

The Right Honourable Sir Balthazar Walter Foster, Knight, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Ilkeston of Ilkeston in the County of Derby.

The Right Honourable Sir Hudson Ewanke Kearley, Baronet, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Devonport of Wittington in the County of Buckingham.

Sir Weetman Dickinson Pearson, Baronet, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Cowdray of Midhurst in the County of Sussex.

Sir William Henry Holland, Baronet, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Rotherham, of Broughton in the County Palatine of Lancaster.

Sir Christopher Furness, Knight, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Furness of Grantley in the West Riding of the County of York.

Freeman Freeman-Thomas, Esquire, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style and title of Baron Willingdon of Ratton in the County of Sussex.

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*Whitehall, July 22, 1910.*

The KING has been pleased to award the Edward Medal of the First Class to Mr. William Henry Pickering, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, and to Mr. George Handle Silkstone, an Enginewright, also the Edward Medal of the Second Class to Mr. Isaac Hodges, Mining Agent, Mr. Albert Moore, Chargeman Sinker, Mr. James Hosey, Sinking Contractor, and Mr. Alfred Jones, Surface Foreman, under the following circumstances.

A serious shaft accident occurred on the 7th May last, at the Water Haigh Mine, by which six men lost their lives. The mine, which is situated at Oulton, about five miles east of Leeds, consists of four pits in course of sinking to develop a new mining area. Shaft No. 1 where the accident happened had been sunk to a depth of 109 yards, and the work of lining it with brickwork was being proceeded with. Skeleton iron rings are used to support the shaft during the process and it is necessary to remove these as the work of the bricking progresses.

At about 8 A.M. on the day mentioned, seven workmen, including a chargeman, were standing on a heavy scaffold, secured by bolts into the side of the shaft, engaged in the work of removing one of the iron rings. The chargeman, evidently having noticed some indication of danger, sent one of the men to the surface to call the master sinker, and, shortly after he had left, the scaffold gave way. Five of the men were hurled to the bottom of the shaft, and killed on the spot; but one of them, Patrick McCarthy, met with a less merciful death, being trapped by the legs between the heavy scaffold and the side of the shaft and partly buried by shale falling from the side, where he lingered in agony for over seven hours. Persistent efforts were made to rescue McCarthy from his perilous position.

Silkstone, Moore, Hosey and Jones were among the first to descend the pit when it was known that an accident had happened. In response to McCarthy's cries for help, they tried

to release him in spite of imminent danger from falling stones and bricks, but they were obliged to return to the surface for tools. Mr. Hodges, who had by this time reached the mine, immediately went down the pit and decided to build a temporary scaffold. Moore was given charge of this work and carried it out with admirable coolness and resource.

Mr. Pickering, His Majesty's Inspector of Mines, arrived on the scene just when this was completed, and accompanied by Mr. Hodges and Silkstone, Moore and Hosey, he entered the pit and reached the place where poor McCarthy was held a prisoner. In this descent Silkstone's head was severely injured by a falling stone, and Mr. Hodges and Hosey were also slightly injured. They found McCarthy still alive but the water was rising fast in the shaft and had reached his shoulders. It was evident that he would soon be drowned and that nothing could be done further to rescue him unless the water were lowered. Mr. Pickering at once sent all his fellow rescuers to the surface to enable a larger "bowk" to be put on and more men to be sent down to bale the water. In the meantime Mr. Pickering resolutely stayed by McCarthy—now almost delirious with his sufferings—and supporting his head on his arms and breast, he administered such comfort as he could to the dying man. Realising that McCarthy could not live until the water was baled out, Mr. Pickering decided that the only hope was immediate amputation of the legs, and at his request Mr. Hodges brought down two doctors and a Roman Catholic Priest, but McCarthy's terrible sufferings came to an end just as they reached him.

Mr. Pickering ran imminent risk of losing his life during the time that he stayed with McCarthy. Silkstone descended the pit no less than four times and did not desist until he had been severely injured. Mr. Hodges went down with three separate parties and displayed great bravery and skill in directing the work of the attempted rescue. Moore and Hosey also made three descents and showed great courage and presence of mind in face of danger, while Jones who organized the first rescue party was only prevented from continuing his brave endeavours by being injured so seriously that he could not return to work for six weeks.

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*Whitehall, July 22, 1910.*

The KING has been pleased to award a bar to the Edward Medal of the First Class, which he already holds, to

John Henry Thorne,

the Edward Medal of the First Class to

James Littlewood,

and the Edward Medal of the Second Class to

Richard Walker Moore, Mining Engineer.

Robert Richmond Blair, Engineer and Assistant General Manager.

Robert Steel, Manager (Wellington Pit).

Samuel Turner, Manager (William Pit).

James Henry, Under Manager (Wellington Pit).

Daniel Benn, Rope Splicer (Wellington Pit).

John Whillans, Deputy (Wellington Pit).

James Dunlop, Master Wasteman (Wellington Pit).

William John Henry, Master Shifter (Wellington Pit).

John Fearon, Shiftman (Wellington Pit).