

The Express Friday 7 October 1927

COLLIERY FATALITY

Sitting with a jury at the Council Office on Friday, The Coroner, Mr C.J.Haworth, enquired into the circumstances of the death of George Norton (43), miner of Blands Avenue who was killed by a fall of roof in the Old Flocton District at Allerton Bywater Colliery, on Wednesday evening. The enquiry was attended by Mr Cook, H.M. Inspector of Mines, Mr F.W.Milsom manager of the colliery, Mr F.Linley and Mr J.R.Wisbey Secretary and President respectively of the local branch of the Y.M.A. and Mr J. Varley President of the Check Fund. Samuel Milner of Castleford stated, that he was working near to the deceased when the fall took place. He called out and received no reply, and on going to the place found that Norton was buried by a fall of about two tons. He called for assistance, and started to dig deceased out and found him in a few minutes but he was then dead. In answer to Mr Cook, witness said the place was well timbered there was sufficient timber about if it had been required. There was a slight fault in the roof, and he agreed that it would have been wise if a prop had been put up at both sides of the fault. Francis H. Edwards of Kippax, The Deputy said that he visited the place an hour before the fall took place and he drew the deceased's attention to the fault and deceased said that he knew it was there. The timbering appeared to be quite adequate, and the roof was safe in the circumstances. He thought that deceased had moved a piece of coal at the heavy end of the fault which caused the fall. Albert Green an ambulance man, said that deceased had sustained a fracture of the base of the skull and injuries to the face. The Coroner said that it appeared to be a case where there was no breach of regulations in any way as to timbering, but probably there was some error of judgement in not putting another prop under the fault "Accidental Death" was the verdict.