











Terrible Lesson To All

People of this area have long had reason to be aware of the deadly menace of methane gas in coal mines. The deaths of many miners have been avoided by taking precautions against it.

The calamity which brought sudden death to two little New Victoria boys 25 feet down the slope of the long abandoned No. 17 Colliery has starkly notified us of an instance in which proper precautions were

ine news report or the tragedy said that although an "effort" apparently had been made to seal the entrance to No. 17 with a wall of earth, erosion and sinking over a period had created an entrance.

learned that it was possible for years to go down the slope as far as 100 feet. Several miners who have gone down the slope at times without difficulty have surmised that the sealing of No. 18 Colliery last winter resulted in gas accumulations being driven into old No. 17 and up its slope.

All this became dreadfully apparent when it

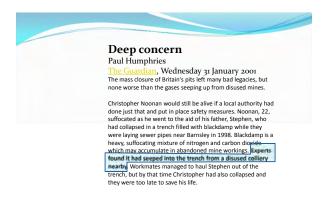
ercame the small pair, cousins aged six

One sure thing is that no amount of calamity will halt succeeding generations of children from being adventurous and daring to play. It is instinctive of small boys, symptomatic of their admirable qualities, indicative that they will grow to be energetic and enterprising mon-if they

This puts a stern obligation on adults to do everything possible to seal off effectively all pitfalls such as old wells and abandoned collieries, and to keep discarded refrigerators out of the reach of children, indeed to remove the doors of refrigerators participated.

Despite repeated news of youngsters in play crawling into refrigerators and shutting themselves in, smothering to death in such

If a magisterial inquiry is held into the new Victoria tragedy, it will point to the obvious, but will the terrible lesson actually be learned.







PURPOSE OF PROTOCOLS

Foster awareness of the mining-related hazards associated with abandoned coal mine workings

GOAL OF PROTOCOLS

To help insure that site investigations and remediation are carried out effectively, efficiently, with due regard for worker and public safety and in an environmentally considerate manner

