
FALL OF COAL

BURIES TWO MEN

ONE DEAD; ONE RESCUED

(SYDNEY, Thursday.

A subsidence of coal on the British freighter, 'Millais', which is alongside the wharf at Jones' Bay, buried two men who were this morning engaged in loading operations. Four hours elapsed before the first was dug out and a further two hours before the second man was released.

One of the men, William Crawford, of Rowntree street, Balmain, was almost uninjured. The other, John Heffernan, aged 58 years, of Balmain, was dead. He was the father of 14 children.

Heffernan, Crawford, and Peter Graham were engaged in trimming the coal as it reached the hold of the

vessel in the chute. Suddenly the coal began to fall upon them from both sides. They dashed for safety but Crawford and Heffernan were overwhelmed. Crawford's face, however, was not covered, although the remainder of his body, from the neck downward, was pinned.

Members of the crew of the vessel started to dig the men out; but it was a dangerous job for at any moment there was a likelihood of a further fall of coal. Gradually the coal was removed from around Crawford. For some time he bore the weight of the coal heroically; but as time dragged on the pain became acute. He told his rescuers that he could feel Heffernan beneath him.

Eventually, four hours after the fall, Crawford was released. He was very weak, but received only abrasions.

It was nearly two hours after that Heffernan's body was found. Apparently he had been suffocated almost immediately after the fall took place.