## Whitehall, June 22, 1916.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Edward Medal of the first class to James Burt and Arthur Frankland, also the Edward Medal of the second class to Duncan M'Polland on account of their gallant conduct on the occasion of an explosion which occurred at the works of the Nobel Explosive Co., Ardeer, on the 30th July 1915;

Also the Edward Medal of the second class to Arthur Woodhouse and Joseph Peat, miners at the Wood Lane Colliery, Hill Top, Horsley, near Derby, under the following circumstances :---

On the 24th December 1915, John Orrill, the Manager of the Wood Lane Colliery, ordered a man named David Aldread to fetch a shovel from a point some 200 yards distant. As Aldread did not return Orrill ordered another man, William Peat, to fetch an electric lamp from the surface and search for Aldread, and meanwhile Orrill himself went in search of the missing man. On his return with the lamp, William Peat folowed Orrill and found both Orrill and Aldread lying unconscious on the ground, while he himself was nearly overcome by black-damp. He at once summoned help, and guided his son, Joseph Peat, and Arthur Woodhouse to a spot about 12 yards distant from the bodies: Rν this time the air was so bad that a flame would not burn, and the only light by which the men could work was an electric hand lamp of one candle power. In spite of the difficulty and danger, Woodhouse and Peat by successive rushes forward over an obstacle created by a fall of roof, into an atmosphere fatal to life, succeeded in attaching their belts round the bodies, first of Orrill and then of Aldread, fastening a long strap from some adjacent machinery to the belts and pulling them out over the fall. Had either man stumbled or fallen when near the bodies the result would in all probability have been fatal. The rescue lasted from 60 to 90 minutes. Both Orrill and Aldread were dead when their bodies were recovered, but the unfortunate result does not detract from the bravery of the rescuers.

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Also the Edward Medal of the second class to Frederick George Stephens, Under Manager of the Aberaman Colliery, under the following circumstances :---

On the 10th September 1915, a fireman of the Aberaman Colliery, on examining the pit at noon, found some timbers breaking, owing to roof weighting, and instructed a workman named Gamble to set props beneath the collars of the timbers. As Gamble was approaching the spot six pairs of timbers gave way causing a heavy fall (about 16 tons) of roof and sides, by which Gamble was caught. He was buried by about four feet of rubbish, his head and feet pinned tight, but his body protected by some fallen timber. Efforts were made to get him free, but were frustrated by the further falls, which were continually taking place. Stephens, the Under Manager, arrived about half an hour after the accident by which time the roof and

one side had become so dangerous that no one would venture near Gamble in spite of his cries for help. Stephens, however, immediately placed himself over Gamble, so as to protect him, and called for volunteers. Four men responded and, under Stephens' instructions, began to pull down the overhanging stones, which Stephens, who is a strong man, diverted from falling on to Gamble, and by so doing was himself injured. After two hours' exertion Stephens succeeded in freeing Gamble, whose injuries, though not very serious, incapacitated him for two months from work. There can be little doubt that, had not Stephens been able to divert the falling stones, Gamble would have been in great danger of being crushed or suffocated, and it was Stephens' example which prompted the other men to renew their attempt at rescue, from which they had desisted owing to the danger of falling stones.

Also the Edward Medal of the second class to Harold Gregory, Under Manager, Charles Benjamin Franklin, Day Deputy, Charles William Hudson, Contractor, Edward Nurse, Stallman, and Thomas Smith, Stallman, employed at the Ireland Colliery, Stavely, Derbyshire, under the following circumstances :--

On the 28th February 1916, at 7 a.m., a fall of roof occurred at the Ireland Colliery, by which a filler named John William Fieldsend was imprisoned. Gregory, Franklin, Hudson. Nurse. and Smith at once set to work to open a passage through the fallen roof in order to rescue their fellow-workman. The roof was everywhere very uneasy and a further fall was liable to occur at any moment. Owing to the narrowness of the place, only one man could work at the head of the passage (the most dangerous place), while the remaining four, one behind the other, passed out the material removed, the men taking by turns the post of danger. After about three hours' work, at 10 a.m. a further fall occurred, closing the passage, which had been made for three yards. Fortunately the workers escaped without injury. Work was at once resumed, and Fieldsend was reached. As soon, however, as an attempt was made to remove him from under a piece of timber, by which he was pinned down, a third fall occurred, blocking up the passage for about four yards, and displacing much of the timber which had been used to prop up the roof and walls of the passage as it was made. Finally, at 5 p.m., after ten hours' continuous work, Fieldsend was reached and taken out of the pit. He was not much injured. All five men ran continuous risk, during the whole ten hours, of serious injury or death from falls of roof.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Henry John Puxty, late Second Office Keeper, India Office.

## Factory Department, Home Office, June 26, 4916.

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