

The Inquest on the Mine Horror at Union- town, Pa.

A Number of Minor Casualties From all Points.

THE MINE EXPLOSION.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Feb. 23.—Coroner Ballin commenced his investigation this morning into the cause of the explosion on Wednesday morning at West Leisenring mine, in which nineteen men were killed. Supt. Tavern was present with counsel to represent the company, while R. H. Lindsay examined the witnesses in the interest of the prospective litigants.

Morgans Richard, fire boss, said he had not examined the mine for fire damp since Monday morning, but had been through it with a naked lamp on Tuesday. The air shaft had been covered up, but was not on Monday.

Thos. Jenk, boss, said, he had gone through the mine on Tuesday with a naked lamp, but had not looked for fire damp since the previous Thursday. He had not measured the air current for three weeks, but considered the shaft one of the most perfect he had ever seen. The air shaft, he had been informed by the carpenters, was completed, but he had never notified the miners of the fact.

Several of the miners testified that the fire boss had warned them on the 14th inst. not to go through the trap door between Nos. 3 and 4, Butts saying he would not do it for all the money in the world.

Chas Conner, mining boss, Leith shaft, testified that the ventilation at Leisenring was ample, and, with some modifications, would consider it a model mine.

Contributions for the benefit of the families of the sufferers are coming in. Judge Leisenring, president of the company, has sent a check for \$1,000.

After recess a large number of witnesses was examined. Hans Clendenning and several others, testified that the top of the air shaft was closed at night, that the air in the mine was bad and proper precautions had not been taken. They were flatly contradicted by George Hansel and other employees.

Mine Inspector Steiner and Thos. Parker and Wilson Rossed, mining experts, testified that the gas had undoubtedly accumulated in the vacant rooms, and if they had been inspected on Wednesday morning before the men went to work, there would have been no explosion. All agreed however, there was a possibility that there had been a fall of the roof, and the gas had accumulated suddenly.

General Supt. Saggart testified that to the best of his knowledge, every precaution to insure safety to the miners had been adopted. He thought it a fact, that during Tuesday night, men had gone into the vacant rooms with bare lamps and that there had been a fall of the roof and a sudden generation of gas, that could only have been guarded against by inspecting the mine every morning before work commenced. As the presence of gas had not been suspected in the mine, this had not been done, and it was not done in any other mine similarly circumstanced.

Wm. Connerby testified that he had noticed the presence of gas several times and had lighted it. He notified the mine boss about it. Several other witnesses were examined, but nothing important was elicited. The jury retired at 8 o'clock and are still out.

THE VERDICT.

The jury brought in a verdict, censuring the company for not having the mine examined daily for fire damp, and the mine inspector for not having inspected the mine. Suits will now be instituted immediately by the relatives of the men killed.