PRELIMINARY REPORT OF SEPLOSION KINGSTON POCAHONIAS COAL CO., MINE NO. 5, KINGSTON, VATERTE COUNTY, THEY VIRGINIA.

By

J. J. Forbes, Jesse Redyard and F. E. Griffith.

Rature of Disaster: Cas and dust explosion with strong probability of straight coal dust explosion.

Heme of Mine: Kingston Pocahontes Coal Company mine No. 5, Kingston, Payette County, West Virginia.

Time of Suplosion: Explosion occurred about 1:45 m.m., January 25, 1929, while the night shift was in the mine.

Number of New Involved: (Killed, affected with afterdamp, escaped unmided). Sixty-five men were in the mine at the time of the explosion, 14 of whom were killed outright by violence and burns, 2 co-caped frankly left off No. 1 main about eight hours after the explosion affected by afterdamp. These two men were at work in the 12 left aircourse at No. 4 room engaged in moving rock when the explosion occurred. They were knocked down into a pool of water and remained at this place presumably in a semi-conscious condition.

until the ventilation was partially restored. Forty-mine miners, who were at work in the region to the right of No. 1 main, escaped unaccisted and unaffected shortly after the explosion.

Beccue Operations: No man were rescand by the use of protective apparatus. No expen breathing apparatus were used. One masks were used to a limited extent in the exploration work and in the recovery of one body in 6th left off No. 1 main.

No. 2 main just inby 15th right but it was found to be unmessessive and was not completed. These was come out of the mine unassisted.

That of Mine: This is a bituminous coal mine. The bed is proptically flat and ranges from 7 to 5 feet in thickness.

Openings: There are twelve openings to the mine as follows: No. 1 main, which serves as the main intake and hemlags of No. 5 mine and the left and right parallels (return aircourses) of No. 1 main. All three of these openings are situated on the north side of the hill on what is known as the main fork of the Hilburn branch. The No. 1

main is driven through the mountain to the crop line on the south side of the hill to what is known as the left fork of the white Oak Crock. which is a tributary of Clear Fork of Coal River. The second right is driven out through the hill to the crop line on the main right fork of the Milburn branch. The 3rd right then drift is also cituated on the main right fork of the Milburn branch in line with room No. 1, off let right off 3rd right. Room No. 2 off let right off 3rd right is also driven out to the crop line, about 150 feet east of 3rd right fan drift. The No. 3 main heading is driven out to the crop line. The main heading of 12 left is driven out to the crop line. There are also three rooms off 15 left driven out to the crop line. Method of Mining: Room and pillar modified manel system.

Number of Amployoes: Three hundred and fifty men are employed underground and about 20 men are employed above ground.

Production: The daily average production is 2500 tons.

Caser or Mon-Gassy: This mine is rated as non-gassy by the State Department of Mines of West Firginia. He firebosses are employed. He flame safety lamps are used.

Coal Dust: The coal dast is naturally emplosive. Day coal dust was sheaved on ribs, crossbars and floor mretty generally throughout the mine. Large quantities of dry road-cleanings, which consist chiefly of coal dust, were observed piled along ribs of readways.

Coal Catting: All coal is mined with electric "Are Wall" mining machines in development work. Sees of the pillar work is machine mined and some pick mined. Home of the mining machines is of the pillar work is presented by the coal type.

Implace: All bankage is done by tralley leasantives on main and butt entries. Onthering is done by means of cable real leasantives. None of the bankage equipment is of the permissible type.

explosives: The coal is shot with either Monobel Red H permissible explosive or with pellet pender. Forty per cent gelatin dynamite is used for shoeting rock. Electric detorators, equibe and fuse are used in blasting. The shot holes are drilled to a depth of

about 62 feet and 12 inches in dismeter using from 3 to 4 shots to the place, 18 to 22 feet in width. Clay is used for stemming. Rock-Dasting: He rock-dusting is done to render coal dust inert. Watering: No watering methods are used to allay coal dust. Ventilation: The mine is ventilated by the exhaust system by means of two Jeffrey "Straight Flow" fame ? feet in dissector. Both fame are driven by belte by means of 50 horse power, 440 velts, alternating current motors. The ventilating system is divided into splits and is regulated by steppings, doors and overcasts. The main healagousy of No. 5 mine (No. 1 main) serves as the main intake. Extent. Probable Origin and Violence of the Explosion: It was diffioult to determine the emect point of origin of this emplosion. There are two possible points of origin as follows:

1. In No. 12 room off 4th left off No. 1 main, a timber over was engaged in elemping rook preparatory to setting posts.

Three carbide lamps with cape were found in this room approximately 50 feet from the entrance to the room. The room was driven to the

rise at approximately a ten per cent grade and is in the pillar workings of this section. It was possible for a fall in the pillar workings to have swept gas over the open lights worn by the men at work setting posts and thereby initiating the explosion.

