

FAULT OF THE ENGINEER.

CORONER'S INQUEST INTO THE CALUMET MINE.

The Evidence Now in Seems to Indicate Gross Carelessness on the Part of Engineer Ernest Tullin—He, However, Protests His Innocence and Says the Indicator Failed to Work.

RED JACKET, Mich., May 15.—[Special.]—Mine Inspector Hall and the county coroner are holding a joint investigation into yesterday's terrible disaster at the Calumet and Hecla mine, in which ten men were dropped 3,000 feet to physical annihilation. The evidence so far points to the accident's resulting from the negligence of the engineer who strongly protests his innocence. The remains of the ten unfortunates were brought to the surface in baskets. The sight at the mouth of the shaft was heart-rending, as the wives, daughters and sweet-hearts of the dead men crowded around. Some one was responsible for the accident. It cannot be blamed upon providence. Gross carelessness alone caused the horrible loss of life.

Never in the history of copper mining has so serious an accident occurred. Over a quarter century's history of the celebrated mine tells no tale of woe such as to-day.

Sunday work in the mines is only done in the line of repairs to machinery and timbering up the walls to the shaft, to admit miners to drill and blast week days. The ten men killed went down in the morning to timber, and had worked all the forenoon. When noon came they stepped into the skip to be hoisted 3,150 feet to the surface to get their dinner. The time in being hoisted is only a minute by the powerful engines used.

Ernest Tullin, a very reliable engineer, says his indicator showed 750 feet more to hoist. It must have failed to respond. The cage went crashing against the roof of the shaft house. There was a crushing of timbers. Something must give way. The coupling pin of the wire cable broke, but some of the miners must have been crushed before they took the awful drop that ended all.

LATER—Only one man was killed and three injured in the Lincoln, Ills., mine horror.

TEN MEN DASHED TO PIECES.

Shaft Horror in the Calumet and Hecla Mine Yesterday.

HOUGHTON, May 14.—Ten timbermen were dashed to pieces in the Red Jacket perpendicular shaft of the Calumet and Hecla mine at noon today. The miners were coming up in the cage to dinner and the engineer hoisted the cage against the timbers of the shaft. The coupling pin broke and the men and cage were dashed downward over three thousand feet to the bottom. The names of the killed are: Allen Cameron, son of Captain Cameron, in charge; James Cocking, single, supporting widowed mother; Joseph Pope, leaves a wife and one child—the wife was at the mouth of the shaft with his dinner; John Odgers, leaves a wife and several children; John Hicks, single, aged 24; Andrew Edno, aged 40, married; Robert Wuopia, leaves a wife and three children; Michael Leavitto, widower; James Trevni, leaves a wife and three children; Con S. Sullivan, single, aged 40. Thousands of people were around the shaft all day. The men were aboard a skip, used in hoisting rock, and when the load of human freight reached the surface, the engineer did not stop in time, but sent the skip to the top of the derrick, when it broke loose and dropped back with a crash to the bottom of the shaft. There was no way of reaching the bottom nor getting the dead men out except by going through another shaft, half a mile away, so that it was nearly three hours before the true state of affairs could be ascertained and it will be toward morning before the bodies can be brought to the surface. It is necessary to hoist them 550 feet by ropes to reach the level of the next shaft, then carry them nearly half a mile through the drifts and then hoist by the man car. Twelve men went down this morning, but one of them was attacked by sickness and was sen up, accompanied by one of his comrades. The coroner and a jury are now making a thorough investigation. General Manager Whiting and Superintendent Duncan are almost prostrated by the awful responsibility thrust upon them. Did the indicator fail to work, and fail to inform the endineer when the cage reached the surface, as he says, or did he become careless and fail to stop the engine at the proper moment? These are the questions that are being asked and the investigation is expected to determine.