

LAYLAND MINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY DUST

*Dust Was Allowed to Accumulate
in Mines—Was Not Kept Wet
As Law Requires.*

That a dust explosion caused the disaster in the Layland mine in Fayette county, in which more than 100 persons lost their lives, was the finding of a coroner's jury early Thursday morning. The inquest was held before Justice B. S. Hastings at Layland, and the jury was composed of John A. Higginbotham, J. E. Lowe, W. D. Lewis, A. Absalom, H. W. Claypool and O. D. Amick.

The investigation into the cause of the disaster was conducted by Chief Mine Inspector Earl Henry, who reported to Charleston. Up until the investigation proper it was the general belief that the explosion was caused by a gas explosion but after the various witnesses had been heard and every other fact taken into consideration it was the belief of the jury that coal dust exploded as a result of a blow out shot in the mine.

Some of the miners who had been working at Layland who were in Hinton, said that the coal company did not wet the dust, as required by the mining inspection laws and that the dust was dry and deep in many places in the mine, which was in their opinion responsible for the explosion.