It should be stated that no men were at work in any of the live workings except the timber crew in No. 12 room off

4th left and the two miners that were engaged in cleaning rock

in 12th left. The two men in 12th left walked out of the mine

unseristed eight hours after the explosion. Hence the likelihood

that the explosion originated at this point is remote.

2. The next point of probable erigin of the explosion is on No. 1 main entry, which is the main intake of the mine about 50 feet inby 15 left off No. 1 main. At this point there was strong evidence that 5 shots of 40 per cent galatin dynamite were used in breaking a rock. It is possible for an explosion to be originated in adobe shooting in the presence of coal dust in which event the explosion would have been originated primarily

by coal dust.

Hegardless of the point of erigin of the explosion, whether it originated by gas in No. 12 room off 4th left or whether it was originated by coal dust as the result of the adobe shooting on No. 1 main inby 13th left, the explosion was propagated by coal dust, which extended along the first main and through a large portion of the pillar workings to the right and left of No. 1 main and inby to 14th right of No. 1 main and outby to the portal of No. 5 mins. The stoppings in crosscute between No. 1 main and left and right aircourses were blown out.

There was a large number of falls together with timber and other detrie stream along No. 1 main from the portal of No. 5 mine to about 14th right off No. 1 main. There was proncursed evidence of coking on the inhy and outby sides of timber in 4th left outby room 12 along No. 1 main and into 12 left off No. 1 main.

The explosion wave showed most violence outby 4th left on No. 1 main.

It vented with terrific violence to the surface through No. 1

main destroying the motor barn to the right side of the healage track situated about 75 feet from the mine pertal. A combination machine and blacksmith shop located at approximately the same distance from the portal of No. 5 mine but on the left side of the track was wrecked.

The fan and fan housing that ventilated the right side of No. 1 main was completely wreshed. This fan was situated directly in line with the right aircourse of No. 1 main.

Recommendations: In order to prevent the recorrence of a similar disaster, it is heped that eareful consideration will be given the following recommendations:

- 1. In the interest of safety, the Bureau of Mines recommends that permissible explosives fired electrically be employively used in all coal mines.
- 2. In breaking large pieces of rock, a hole should be drilled and charged with permissible explosives temped with in-

ing machines.

- 3. It is recommended that all shooting be done by shotfirers at the end of the shift when all men are out of the mine
 excepting shotfirers rather than by shotfirers through the working
 shift.
- 4. Permissible electric cap lamps should be installed in this wine for use of underground workers.
- 5. Cortified fireboness should be employed to make regular inspections with parmissible flame safety lamps before the shift enters the mine. In addition emminations should be made by the use of parmissible flame safety lamps during the working shift, especially in pillar workings and before and after blasting coal.
- 6. Careful consideration should be given to supplanting non-permissible mining equipment for those of the permissible type.
- 7. This mime should be thoroughly reck-dusted. The ribs, seef and readways of all entries, aircourses and rooms should be coated with reck-dust to within 30 or 40 feet of working faces.

 The incombastible content of the mixed dust should be maintained.

at not less than 65 per cent. All readways, including rooms, should be cleaned as thoroughly as possible before rech-dust is applied.

In addition, ribs, roof and timbers should be cleaned of dust prior to resk-dusting.

8. It is recommended that all undercutting or overcutting in coal be done by the use of water applied to cutter chains of mining machines. The ideal combination for emplosion prevention is the widespread use of rock-dust with the liberal use of water at the face of workings. The reduction of soal dust at its source lengthers the life of rock-dust application and necessarily reduces the rock-dust renewals.

In addition to applying water on cutter chains of mining machines, each miner should be furnished with a hose for washing down face region and watering leaded care before leaving working places.

9. If it is contemplated to replace the No. 5 fam on let main right aircourse, it would be advisable to effect this fam about 25 feet to either side of this return.

10. A checking system should be imangurated at this mine without delay. A system should be worked out whereby the miner carries a life check on his person to facilitate identification.

while we realise that some of the changes suggested may seem difficult to be carried out under the present business conditions, yet they represent the Eurema's ideas of maximum safety with respect to similar disasters.

