in the mine?

Mr. Higgins: According to my judgement, if there was a fire on that slope there would be an explosion.

Mr. Hart: It is practically impossible to put that stopping in any farther on account of the fall that has occurred there; that stopping is in about as far as it can be put safely.

Mr. Mates: Is it not the calculation of the engineers that No. 10 Entry is under water?

Mr. Hart: We figured roughly one time that that is about where the water comes to.

Mr. Bird: Mr. Hart says the Company is not going to take any risk - who is going to take it? We will come to the point.

Mr. McNeil: I think Mr. Hart means that they do not want any lives sacrificed. Of course, the way I look at it is that Mr. Hart, Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Black represent this Company but I do not know that they are the best men to go in there to do the work. I believe they would all do their part.

Mr. Griffiths: There is always more or less risk when a man enters a coal mine, whether there is fire in there or not.

Mr. McNeil: I don't say for a minute that it might not be successfully done; it all depends upon what you are going to find, and

that is that unknown quantity.

Mr. Griffith: At the time we opened up the Almy mine after the fire in No. Seven the mine was closed down three days short of one year. We had a forcing fan forcing the air into the mine; we never entered the mine until eleven or twelve o'clock that night, after running the fan from nine o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Woods: I have seen it in that mine where there have been caves and one man has traveled the place and found it all clear and in less than twenty minutes it has been a raging furnace and it is quite possible the places on the slope might be the same. In No. 20 or 22 Entry I travelled a room and as I was coming out I met Mr. Brooks, former Mine Superintendent here; he asked me how the room was and I said it was all right and he went in and came out and said he also found it all right; we got to the parting, about four hundred feet away, we met Dick Wilson; he went into the room and came back out to the parting where Mr. Brooks and I were standing and said the room was on fire; not over twenty minutes had elapsed between the time I was in the room and the time that Wilson came out and told us it was on fire.

Mr. Nates: There is no indication of fire at present. We have to take the present temperature to decide what is down below.

Mr. Griffith: When we put that stopping in on the East Side slope there was a very strong tar smell that I was entirely unable to get to-day; there was no fire smell to-day.

Mr. Nates: If there was a fire of any great extent we should have more carbon dioxide. There can be no fire there.

Mr. Woods: No. 1 Entry had a big fire, No. 3 Entry was closed off just a few weeks before the explosion, and No. 2 Entry is said to have a pretty bad fire but I didn't see it. The fire in No. 3 Entry was walled off in the second block of rooms on the entry; the stopping

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bradbury at ten thirty A. M. July 8th, after all members present at last previous session had made a trip to the East Side.

Mr. Bradbury: I would like to have all interested give their opinions as to what is best to be done, and the best method to be followed in whatever work is done.

Mr. Bird: Every one has seen the conditions; what is going to be done ?

Mr. Bradbury: That's what this meeting is for - to come to some kind of a definite conclusion. I do not know that it is the duty of the Chair to state what should be done but it is open to any recommendations that may be made and then to decide upon what may be considered best and what may be most proper, in the opinion of those present at this meeting. I don't know of any suggestions I could make, as Chairman, to decide just what should be done.

Mr. McNeill: Inasmuch as the State Mine Inspectors were not with us yesterday and they were out to-day I would suggest that we hear what views they may have. We expressed our views yesterday and we would like to know if they coincide.

Mr. Bird: It is just the same as when I saw it last time, probably two months ago, and of course if it is going to be opened it is the Union Pacific Coal Company that will open it and they have got to take the risk; I do not think any one else will take the risk. The management of the Union Pacific Coal Company is responsible for the mine laying as it does to-day and they will have to do whatever is done. I will do my part.

Mr. McNeill: I think that is very well spoken and I have no doubt there are members of the Union Pacific Coal Company that feel anxious, and as far as responsibility is concerned I suppose that it

was built at the inside of the air course.

Mr. Gibson: The Mine Inspectors were not with us to-day and I think it would be advisable for the gentlemen to go over there tomorrow morning and make a more thorough examination as to the gas coming out there and come back here and talk the question over and probably they will be in a better position to talk it over than at the present time. The gentlemen did all they possibly could to discover what the air was doing and to get a more thorough knowledge of the situation and I think it would be no more than right that the State Mine Inspectors go over there tomorrow morning.

Mr. Bradbury: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion; does any one second it?

