

Deceased and three other men were going to their work, using the slope for their traveling-way. Nearly opposite the second cross-cut from the sixth north entry a thin layer of roof fell on deceased, causing internal injuries from which he died.

The slope was not timbered at this point, as it was not considered necessary, the roof being strong and intact. The piece that fell on Coneglio was of a scale character; the thickest part was about nine inches and tapered to nothing at the edges.

Coroner investigated, but held no inquest.

HENRY DENMAN.

September 16.—Robert G. Bickerton, Bertie Endrietta, Charles Turngreen, Pete Daldos, George Casanova and Dan Taller were killed by an **explosion at Spring Gulch mine**, Pitkin county, at about 6 p. m., September 16, 1901.

The explosion occurred in the north B drift. Dan Taller, Pete Daldos and George Casanova were in the mine at the time. Charles Turngreen, Bertie Endrietta and George Bickerton were outside the mine and opposite the mouth of the north B.

There are two openings in the Gulch, viz.: North B and south B. The entrance to the south B is situated about thirty feet west of the north B entrance. Charles Turngreen and Bertie Endrietta worked in the south B. They were coming from their work, and passing directly opposite the mouth of the north B drift, when the explosion occurred. They encountered the full force of the blast as it came out of the mine. Endrietta was killed instantly, Turngreen lived until about 3 o'clock the following morning.

Robert Bickerton was employed as a driver. He was found about two hundred and twenty feet from the entrance to the north B, on the opposite side of the gulch. Pete Daldos and George Casanova worked as miners in room No. 24, north B. Daldos was found on the entry at No. 23 chute. He was lying face down; his hands were slightly burned on the back. Casanova was lying near No. 22 chute, on the entry. His face was slightly burned; also, back of right hand. Dan Taller was employed as shot-lighter. He

was in the neck of room No. 32, below the battery door, at the edge of the man-way and on the north side of the chute.

The three above-mentioned men, who were in the mine, were recovered immediately after the explosion, but they expired before the rescue party could reach them. Their bodies were not mangled. Taller, who was further inside than the others, was not singed, nor was there a scratch on him. Presumably, death was caused by asphyxiation, as none of the deceased received injuries which would be considered fatal.

The mine is non-gaseous, and is aired by natural ventilation. The north drift is in about two thousand feet, with a parallel air-course forty feet from the entry, on the high side. There are two air-courses driven out to the surface; inside one is at room No. 15.

On the evening of September 19 John T. Kebler, William J. Murray, Joe Ball, John P. Thomas, David Griffiths, ex-State Inspector of Coal Mines; Tim Tinsley and I endeavored to explore the mine and to determine the cause of the explosion, or to ascertain the initial point, but were unsuccessful. On the following evening we tried again, but found no evidence to satisfy our efforts. The morning of the 21st we again examined the mine, and, from certain conditions which we discovered, the explosion originated somewhere inside of room No. 34. Its course was along the entry to the entrance, and up through the two air-courses that were driven to the surface. We found evidences of a recoil in the main air-course, between rooms 22 and 23.

The initial point, or cause, of the said explosion remains a mystery, as there was no evidence of a blown-out shot in any of the places that had been blasted. The shot-lighter usually went to the face of the entry to commence firing. The entry and several places outward had been blasted, and from where Taller was found, it is presumed, he was pursuing this method when the explosion occurred. Room No. 24, where Casanova and Daldos worked, had been blasted. Probably Taller had given them permission to do so.

The mine was comparatively damp; some parts of the entry were wet. The driest part of the mine was near the

outside and in the abandoned workings. Dust may have been one of the agents, as there is more or less dust in suspension in all mines, especially when blasting is going on, but I am of the opinion that there are elements that support combustion in coal mines other than those we know of, and which science has not yet discovered.

HENRY DENMAN.

VERDICT OF JURY.

State of Colorado, County of Pitkin, ss.

An inquest held before J. C. Johnson coroner of Pitkin county, over the dead bodies of Robert G. Bickerton, Daniel Taller, Charles Turngreen, Bertie Endrietta, George Casanova and Pete Daldos, who were killed by an explosion in the mine at Spring Gulch, Colorado, No. 32 B. We, the jury, find that the above came to their deaths from said explosion, which was a dust explosion, supposed to have been caused by a blown-out shot, fired by a party, or parties, unknown to the jury, and we hold that the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company was not responsible in any way for the accident. The explosion occurred on September 16, 1901, at 5:30 p. m.

(Signed)

JOHN HANNA,
LOUIS NEEDERMYER,
J. W. HERWICK,
DILBERT BROWN,
J. L. HERWICK,
W. M. MANLEY,

Jurors.

September 28—William Cooper, blaster, was fatally injured by a shot at the face of the main air-course, No. 1 vein, Maitland mine, Huerfano county, at 6 a. m., September 28, 1901. He died in six hours after.

Cooper, Lee Chavez, driver, and three loaders were working night shift. Cooper was employed to shoot down the coal after the mining machines. He worked in this capacity for seven weeks. Shortly before 6 a. m., their quitting time, Chavez assisted deceased to tamp two holes in