The writers wish to extend thanks and appreciation to

Mosers. R. Holley, essistant general manager; R. H. Bailey, general
superintendent; R. H. Mages, safety inspector; F. H. Merton, division superintendent; W. D. Hunn, mine superintendent and B. V.

Tygrett, mine foremen and other company officials for the many
constants and assistance rendered during the recovery operations
and while the investigation was being conducted.

% Je Porbes,

Supervising Ingineer, Instruction Section.

Jesse Beigard, Moremen Miner

J. Farbes

r. i. driffith, First 114 Kiner.

Kingston, West Va.

January 30th, 1929,

Mr. J.J. Forbes, Supervising Engineer T.S. U. S. Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Ph.

Dear Mr. Forbess

We are herewith enclosing Preliminary Report "in the Ruff" on the Kingston Pocchontas explosion, for any additions or corrections that you may see fit to make.

of course, as we agreed while you wise this on the one with us, that you would you the finish imakes on the report, so we see what which it with they view. As you will note, we have made some changes in the report as the agree of agreeteness the explosion etc.

here friend the sheets, which were mentioned while you work here, was financed on the 1st main at a point about fifty feet inby 15th left, and there was evidence at this point that there had been at least one or three sheets fired, a price of cuble, a price of fuse about 15 inches long and a sheet perm of the electric detenating wire was found on top of the sheets rest. The price of cable was about 75 feet in length. And from our chear witions, the indications are more favorable that the explosion originates at the point where the rock was shet, then in the 4th left. And we are of the opinion that it was parely a coal dust explosion. Hr. Evans, District Kine Impostor, of West Virginia. Department of Kines, also seems to favor this idea.

In view of the above circumstances, we would like to suggest that you without the preliminary report until we can give you a note on the Goroners findings at the inquest, which as you know, is to be conducted Friday February 1st.

Very truly yours.

Foreman Miner Car 7

P. S. The plan to leave Kingston, emante welch, W. To. Saturday

G.R.

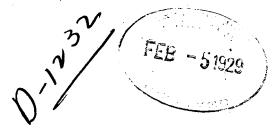
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Bureau of Mines Car 7,

Welch. West Va. February 2, 1929.

Mr. J.J. Forbes, Supervising Engineer I.S. U.S. Bureau of Mines, 4800 Forbes Street. Rittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Forbes:



Regarding the inquest relative to the Kingston Pocahontas mine explosion, wish to advise that the Coroner's Jury which was conducted before Justice-of-the-Peace G.R. Wright, at Kingston, West Va. Friday, February 1st, exenerated the company of all responsibality in connection with the explosion.

The Jury findings were that the explosion was caused from an ignition of gas, which resulted in a gas and coal dust explosion. But they were unable to determine, from the evidence given at the inquest, the origin of the explosion. However, it was brought out in the inquest that there were 34 sticks of 40% Gelatin explosives used in shooting the rock, of which we mentioned in our letter to you of January 30, and it seem to be the general opinion that the shot was fired about the time the explosion occurred; and did have something to de with propagating the explosion,

As you will recall, in our letter to you of January 30, we expressed the opinion that from our observations, the explesion originated at the place where the shot was fired on the rock, and that it was purely a dust explosion. But now, in view of the evidence that was given at the inquest, and the findings of the Jury, we might suggest, for your consideration, in writing the preliminary report, under heading "Nature of disaster" a gas and coal dust explosion, stressing the fact, that in our opinion, the shot did play an important part in the explosion, and such practices should be discontinued.

In mailing the preliminary report to you the other day we left out the names of the State and Company officials who took part in the recovery operations, and whe were so courteous to us during the investigation of the explosion. So we are including them in this letter.

> Mr. R.W? Lambie, Chief of the West Virginia Department of Mines, Mr. Zack Evans, District Inspector, Robert Lilly. Charles Forrester, C.O. Morris, Safety Director 2 Mr. E.H. Bailey, General Supt. Kingston Pocahontas Coal Co. Mr. F.H. Morton, Division " Mr. W.D. Nunn, Mine Supt. Mr. B.W. Tygert, Mine Foreman.

The preliminary report to be mailed to Mr. Willard, Gen'l. Mgr. % of the Kingston Pocahontas Coal Co. New York, or Mr. Holley, Asst. Gen'l. Mgg Mgr. same address. I mention Mr. Holley because he was present and in the mine during our investigation, and I explained tomhim that a copy of the meport would Very truly yours, Jesse Redyard, Roreman Car 7, be mailed to their general office.

