12 MONTHS AFTER COALBROOK
Four Commissions But No Results Yet

THIS JANUARY IT WILL BE ONE YEAR SINCE 435 MINERS DIED IN THE COALBROOK MINE DISASTER. THIS ARTICLE ASKS SOME SEARCHING QUESTIONS. FOUR GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS HAVE REPORTED. THIS SPECIAL REPORT FULFILLS ITS REPORT. THE STATUTORY COMMISSION FOUND THAT THE DISASTER WAS DUE TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE MANAGEMENT. TO THIS DAY THERE HAS BEEN NO PROSECUTION IN THE COURTS. WHY THE LONG DELAYS?

Suffocated by methane gas and crushed to death by rockfall 500 ft. underground, lies the ghastly face of 435 — 429 Africans and six Whites who perished underground on January 21, 1960. Dramatic rescue operations were carried out and for two weeks the relatives, officials and the whole country waited in suspense while hopes were raised and fell, and finally abandoned when, on February 5, the Prime Minister announced in Parliament that "all hope must be abandoned."

THE RESCUE ATTEMPTS
As soon as it was realised that the men could not be rescued by clearing the shafts because of quantities of gas and continued rock falls, the management decided to attempt to reach them by means of falls, the drill could advance 5 feet per hour, before it reached 515 feet down. It was then reported that "there was no sign of life."

A TV camera and a special focor were lowered but the day is still to come when the public knows what they revealed to the management "refused to make a statement."

A second borehole was started half-a-mile away in a mealie field, the object being to descend 50 feet and then excavate horizontally until the men were reached. "The bodies will be brought up, whatever the cost," stated Mr. Nel, the Secretary for Mines, on the 26th March. But on the 9th March, it was officially announced that the drill would keep its dead as far as three weeks away. The management declared to the public that it was not possible to proceed according to plan.

SPIRITUAL SEER
Yet a third borehole was commenced on the 10th Feb when a spiritualist from Springs started a third attempt at the spot. It took the white and seven African seers longer, still. It was then decided that the African spiritualist was on a phone call from one of the white miners' widows to Ellis, General Secretary of the MWU, requesting that a borehole be drilled there. It was then announced by the Minister of Mines to instruct the Company to "put the drill down where the women want it."

It too was abandoned when the Government informed the engineer who explained to the women that the "Seer's" spot was 1,100 feet away from the place where the accident took place and over solid rock.

HEROIC ATTEMPTS
The rescue attempts were stupendous, heroic and there was no praise high enough for those who took part. The Mining Inspector praised the technicians and the proto teams but he said, "the boreholes were all a waste of time, the results would have been the same whether they were put down and, called the rescue attempts a "big bungle."

Mr. Lorimer, a Manager, said, in evidence, that the whites were not even asked for help. The women were not even asked for help. The women were not even asked for help.

A relative of one of the entombed African miners collapses at the pithead.

No less than four inquiries were appointed to investigate this greatest mine disaster of man's ear. Where any accident causing death or grievous bodily harm to any person occurs at a mine, or works, an inspector of mines, machinery or explosives shall hold an inquiry into the cause of the accident, and where any other occurrence occurs at the mine or works, such an inspector may hold such inquiry. Where the opinion of the Government Mining Engineer (continued on page 8)

THE COMPENSATION SCANDAL

Pensions Needed — Not Lump Sums

The Coalbrook mine tragedy brought visions of support and sympathy from the miners of South Africa and from all over the world, and many of them took the form of donations for the families of the dead miners. A number of funds have been started, from the rich-gold-chamber of Mines and the rich-gold-chamber of the Country, from the Mineworkers' Union, and from other associations.

An investigation into the amounts received by the families of the Coalbrook Mine shows that both the White and the African miners got far more than the families of the African miners. The amount of compensation paid depends on a long-term pension fund.

The Coalbrook mine scandal has failed to shake the Government's amended pensions for compensation so that Africans too can get pensions in lump sum payments. Against this, it is 12 months after the Coalbrook tragedy that the families of the African miners are still waiting for a decision and the compensation remaining on the colour bar remains unchanged.