Mr. McNeil: I second the motion.

The question being put to a vote Mr. Gibson's motion was carried.

Mr. Mates: I would suggest that each and every one weigh carefully what has been talked over here this evening; it will give them a good understanding as to what we have before us.

Mr. Bradbury: I believe they will all do some good thinking and do their very best to compromise this matter in the most feasible, most possible and best way that it can be done, and we will of course all act in accordance with the decision of the majority.

The meeting then adjourned until eight A. M. July 8th, to go to the East Side and then repair to the Mine Office for further discussion of the matter in hand.

would lay upon their shoulders as well as upon the State Inspector of Coal Mines. I think that to give up without effort would bring censure upon both the State and the Management and I am of the same opinion to-day that I was yesterday - that the mine cannot be entered and say that there is no risk or no danger. That unknown quantity has followed you State Mine Inspectors and many others that go into the mines and still I state the same views as yesterday - that were my brother in there I would like to look upon him as I saw him last rather than to have his decomposed body before me and then be in doubt as to whether I had his bones or not; his wife, however, might have quite a different opinion and to satisfy the bereaved ones I think it behooves the State Mine Inspectors of this State and the officials of this Company to escape public censure, to make every effort possible, even in the face of danger, to return to the surface the bodies now in the mine. For myself I would gladly offer my assistance and take charge of a shift to do that were it not that I have already given my word to be on the other side of the Atlantic this month; I abandoned the same trip with the same members of my family, less the one son, when the former explosion took place five years ago.

Mr. Bird: If that mine is opened I will be there and that is the only risk I will take - that is, my life. But it must be done in a systematic manner and the law must be carried out. I heard a man speak this morning about going in there and putting in a board stopping but board stoppings will not go; they must be built of rock or not at all.

Mr. McNeill: I believe that something like Mr. Bird has in mind occurred to me both yesterday and to-day but I believe I am more firmly convinced to-day that it should be done; I think the stoppings at both the inlet and outlet are faulty; the air is going in one at one time and out at another and it might be possible, without any risk,

to go into the mine as far as the cross-cut that leads to the fan and put in a stopping gng on the main entry and main return which would thoroughly isolate the mine from any air or atmospheric influence. I believe that it may be a question wise to take up before this meeting, whether, as Mr. Bird says, the conditions are the same now as they were a month ago. Yesterday I expressed myself as surprised to find that ~~fresh~~ carburetted hydrogen gas at the surface and that there had not been other gases to counteract that but it is owing to the faulty stoppings and not thoroughly isolating the mine from air. If it was unwise a month ago and the conditions are the same now it seems to me it is a question for us to consider and I would like to ask Mr. Griffith, Mr. Black and Mr. Bradbury and the State Mine Inspectors and all other experienced men here, if it might not be well to put in two permanent stoppings, built with stone, cement and lime, at the cross-cut that goes to the fan and whether if a month after the conditions will not be better. Personally, I believe the mine could be opened now and go down and put stoppings in, walling off entries to the left and to the right and probably get through without any sacrifice of life but no one can be absolutely sure; that there is danger we know and that there might be an accident is possible; now, in the face of that would it not be better to put in these permanent stoppings and wait a little.

Mr. Pettit: I would like to state my position in regard to this matter. When I was asked to come down here I submitted the letter to the Governor of Utah and he said, "By all means go but I forbid you to enter the mine if it should be decided to open it". It seems to me the question before us now is, Shall we attempt to open the mine? If that question is settled then the manner of opening can be discussed later, and it seems to me personally that the attempt should be made. I know, like Mr. McNeil, that whatever is done there will be public

criticism and of course we can all stand that but when it comes to public criticism from our own friends it cuts a little deep when we know that we have done all that our best judgement prompted us to do. It may be possible that upon reaching a point below that cave it can be determined whether or not it would be better to put in the permanent stoppings. It seems to me that with the gas given off at these stoppings it is not the fault of those that put them in but the conditions that existed when they were put in. I think that some attempt should be made and I believe that every one here should express themselves as to how they feel in regard to the matter and then a vote taken as to whether or not the mine should be opened as it was stated here yesterday that the sentiment of a majority of this meeting would govern what would be done.

Mr. Black: To put in permanent stoppings even at the points mentioned would mean several days labor, which also means temporary stoppings while the work is being done and necessarily time would have to be taken to clean up the caves that are there, to get material in.