Mr. D. Harrington, U. S. Buresn of Mines, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Harrington:

Herewith attached are four copies of a preliminary report of explosion which occurred in No. 5 mine, Kingston Pocahontas Coal Company, Kingston, V. Va. the morning of January 26, 1929.

You will note there are two probable points of origin of this explosion, namely, the possibility of ignition of gas by open lightein No. 12 room off 4th left and the ignition of dust caused by a mud cap shot on No. 1 main inby 13 left. I feel pretty sure that this company is going to roch-dust the mine and install closed lights and I would appreciate your expediting the report to the following officials without any further delay:

Mr. E. Holley, assistant general manager, Kingston Pocahontae Coal Company, &l Broadway, New York, H.Y. and Mr. E. H. Bailey, general superintendent, Kingston Pocahontae Coal Company, Hemphill. V. Va.

Yours very truly

V.J. Y. PORBES,

Supervising Engineer, Instruction Section.

Ingla-

cc Files

Pittsburgh, Pa. JJY:ime February 5, 1929.

Mr. Jesse Redyard, U.S.Bureau of Mines Car #7, General Delivery, Welch, W. Yu.

Donr Mr. Redyard:

Morewith are copies of preliminary report on the explosion of Kingston Posshentas Coal Company nine No. 5.

If you have not already done so, please send all of your samples to Pittsburgh without further delay. The matter of placing the point of origin in No. 12 room off 4th left will depend largely upon the samples of air which were collected. Also please do not delay writing up the details in your own language getting Griffith's help for the final report. Send it to me and I will put it into shape.

I would much prefer that there is a minimum amount of work for me to do as I have more than I can handle here now. The important thing is not to delay the final report. I would appreciate your getting busy on this as seen as peccible.

I hope that the changes I have made in the preliminary report meet with your approval.

I think it would also be a good idea if you can get a copy of a copy of the Coroner's verdiet and if you can get a copy of the testimeny this would be good information but if you have to pay for the testimeny forget about it and embody as far as possible the notes which you made during the inquest in the final report.

Yours very truly,

| ht J. FORBER, Supervising Engineer, Instruction Section.

Backs.

es D. Harrington Files Mr. E. Holley, Aset. General Manager. Kingston Posshontas Coal Company, 61 Breadway, Hew York City. 0.1³

Dear Mr. Holley:

In the course of the Bureau of Mines' study of mine explosions its representatives, Mosers, J. J. Purbes, J. Redyard, and J. E. Griffith, have prepared a preliminary report on the explosion which occurred in the Kingston Preshoutes Coal Company Mine No. 5, at Kingston, Payette County, Nest Mingston, Jamery 26, 1989. Studies and reports of this kind are made with the logs of becaring information which may aid in preventing similar disasters. Such recommendations are made as seen to be indicated by the spaditions in each case.

as the probable source of the exploition. A number of recent exploitions have resulted from this unease practice. It is strongly urged that in blasting not only out but also rock proposity placed bales be drilled and permissible explosive, confined with non-contratible standing and first electrically, he need exclusively. Permissible explosives if unconfined, as is the case in und-capped shots, are not used in a permissible number and are thereverse unease under those conditions. Black blasting pender, whether in loose or pellet form, and fuse should not be used in ocal mines.

This report and the recommendations are sent to you for your confidential information in the hope that they may be useful in preventing further deeth and loss from explosions. Reports of this nature are held as confidential by the Burous, and not jublished unless by consent of the mining company by whose courtesy these studies were made possible.

If there are any errors or misstatements of fact in the report, it will be appreciated if you will call them to my attention.

Yery truly yours.

M. P. IL. UD

CC - Mr. E. H. Bailey, General Supt., Kingston Pocahontas Coal Co.,

J. J. Forbes, Pittsburgh, Pa-

Jesse Redyard, Pittsburgh, Pa. Incl. No. 18689.

F. E. Griffith, Pittaburgh, Pa Safety Division O. P. HOOD, Acting Director, For SCOTT TURNER, Director.

PA

12 DEAD, 2 MISSING

55 Escape Blast in West Virginia Coal Workings

KINGSTON, W. Va., Jan. 26 (A. P.) Twelve miners were known to be dead and two were unaccounted for to-night following an explosion in the mine of the Kingston Pocahontas Coal Company here early today. Sixty-nine men were in the workings and fifty-five of them escaped.

Rescue workers who found the bodies of the twelve men believed the two missing workers had perished. The bodies located were scorched and in

some instances badly burned.

