

Brown, George
McDevell, M.
Getts, & Chinese

[CORONER.]



INQUISITION.

Province
District of Nanaimo } British Columbia.

An Inquisition indented taken at Nanaimo, T. I.
British Columbia, the 18th day of Sept^r in the 39th
year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, before me, *Wm. Spalding*

gentleman, one of the Coroners for our Lady the Queen, for
the District aforesaid, upon the view of the body of *George Brown,*
Mathew McSwell, & Getts, a Chinaman named, then and there and within the jurisdiction of the

said Coroner, lying dead, upon the oaths of
John Paulson, Foreman
James Harold,
Donald Smith,
Samuel Beebe,
Thomas Clifford, and
John Lemmell,

good and lawful men of the District aforesaid, in the said Province

, who being now here sworn and charged to enquire, on the part of our
said Lady the Queen, when, where, how, and after what manner, the said *George Brown,*
Mathew McSwell, & Getts, by their death, came to their death, do say upon their oath, that

Coroner's inquest relating to Fitzwilliam mine explosion, 1876

George Brown, Matthew W. Small
and Gills, a stonemason, came by
their death on the 15th day of September
1846. at Newcastle Island, Nanaimo,
by an explosion of Fire-damp in the
Lizy William Mine, Newcastle Island,
District of Nanaimo, V. I.

And this Jury considers that there
was gross negligence on the part
of the Officers and Superintendent
of the Mine in not having a duly
qualified person to examine the
Mine before any of the Workmen
were allowed to go down in the
morning.

The Jury would further request
the Coroners to draw the attention
of the Legislature to the necessity
of a Mining Regulation Act for
this Province, and would re-
commend the British Mining
Act as the most applicable.

James Spalding
Coroner.

News. by the coroners.

The Verdict of the Jury in this case is a true one, but it does not go far enough, as I am of opinion that the men who were killed, and injured, were themselves to blame for the accident in an equal ratio with their employers. It is well known that the most experienced miners frequently put the most careless & indifferent to their own safety. The Jury was composed entirely of miners, with the exception of the Foreman, which must be considered by the Government.

Wm R. Spalding.
Coroner

The Coroner's Inquiry into the Fitzwilliam Mine explosion.

Three men lost their lives in a gas explosion on September 15, 1876. The Fitzwilliam Mine was the first Nanaimo mine to have people die in an explosion.

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George Brown, Matthew McDowell and Getts, a Chinaman, came by their death on the 15th day of September 1876 at NewCastle Island, Nanaimo, by an explosion of firedamp in the Fitz William Mine, NewCastle Island, District of Nanaimo, V.I.

And this jury consider that there was gross negligence on the part of the officers and Superintendent of the mine in not having a duly qualified person to examine the mine before any of the workmen were allowed to go down in the morning.

The jury would further request the Coroner to draw the attention of the Legislature to the making of a Mining Regulation Act for this Province, and would recommend the British Mining Act as the most applicable.

W. R. Spalding
Coroner

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Memo by the Coroner

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W. R. Spalding
Coroner