Mr. Bird: Just as I said last night, it can be done ~~an~~ but at the same time there is a risk and while there is a risk of losing life we do not want to do temporary work. If a board stopping is put in and fire breaks out the men down below would be lost again. While that air is working through there it will keep that gas alive. The gas is not below there.

Mr. McNeill: It will take quite a little work to get permanent stoppings in on the slope and return and there would have to be temporary stoppings put in while the others are being made and it would probably be a matter of a week or possibly more. Now that the air is going in one place and out another it is keeping alive the gas at that point; I do not think it is purecarburetted hydrogen gas providing there are no cracks to the surface and no faults of any kind. You all know the work that

that has been done in the mine and that there is probably no fault or crack to the surface and if thoroughly shut off it is possible that in a month from now you will probably find different results.

Mr. Bradbury: What Mr. McNeill has said, and Mr. Bird, corroborated by Mr. Young, we will use as a basis and take up the matter of building permanent stoppings at the mouth of the two openings as they are at the present time; that really necessitates tearing out everything that is in front of or back of the fan at the present time; then, to build that stopping in front would necessitate just as much danger in doing that without starting the fan as it would be to go down to the next entry or down to the first cross-cut. If you can put this stopping in you can go down to the first cross-cut and I consider that you have accomplished pretty nearly the proposition of going to the next one because if you have fire below you have got to put in a stopping below the first cross-cut and wait until such time as the fire is nearly out and then go to the next or else you are going to take the same chances that you will when you go to the first cross-cut.

Mr. Bird: That was where Mr. McNeill spoke about the ~~first~~ rock stopping being built, just below the first cross-cut.

Mr. Bradbury: Would you put a permanent stopping in the main slope and then tear it out and put one in farther down? You can't do it until you have figured out some system to clear out the impure air that is below the first cross-cut; therefore, you have got to have some way to let air go into the mine and take out the impure air.

Mr. McNeill: I merely suggested the stoppings going in there; how to proceed to get them in would of course be a matter of great delay. I see the cross-cut comes up to the fan; it is a question whether or not you could get into the fan; I think we could not go without ventilation of some kind. I would say the stoppings should be built of any material

that would isolate the air; they should not be of wood, however, I think it would be better to have them of something that could not be destroyed by fire. I never yet put in temporary stoppings when going down to find bodies; I have sometimes taken a stopping and just put in a couple of boards and filled in between and then removed the boards from one or both sides. If there is any fire at all there the least little air it can get will keep it alive. I would further state that it is possible now to put in these permanent stoppings and it might not have been when those others were put in at the mouth of the slope.

Mr. Bird: But as far as we go and what we do let it be done well - take no chances of more lives being lost.

Mr. McNeill: Coming back to the proposition made by Mr. Pettit, I think it might be in order to make a motion whether or not an attempt be made to get those bodies out and then go on with whatever arrangements may be made.

Mr. Hart: I made the statement yesterday that that was our purpose in meeting; it does not need a motion. As far as Mr. Bird's statement was concerned, the Company entirely appreciates its responsibility and has not undertaken to dodge any of it at all. We expect that if we go in there there will be men go down there to work; the Company does not care to take the responsibility of ordering Company employees to go down there. Of course, Mr. Bird is risking enough if he risks his own life but the Company does not care to assume the responsibility of ordering men in where their lives may be lost. It is the desire of the Company to open the mine; now, is it safe? Does any man who has been over there think it is safe to start that far?

Mr. McNeill: In reference to ordering any workman to go into that mine, or any other mine where there has been an explosion, I do not think that is what takes miners in - either compensation in money, or

orders. I believe that when any man goes to the rescue after an explosion he goes with the same intent and purpose as you would jump into the water to save a drowning child. If I would be here and my advice taken I would suggest that your engineer prepare a plan for each shift on the scale of fifty feet to the inch and have the stoppings numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and so on on that map and have notations showing when one shift was to be put on and another taken off.

Mr. Hart: If that stopping was taken out at the mouth of the slope and the fan started would it serve to determine whether or not there is a fire below?

Mr. McNeill: If there was a fire there pushing fresh air into it would start it afresh. I think the thing to do is to get in and put those two stoppings in with the least possible air that you can get along with for the reason that it may be safer a month from to-day than it is now. The more I think of this permanent work it might be well enough to do it although I have rarely done it in trying to rescue men, but it will all come when once the work is started.

