

seeing the remains of her husband. She was completely distracted with grief, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that she was dissuaded from descending into the basement and witnessing the awful sight. The bodies had not been dressed at that time. Friends took her under their care and conducted her from the building. Mrs. Moran, who is about to become a mother, is prostrated with grief.

The news of her husband's fate was broken to her about 3 o'clock this morning, but she surmised the cause of his absence before that by the conversation of neighbors.

A young man from Provo recognized the remains of Kempton, but his relative have not yet been heard from.

At 2 p.m. Thursday the following jury was empaneled by Coroner Hall, and the inquest began: A. A. Wenger, Charles Weicht and Ace Farley.

Chief Engineer Bannister, who questioned today for his version of the awful affair, replied that the account as published in this morning's Standard was so nearly correct that it was substantially accepted as being official. The dead narrative in detail is as follows:

It was reported in the canyon that Hadfield was among the dead. He was severely wounded but is still living.

The terrible catastrophe occurred about 400 yards above the first bridge inside the canyon on the site of the big cut through the point of cliffs that rise hundreds of feet from the river. Two gangs of men were at work at the time and as work was about to close for the day the final preparations for putting in a big blast was being hurried. Foreman Moran had personal charge of the work and was tamping the blast as the powder was being poured into the blasting hole. The explosion came like a thunderclap and in an instant the side of the mountain upheaved, and when the smoke cleared away men, rocks, earth and debris had been hurled down the mountain side. Moran, Kirkman, Weaver and Kempton were killed instantly. Jeff Ruby expired while being taken to the hospital.

The cause of the awful explosion is supposed to have been what is known among rock workers as a "hot hole." That is, the cavity into which the powder was placed is supposed to have retained sufficient heat from a former blast to ignite the powder. It is the custom among contractors to "spring" the rock with giant powder before putting in the blast of black powder. The rock had been sprung three times yesterday, twice in the forenoon and once in the afternoon. The theory which a number of the workmen accept as the cause is that the hole or cavity was not enough to explode the black powder. Another theory is that the explosion was the result of tamping the powder with an iron spoon. This, however, is scouted, as it is claimed by some of the workmen that Moran was doing the tamping with a wooden tamping stick, while others say he was using an iron spoon. However, that will ever remain a mystery for poor Moran was the only man who knew. The wooden stick was found upon the dump and the spoon was picked up about twenty feet from where the body of Moran was lodged in the rock. Still another theory is

that it was not impossible for a spark of fire to have remained in the hole from the former blast and that the explosion was caused in that way.

There were from thirty to forty men at work within a few feet from the blast and the wonder is that more were not killed. As soon as the men could sense what had happened all hands hastened to extricate the bodies from their wedged positions in the rocks. Moran, Kirkman and Kempton were thrown over 200 feet almost upon the bank of the river. The other dead and wounded were lodged in the debris nearer the scene of the explosion. The dead and wounded were carried across the foot-bridge which spans the river at this point and placed in wagons that had been improvised into ambulances. The dead were taken to Richey's undertaking establishment. The wounded were sent to the city hospital, where they were cared for by Drs. Joyce and Gordon.

Moran and Kirkman were foremen. Both gangs under them were at work in the immediate vicinity of the blast. Moran, who is an experienced contractor, was personally placing the blast. He had the reputation of being a careful and cautious blaster. He has been in the employ of the Power Dam company since the work was first started. His wife, to whom he was married about a year ago, lives in this city. William Kirkman's home is at Five Points where his family, consisting of a wife and four children, reside. G. Weaver came up with the last squad of men who came from the south, but his connections of home could not be learned. Jeff Ruby lived in Huntsville and was unmarried. Nat Kempton is reported as being from Provo, but the report could not be verified. Moran, Kirkman, Kempton and Weaver were terribly bruised and wounded. All had their skulls crushed and there was hardly a bone in their bodies that was not broken. Jeff Ruby lived about an hour and a half after the explosion. His head and body were cut and bruised and he was internally injured. The wounded are hurt in various ways and nearly all have either broken arms or legs. Sproule and Hadfield are internally injured. Stetson had his arm crushed at the elbow.

Andrew Sproule is from Washington City, Washington county, Utah. He has been attending school at Provo during the winter and came up with the company that arrived ten days ago. His wife and family are at present in Spanish Fork. Ellingsford comes from Morgan City. Hadfield is from Provo where he is well-known and where his folks reside. Leanan and Stetson also are from Provo.

The rugged cliffs where the accident occurred presents a desolate appearance. The rocks jut out from the mountain side cold and lifeless in towering crags. The pipe line is about 250 feet above the river and the ragged precipices are almost impregnable. The mass of debris that now marks the scene of wholesale destruction might easily be taken for a rock-slide, so common in western mountains. There is a ghoul-like cavity in the sheer cliffs where the fatal blast was exploded and on the

sharp rocks is spattered the life blood of the men so cruelly crushed to death. Scraps of clothing, hats, coats and vests that were on the dump, are gruesome reminders of the awful accident. Today the sun will shine brightly over the ghastly scene and the waters of the river will flow turbulently on, but not from the bleak peaks of granite and gneiss or the roaring music of the mountain stream will be told the sad story of the brief reign of the angel of death. Comrades of the fated men will look upon the scene and live over and over again in keenest memory the awful experience which made human life a plaything.

The amount of powder in the blast is not accurately known, though it is estimated to have been between twelve and fifteen kegs. This amount would be considered rather a large blast. The method of blasting is known as "churn" blast. A hole is first drilled into the solid rock and is enlarged by a stick of giant powder. This is known as "springing" the blast. When the hole has been made sufficiently large to hold enough black powder desired, it is left for several hours in order to allow it to cool. Then the black powder is put in. In most cases the hole will become clogged while being filled and it is necessary to poke the powder down with a stick or spoon. It is understood that the hole was almost filled when the disaster occurred. At the fatal moment one of the men who was killed was carrying the last keg of powder to put in the blast.

The dead and wounded were carried down in the heavy springless two-horse wagons used for moving camp supplies, etc. The first wagon to arrive at the hospital contained the dead body of Dan Moran and lying beside him was the bruised and cut form of Andrew Sproule, who was tenderly lifted out of the wagon on the quilt on which he had been lying. The first wagon arrived at the hospital at 7:30 p.m. and the last wagon, containing the terribly injured forms of Alfred Ellingsford and Samuel Hadfield arrived at a little past eight.

The involuntary and half-suppressed cries and groans of anguish from the poor mangled men as they were lifted from the wagons was heartrending. Doctors Gordon and Joyce who were in attendance, dressed the wounds and placed the men on comfortable cots and carried them into their respective wards. Andrew Sproule was found to be badly cut and bruised, especially about the head. The most dangerous injury is about the side which is badly bruised.

Alfred Ellingsford is cut about the face and had his left leg broken in two places below the knee. Sam'l Hadfield is badly injured about the abdomen and small of the back. He was placed on a cot and was in such pain he could hardly breathe. Nick Lehman was terribly mangled and bleeding when brought in, but it was impossible to ascertain the extent of his injuries. The doctors expressed the opinion, however, that all five of the injured men would recover and if they did succumb it would be to internal injuries. The condition of the last two named seemed most serious last night. G. N. Stetson and a number of others were injured by flying rocks, but not serious enough to require medical aid.