

## **"BLOW-OUT" SHOT**

### **Was Responsible For Layland Disaster, Says Coroner's Jury..**

**SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.**

Charleston, W. Va., March 18.—That the 111 miners who were killed in the mine explosion at the Layland mine, in Fayette County, were victims of a blow-out shot fired by one of their number was determined at the inquest held over the bodies of the unfortunate miners by Mayor Bert S. Hastings, of Montgomery, concluded last night.

Contrary to what was general belief, the Layland explosion was not the result of an accumulation of gas in the workings of the mine, but resulted from an ignition of dust induced by the blow-out shot.

The gas encountered in the mine by the rescuing parties was the distilled gas which followed in the wake of the dust explosion.

Scores of witnesses were examined during the investigation, including a number of miners who were imprisoned in the workings for 95 hours after the blast. The men told of having existed for days with nothing to eat but the bark from the timbers and posts in the mining rooms, and one testified to having gnawed an entire day on a pair of buckskin shoe-strings. He admitted having obtained relief from it.