Fifty - three: of the underground workers fled to safety through an entry on the opposite side of a mountain on; the opposite side of a mountain from the main shaff and walked two miles for the mine offices. Two were lakes found by resous crews, while specify working their way to the enfection. One of the latter ment of W. Williams, was suffering from after-

Signated about with the second some time before it was known that any one had escaped and then the line three men appeared over the brow

of the mointage nation their long tramping the colds.

Resigness excepting oxygen lieimeis, advantage relation in the gas-fitted enteres excepting the deconation; They have diffusive properties in the constitution; They have diffusive properties of the constitution; They have hambed to high or the constitution of high war. Department of Milion was iff the properties of the constitution of the constituti

for a redus of a inite from Kings-Gescus efforts were namificapped the first tew hours because the mine tast was out of commission by the whilely also wrecked other build-

son the stutace that the student with entries on each side. The state on each side the state is reached pair after a distance of the state of the st ill quarter mile climb up a steep tie work from the Kingston entry and meintained contact with rescue squads at Ms other entry the means of running who went over the membals and back with messages.

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US BUREAU OF MINES 4800 FORBES ST PITTSBURGH PENN:

JOINED CAR SEVEN THIS MORNING DELORME KY ENROUTE EXPLOSION

NUMBER FIVE MINE KINGSTON POCAHONTAS COAL COMPANY KINGSTON

WVIR STOP PROBABLE ARRIVAL TWO OCLOCK THIS AFTERNOON STOP

WASHINGTON NOTIFIED=

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US BUREAU OF MINES=

_4800 FORBES ST PITTSBURGH PENN=

EXPLOSION KINGSTON POCAHONTAS MINE NUMBER FIVE KINGSTON WESTVIRGINIA STOP SIXTY MEN REPORTED ENTOMBED STOP CAR SEVEN LEAVING WELCH WESTVIRGINIA SIX AM SPECIAL TRAIN

ENROUTE KINGSTON WESTVIRGINIA STOP WASHINGTON ADVISEDS

REDYARD.

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U S BUREAU MINES 4800 FORBES ST

PATTSBURGH PERM

RECOVERY WORK MINE BUNBER FIVE KINGSTON POCAHONTAS COAL COMPANY COMPLETED MIDNIGHT SATURDAY STOP SIXTY FIVE WEN IN MINE TIME OF EXPLOSION FOURTEEN KILLED TWO ESCAPED BNASSISTED FROM TWELVE LEFT ENTRY EIGHT HOURS AFTER EXPLOSION AFFECTED WITH AFTER DAM FORTY NINE ESCAPI UNASSISTED SHORTLY AFTER EXPLOSION FROM RIGHT SIDE OF MINE SNAFFECTED STOP EXPLOSION OCCURRED ABOUT ONE FOREX FIVE AM JANUARY TWENTY SIXTH ON FOUR LEFT PILLER WORKING CAUSE GAS IGNITION BY OPEN LIGHT STOP EXPLOSION PROPAGATE BY COAL DUST WITH CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION IN GREATER PORTION OF MINE MOTOR BARN COMBINATION BLACKSM SHOP AND MACHINE SHOP WEAR PORTAL OF MINE DEMOLISH STOP

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1929 JAN 27 PM 8 01

RATED NON GASSY NORMAL DAILY OUTPUT TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED

TONS WITH ABOUT THREE HUNDRED FIFTY EMPLOYEES UNDERGROUND

STOP CAR SEVEN WITH REDYARD AND GRIFFITH REMAINING KINGSTO

WESTVIRGINIA TO SELECT DUST AND AIR SAMPLES AND ATTEND

INQUEST FEBRUARY FIRST STOP FORBES CARE LAMBIE MONDAY

AFTERNOON PITTSBURGH STOP WASHINGTON NOTIFIED=

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1929 JAN 26 PM 7 15

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D-1732

SEVEN TWO FORTY FIVE THIS AFTERNOON STOP CAUSE OF EXPLOSION UNKNOWN STOP OPEN LIGHT WINE NOT ROCK DUSTED STOP STATY NINE MEN IN MINE AT TIME OF EXPLOSION FIFTY FIVE ESCAPED UNINJURED EXCEPT TWO WHO WERE PARTIALLY AFFECTED WITH AFTER DAMP STOP FOUR BODIES BROUGHT OUT EIGHT OTHERS HAVE BEEN LOCATED AND TWO YET UNACCOUNTED FOR STOP WASHINGTON NOTIFIED.

FORBES

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