

TWO MORE ARE DEAD.
Inquest on Victims of the Newcastle Explosion.
AN UNAVOIDABLE ACCIDENT.
The Coroner's Jury Exonerates the Company From Blame—Dobson's Blame Caused the Disaster.

Newcastle, Oct. 10.—(Special.)—Two victims of yesterday's explosion died today and another will probably not live until morning. George Dobson, who was not thought yesterday to be fatally injured, was the first to succumb, and Charles Giles, the colored switch boy, followed a few hours later. David Florie, it is thought, will not live through the night, as he is fast losing strength and the breath is coming in short quick gasps.

The balance of the injured are doing well and, with the exception of Thomas Pate, who suffered a broken shoulder as well as terrible lacerations, will be out in a few days. Coffins have been sent out from Seattle and the three dead will be buried here tomorrow.

A jury was impaneled by Coroner Horton and about sixty witnesses volunteered. Miss Katherine Edmunds was present at the inquest and questioned the witnesses closely as to previous explosions of a similar nature which occurred here and as to whether there was any gas in the mine at any time. When asked on the stand he stated that he had inspected the mine on September 29 and had never found it in better condition than today he made an examination of boxes B and C, and had found no evidence of an explosion. He thought it better that he should examine boxes D before testifying further, and the inquest was adjourned until he returned from the mine.

Most of the witnesses testified that in their opinion the explosion occurred in breast thirty-five, but Max King, daily contractor here, Dobson, who works with him, told him that he was going to fire a shot in breast thirty-five and had him go up the gangway to warn drivers away, before going to see Dobson in No. 31, and claims that the explosion took place there. All the witnesses testified that the mine was in good condition and there had never been any gas in it.

Following is the verdict in full rendered at 11 p. m.

"We the jury impaneled to inquire into the cause of the death of George Dobson, George H. Darrah, and Charles Giles, who died from the effects of the explosion which occurred in an aditment which occurred in the mine at Coal Creek in breast thirty-five early on the afternoon of the 10th inst., do find the following verdict:

"That the said George Dobson, George H. Darrah and Charles Giles came to their death in the above mentioned explosion, and that said explosion was caused by a charge of black powder being set off in the above named breast, 35, that said explosion and consequent deaths were purely accidental and quite beyond the reach of ordinary human foresight to prevent.

"We further find the Oregon Inquest, must comply as fully as possible with the duty imposed on it by the law, and that it is the duty of the jury on this matter, in the country they are on, to sit and inquire into the cause of the disaster, to look into every thing in perfect order and the large preponderance of evidence showed that the management of said Newcastle mine were doing everything in their power to avert such a disaster.

"John McLaughlin, foreman; Q. Work, J. Mear, James Egan, T. A. Colman, J. C. Kelly.

"Newcastle, Oct. 10, 1894."

George Dobson & Newcastle mine explosion, 11 Oct 1894



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CKStevensPhD
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