

EGANSTOWN MINE DISASTER

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY, 1907.

DAYLESFORD HERALD - Monday May 27th

THE EGANSTOWN CATASTROPHE

BOTH BODIES RECOVERED

There was a large attendance of the public yesterday to witness the efforts being put forth at the Adelaide mine to recover the bodies of the miners Robinson and Thompson, who were engulfed in an inflow of standing water on Wednesday morning early. About 3 o'clock the attendance must have been 500. The management had railed off an enclosure around the poppet legs, and engine house, for the purpose of allowing ample room for the workmen. This was a wise provision. The directors were also well represented and were making all arrangements necessary. During the afternoon the scene of the accident was visited by the Hon. D. Mcleod, Minister of Mines. The men below were only working four hour shifts, which was even too long under the arduous conditions. The inflow of water was severe, and as the bottom of the shaft was obstructed, the tanks had to be hand filled. Slowly but persistently they filled bucket and tank, the former bringing up masses of dislodged country rock. A mass of timber had also to be sent to the surface - timber which had been put into the workings forty years ago. Portions of the timber would convey the impression that they had been dislodged from a winze. About 3 o'clock the skull cap of a miner was found and shortly afterwards the head of the unfortunate miner, Robinson was uncovered. The difficulty of the task may be gauged from the fact that after two hours of hard work the body was only uncovered to the waist. The poor fellow was evidently standing on his feet, and had been forced by the influx against the northeast corner of the shaft. As an indication of the extent and suddenness of the inrush, it may be mentioned that some of the masses of rock which were on him, were so large that it took two men to lift them. When our representative left the mine, there was no trace of Thompson. The supposition is that he is either lying down or is in the sink at the western end of the shaft. In that case a further lapse of time will ensue ere he is reached.

Miners and Mining managers alike worked with a will, the circumstances being such that the stoutest of them could scarcely stand the effluvium met with at the bottom of the shaft. The body recovered was not knocked about as it was considered it would be, though it had been badly bruised.

Later.

The body of Robinson was recovered at twenty minutes to seven last night. The latest information from the mine was that the body of Thompson is visible. He is in a recumbant position with one arm outstretched. It was expected that his body would also be recovered in a few hours.

Midnight.

The second body was recovered at twenty minutes past ten and sent to the surface.