Funds for the miners' families

In the mine accident six White miners died; two African miners from the Union, 210 recruits from Basutoland, 120 from Transvaal and 224 recruits from Batsololand. Nearly all of the families of the White miners get pensions automatically provided from the Governor-General's Mine Disaster Fund.

Pensions needed — not lump sums

African miners get lump sums payable to the White dependants "until such time as the widows re-marries", and to the children for as long as they are dependent. "Thus only the White families are on pension."

Small compensation

The African dependants get lump payments when the families were traced, and in many instances this took some considerable time. The Basuto and the African families have not been compensated.

The total compensation paid to the Basuto miners by the Rand Mutual and Insurance Company is £41,745 2s. 9d. This means that the average amount of compensation paid out from mine insurance funds has been £192.

In the case of these Coalbrook victims this lump sum was swelled by special donations, besides the £10,000 from the British Government; £10,000 from the Chamber of Commerce (continued on page 8)
U.S. BLAMED FOR LAOS WAR

The armed forces and people of Laos have been urged to rally around the lawful Government in preparation for a sustained offensive against the legal Laotian Government. The U.S. were in actual fact taking part directly in the military operations of the Phoumi Nosavang-Boun Ou Nampa Chamsak clique against the legal government of Laos which had been engaged in implementing a policy of war against the neutralist Government.

The U.S. Government has been holding responsible, the Vietnam lettuce rested "fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the U.S." It said: "Had it not been for American and Siamese aid and encouragement, the Laotian people would have been very unlikely to have risked their attack on Vientiane."

The same paper's military correspondent said that it was the U.S. "bourgeois that tipped the scales" in favour of Phoumi's forces in the battle of Vientiane.

AGGRESSORS

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Khrushchov's support in reply to the information that the Government had moved to Stanleville, Mr. Khrushchov stated in a telegram to Mr. A. Ginzberg, Congolese Vice-President, that "the Soviet Government has given and will continue to give, together with other states friendly to the Republic of the Congo, every possible assistance and support to the Congolese people and its lawful Government in their just struggle against the colonialists." Mr. Khrushchov said in his telegram: "We fully share your Government's concern over the situation which has arisen as a result of the terror of colonialists and their hirelings who have arrested its Prime Minister, P. Lumumba, many members of the Government and members of Parliament.

The continued aggression of the "imperialist powers against the Republic of the Congo has aroused the anger and indignation of all African people," he said.
What's OUR Score?

DURING the past year Scoreboard has added up the points in many fields of sport: now it's the turn of this column. What has it done, and what can it do for sport? It must be remembered that publicity can do a great deal to build up sport. The Press can be very important.

Leading Features

The three features which drew most readers were:
★ The on-the-spot report of an E.P. Rugby XV on an S.A. invitation XV
★ Scoreboard's nomination of G. K. Rongenamy as its "Sportman of the Year."
★ A Report on Racism in Eastern Province Cricket.

Weakness in Column

The biggest weakness of this column is that it does not carry many on-the-spot reports like the rugby story. There is only one solution: we must get you to send in reports of big events. Scoreboard will play its part in getting this column up to standard.

Sportsman of the Year

The nomination of Sportman-of-the-Year "seems to have been very popular," but will not be a permanent feature. In future, other issues that we can stimulate progress.

Scops

In addition, Scoreboard has managed to get first printing exclusion of players who do not wish to appear in the international cricket scene.

References from this Column

★ This Column was trying to influence readers;
★ The fight to remove racial discrimination from sport was "political."
★ That it was unfair to refer to Milo Pillay as "moderate" was brought apart and into weightlifting.

New Year Greetings

In conclusion, Best wishes to readers and sportsmen everywhere for a Happy New Year of Sport in 1961.

SPORTS FLASHES

Congratulations this week to:
★ Kenal Caspoe to East London and Isak van der Merwe to the Springbok soccer team;
★ 6 South African tennis matches against the Americans Mike Franks and Donald Dell won.
★ To Regent Cricket Club (P.E.) for a very friendly Cricket match against a White XI. The match ended in a draw.
★ To the Non-White XI which beat a White XI by 127 runs in a two-day match in Johannesburg.
★ To Regents Cricket Club (H.E.) for a very friendly Cricket match against a White XI. The match ended in a draw.
★ To the Non-White XI which beat a White XI by 127 runs in a two-day match in Johannesburg.
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