

FOR DEATH OF BOYS

Cherry Mine Inquiry May
Result in Prosecution.

MINE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE

Youths Under 16 Died in
Fire Horror.

Their Employment Was Serious
Violation on the
State Law.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—Two investigations of the mine disaster at Cherry will get underway this week. Coroner Malm of Bureau county began his inquiry into the cause of death of the victims of the fire yesterday morning, and the state mine investigating commission and the state mine inspectors—two separate bodies—will decide upon a plan of joint action today at Springfield.

Coroner Mann said Saturday he would investigate every angle of the disaster and would endeavor to fix the responsibility.

"The coroner's jury is going to take time to make the most thorough investigation possible of the cause of the fire as to the responsibility for the lack of proper care to prevent such a disaster," said he.

"The mine is closed now and it probably will be a long time before it will be reopened. We can gain nothing by further delay, but if, when the mine is reopened, new facts come to light, the investigation will be renewed. The coroner's jury will be in session for as long a time as it is necessary."

The mine company is fighting for time and is trying to have the coroner's investigation delayed as long as possible, it was reported to Coroner Mann. When the coroner's jury convenes it will find that some of the most important witnesses have left Cherry and cannot be located.

Mrs. Charles Love, the sister of Robert Deans, said that she would tell the coroner the story of the kidnapping of her brother.

"I know everything he knows about the fire," said she, "and they cannot kidnap me nor pay me enough to get me to leave Cherry until after this thing has been probed to the bottom."

Edgar T. Davies, state factory inspector, said he had secured evidence in the cases of ten of the victims of the mine disaster to justify the starting of criminal prosecutions in these cases. These victims, he said, were all under the age of 16 years and their employment was a violation of the child labor law.

Officials of the St. Paul mine who allowed children under the legal age

to work in the mine in defiance of the state labor law are personally responsible for the deaths of the children, Mr. Davies said, and may be held both criminally and civilly.

The boys were employed in the Cherry mine as trappers. One of them Alfred Howard, lived for three days in a shaft protected by a barrier erected by the mines before he was suffocated by the black damp. The story of his death and that of thirty-six men caught in the same part of the mine was told in a remarkable diary left by his brother, Samuel Howard, but a few years older.

Mrs. Charles Howard, the mother of Alfred, told the factory inspector that Alfred was but 15 years old. Through his death and that of her other son, she is left without means of support.

In addition to the ten boys who lost their lives in the mine horror, Inspector Davies has received information to the effect that many of the boys over the age of 16 years who were killed entered the service of the mine company before they reached that age.

PERSONAL MENTION.

W. S. Jenks went to Nortonville, Kans., yesterday on business.

Jack McEwing returned to Hutchinson yesterday afternoon.

T. E. Leeper made a business trip to Kansas City yesterday afternoon.

Miss Nelle Ischy of Rantoul was visiting in the city yesterday.

C. K. Perkins of Wellsville spent yesterday in the city on business.

Mrs. W. S. Clark spent the day in Lawrence.

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Cline went to Lawrence on business this morning.

James Simons returned to Kansas City today after a business visit here.

Mrs. H. W. Fessenden spent the day in Kansas City.

O. B. Oelkers made a business trip to Williamsburg today.

F. H. Haigler made a business trip to Wellsville this morning.

J. B. Norman went to Burlington today on business for the Forest Park mill.

Mrs. Roy Duffield and son Ralph of Rantoul were shopping in the city yesterday.

Mrs. G. P. Moses went to Elmo, Mo., today to visit her mother for a few days.

Mrs. H. M. Clark went to Covington, Kans., this morning for a visit with relatives.

Miss Jessie Smith went to Kansas City this morning for a few days' visit with friends.

Judge H. W. Chaffee returned this morning from a two days' visit in Hutchinson.

J. R. Boardman and Will Angelo went to Kansas City today on business.

O. L. Taylor and U. S. Hannum went to Bonner Springs this morning for a few days' business visit.

Miss Bertha Shockey returned to Baldwin yesterday after spending the Thanksgiving holidays with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woodlief and baby left yesterday for Kansas City after a visit at the home of Mrs.