



Soon after the men started carting soil and rock from the **Glen quarry** to the railway embankment at Sidey's bridge, on the Main South Road, on the 20th inst. a lamentable accident took place by which a carter named William Raynor lost his life, and another carter William Dick, sustained injuries from which he died later in the day. The men with others were loading drays near the Main road, beneath a shoulder of rotten rock, into which a shot had been put on the previous evening, but which had missed fire.

H. King (foreman) and James Finnerty were at work at about 8.40 on top of the shoulder, about 20ft from the floor of the **quarry**, drawing the useless charge, when for some reason that may be explained to the coroner's jury, the shot went off unexpectedly, carrying the men on top down to the bottom with the falling earth, and unfortunately burying Raynor and Dick beneath an avalanche of rotten rock. The former was completely entombed under many tons of debris, and his death must have been instantaneous. Dick was crushed severely about the lower part of his body, though a third man, working with the injured two, was lucky enough to jump clear of the falling mass.

Dr Gordon Macdonald and Constable Martin, the latter stationed at Caversham, were at once summoned by telephone, and the work of extricating the two men was soon accomplished. Raynor's body was removed to the Morgue, and Dick was taken in the ambulance waggon to the Hospital.

Raynor was about 40 -years of age, and lived with his wife and family of four in Melbourne street South Dunedin. Dick, who was quite a young man, and single, resided at Sandymount.

The **Glen quarry** is Presbyterian Church property, leased by Mr Hugh Fox. The injured men were in the employ of Mr Allan Johnstone, who has a contract with the Government for supplying earth to form the embankment for widening the railway at Caversham Rise. The evidence taken at the inquest, failed to show the cause of the explosion. The Coroner, in summing up, pointed out that 18 hours was an unusually long time to permit to elapse after a miss-fire before withdrawing the charge. Moreover, rain had fallen during that time. He did not think anyone could be blamed for assuming that it was perfectly safe to withdraw the charge. It appeared to have been a matter of common knowledge among the men that the blast had not gone off. It might have been that the fuse was defective, there being, perhaps a small hiatus somewhere in the powder, and that a smouldering was set up which burst into flame as soon as air was admitted.

The jury, after retiring for one minute, returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and added that no blame was attachable to anyone.

Although referred to as "Raynor" in the above newspaper report his correct name was William John Rainham, and aged 44 years. He was buried in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery, with a headstone, now shattered, in what appears to be a paupers' grave.

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