

# **THE CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.**

**In the Newburg Mine Disaster—Testimony  
Given Yesterday.**

*Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.*

NEWBURG, W. VA., Jan. 29.—The Coroner's inquest into the causes and responsibility of the death of the thirty-nine miners killed in the Newburg Orrel Coal Company's Mountain Brook shaft on Thursday, January 21, was resumed at 9 o'clock this morning with all the jurors present. A number of witnesses were examined but nothing new was developed, the evidence being merely corroborative of that heard on Thursday. The taking of testimony, it is expected, will close tomorrow. Only a few mine experts remain to be examined. The questions put them will, of course, be of a hypothetical character.

On the day that two of the victims of the disaster were taken to Fairmont for burial, two strangers on the train took up a collection for the benefit of the sufferers, and under the influence of the sympathy aroused by the weeping families, realized a handsome sum. This money has not since been heard from, and telegraphic inquiries concerning the collectors and the proceeds made by Rev. B. B. Evans have produced no information concerning them.

## **A NEW THEORY.**

The testimony so far heard, especially that of Conway, who told of striking a "feeder" of gas in the mine, which seemed to issue from a crevice in the coal, has caused considerable more stock to be taken in the natural gas theory than was at first. This theory seems not at all unreasonable. It is that the so-called "fire-damp" in the mine is nothing but natural gas. At a point on the creek not far from the shaft gas constantly bubbles up, and if a pan with a hole in the bottom be inverted over the bubbles the gas issues from the hole and can be ignited. This is regarded as a sure sign that natural gas exists under this place, and nothing is more likely than that it should find its way through fissures in or between the various strata to the mine, which is 300 feet below the surface of the earth.