

STARTLING TESTIMONY AT THE CHERRY MINE INQUIRY

**Evidence Introduced to Show Child
Labor Law Has Been Violated—
Inexperienced Boy Said to
Have Started Fire.**

Cherry, Ill., Dec. 4.—Testimony was introduced this morning at the coroner's inquest of the Cherry mine disaster tending to show the fire was started by Mat Francisco, an inexperienced boy of fifteen, who was working in the mine in an alleged violation of the child labor law. Francisco himself was on the stand and stated he had pushed the car of hay that caught fire to the elevator shaft leading to the third vein, and left it standing close to the blazing torch which ignited it. The lad said it was the first bale of hay he had ever been required to handle and no one in authority in the mine gave him instructions as to what to do with it. The authorities consider this testimony of greatest importance and say it justifies the opinion that the child labor law is freely violated in Cherry to the great danger of the miners.