Mr. Hart: What do you think of opening that slope, Mr. Young, and running that fan?

Mr. Young: I do not think it would be wise to do that. I think Mr. McNeill's proposition is a very good one and one that should be adopted.

Mr. Woods: I would like to state that after the first explosion on March 28th last there were only about two stoppings left and the air was going right down to the bottom.

Mr. McNeill: Very likely the cross-cuts now will be blown out even worse than they were before; they are probably all out. I think it is quite probable you could get from one cross-cut to another without much difficulty as taking down any quantity of air. It would be well to have a quantity of sand to put on any fire that might show up. If I

were the Manager of the mines or the State Mine Inspector I would say that an attempt should be made to enter the mine and the bodies brought to the surface, if such a thing were possible. I would suggest that the Chair appoint a committee to procure some plan to do that work; that is, opening the mine and going down to the first cross-cut.

Mr. McNeill's suggestion meeting with the approval of a majority of those present Mr. Bradbury appointed the following gentlemen to serve on same, the committee to make their report with as little delay as possible.

Mr. Morgan Griffith,	Mr. John Mates,
Mr. John McNeill,	Mr. J. E. Pettit,
Mr. Moses Harvey,	Mr. Noah Young,
Mr. Jos. Bird, Chairman.	

Mr. Gibson: If there is no further business I move that we adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. When the Committee just appointed is ready to report it will be the duty of the Chair to summon all here present.

The Chair called the meeting to order at six P. M. and instructed the Secretary to read the report of the Committee, which was as follows:

"That an opening some two feet square be made on the South-west corner of the fan shaft and a hole some three feet square in the lumber stopping on the slope and the fan started up slowly, so that a clearance can be made along the rib over the cave so that material can be carried to erect a stopping in the slope below the cross-cut leading to the fan. A stopping to be built in the first cross-cut leading to the North side roadway; also a stopping across the return airway below the first cross-cut. The cross-cuts in which these first stoppings are to be placed to be rebuilt with lawful stoppings.

"Safety lamps to be used only. All workmen to be search-

the intention for the Company to commence opening up on the line as stated by the Committee and at as early a date as possible, and if there is any one of the Committee who thinks or means any different or has any idea of reconsideration it might be well for him to make that statement but I think there is no such feeling at all.

Mr. Hart: As I understand the report of that Committee it is to just one certain thing; that one thing will practically determine whether or not the Company can recover those bodies - it is a trial measure, it is not a straight effort to recover those bodies. That being the reason I do not see why the recommendation of the Committee should not be acted ^{upon} ~~upon~~ immediately and work started tomorrow morning.

After being properly moved and voted upon the meeting adjourned sine die, subject to the call of the Chairman, at six P. M. July 9th.

"ed when necessary, for matches and pipes. All safety lamps to be
"inspected and locked by a competent person.

"We suggest that in opening up the slope arrangements be
"made to keep visitors from approaching the slope, and that an of-
"ficer of the law be stationed there to maintain order.

(Signed) John Mates, M. E. Harvey,
John McNeil, Noah Young,
Morgan Griffith, J. E. Pottit,
Jos. Bird, Chairman.

Mr. Hart: I move the adoption of the report as it has just
been read to us.

Mr. Hart's motion was seconded by Mr. Pride and upon being put
to a vote was carried.

Mr. Hart: I want to ask if there are any further personal
suggestions to go with that report. Does that cover it entirely?

Mr. Bradbury: There being no personal views we will consider
it adopted according to the manner in which it reads.

Mr. Hart: Before adjourning I want to thank you all for what
you have done. The Company appreciates, very much, the attendance of
all these gentlemen and their advice, and now it is up to the employees
of the Company and the representatives of the State of Wyoming to do the
very best they can with the report of this Committee, at the very earliest
possible moment.

Mr. Bradbury: As Assistant General Manager of The Union Pa-
cific Coal Company I will take immediate steps to do everything that is
deemed necessary and to confer with the representatives of the State
and any other ~~men~~ persons that may extend their courtesies will be highly
appreciated and everything will be expedited as soon as we can possibly
do it. I think that, as far as I am concerned myself, it is necessary
to make no delays and from this report that has been made to-day, from
this Committee not making any mention of it I would believe that it was