

IVANHOE MINE FATALITY.

DEATH OF WILLIAM A. BLACK.

THE INQUEST.

The coroner's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of William Alexander Black, who was killed by a fall of ground while working in the Ivanhoe mine on Tuesday last, was resumed in the Boulder Courthouse, Friday morning, before Mr. P. Troy and a jury consisting of Messrs. J. Daw, R. Wells and R. Arthur.

Mr. R. F. Cook represented the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation, Ltd., Mr. G. McLeod the Miners' Union, and Inspector Hudson, the Mines Department.

William Lavers, a machine man, said that on Tuesday he was working on the day shift in the Ivanhoe mine, in company with deceased, in a stope over the 2120 ft. level. When they started, they cleaned down the back of the stope, after firing by the previous shift. They fired one more hole and a sandblast, and after giving the fumes about 15 minutes to clear away, returned to the stope and cleaned down the loose ground. While witness was looking for the ore pass, which had been covered by the fallen ground, deceased said that he would go and look for the candles. Several minutes later witness heard a fall of ground, and the shoveller called out "Come quick. Blackie's under it." The accident took place about 20 ft. from where they had been working. Witness ran to the place, and found the deceased pinned face down on the floor of the stope by a large mass of stone. There was only his head showing in front of the stone. There was a pile of logs

stone. There was a pile of logs alongside, and deceased's face appeared to be resting on the logs. Assistance arrived, and the body was removed from under the rock and sent to the surface on a stretcher. Witness believed that Black was quite dead when he first saw him under the rock. There was a large wound over the right temple, also bruises and scratches. Before starting work that morning, they examined the stope, and deceased barred it down all round. About ten minutes prior to the accident there was a fall of earth about 15 ft. away. Not long before, a mullock boss came through the stope, and deceased warned him away from the vicinity of the accident, as the ground was "talking." The stope was made secure as far as possible. The accident took place at about 11 a.m. The ground in this stope was fairly good.

To Mr. Cook: Witness had been mining in this State for about ten years. Deceased was a particularly good miner. The stope was about 45 ft. wide, and the average height was about 10 ft. It was worked on the rill system. The stope in front of them was supported by stacks, and all the indications were against an accident. Witness and deceased were both aware that the ground was cracking on the east side of the stope, where the accident took place, and that it was to some extent dangerous there. Practically the whole of the stone was resting on deceased.

To Mr. McLeod: When Black said he would look for candles, he and witness had no conversation regarding the state of the east side of the stope. One of them had been there for candles previously that day. Personally witness did not think there was any risk attached to going where deceased went. He had never seen any indication of baulky ground be-

indication of baulky ground between the eastern stack and the wall.

To Inspector Hudson: The accident took place about 25 minutes after they returned to the stope. Had the piece of ground been sounded the danger would have been noticed. It would probably have come away immediately it was touched. He could suggest nothing else to make the stope more safe.

To the Jury: He saw no crack or fault that morning in the place from which the rock subsequently fell.

Charles Saligarie, a shoveller, said he was working in the stope with Black and Lavers. After the firing when deceased went for candles witness accompanied him, as he also wanted candles. There was a large, flat stone on top of the can-

dle box. They moved the stone, and deceased asked witness to help him shift some grease and water that was there as he said the next time they fired it would be in the way. They shifted the stuff, and deceased was kneeling down, taking the candles from the box and passing them to witness, when a fall of earth suddenly took place, putting out both their candles. Witness called Black's name, but got no reply, so he called to Lavers to come quickly, as "Blackie" was buried up and killed. Lavers came, and witness also summoned other assistance. Deceased was lying under a big rock, and when released he was dead. Witness knew the ground there looked a little bit baul. On the previous Thursday or Friday he was working there, and the

day he was working there, and the machine men tried the ground and said it was right. He considered the stope safe.

At this stage the coroner suggested an adjournment for lunch; but the jury intimated that the case appeared a clear one, and that they did not require to hear further evidence.

The jury found that the deceased was accidentally killed by a fall of ground in the Ivanhoe mine.