

DUE CARE WAS NOT TAKEN.

This Statement Made by Coroner's
Jury in Regard to the Cats-
burg Mine Disaster.

Special to The Pittsburgh Post.

MONONGAHELA, Pa., March 18.—The inquest into the deaths of the five men at the Catsburg mines was resumed here this morning at 10 o'clock, in the council chamber.

The jury rendered its verdict at 4.35 p. m., as follows: "Robert Howey came to his death by an explosion of gas in Catsburg mine because of certain brattices or bulk heads having been removed. This caused an accumulation of gas to be forced on the fire still existing in the mine. We find, also, that the due precaution was not taken in this case and will recommend that the mining laws be amended so as to more fully govern accumulation of gases and control of fire in mines." The same verdict was rendered in all the cases.

William Sedden, superintendent, was the first witness called. He stated that the mine was in fair condition until the fire broke out in 62 entry. He told Howey to get the best help possible.

John Coulter, mine foreman at the Ivil mines, testified that he consulted with several of the men of the Catsburg mine on Wednesday evening, and concluded from the examinations they had made that the fire was out. Edward Carlton, Jr., fire boss, testified that on Wednesday night he, with Fire Boss Wood, had taken off the lower plank of the bulkhead to allow the gas to escape gradually. He had made frequent tests through the night, and the gas was escaping satisfactorily.

Dan Griffith, now mine foreman at the Catsburg mine, testified that with Mr. Sedden and Robert Howey, he had entered the mine on Thursday morning and they had consulted on arriving at the bulk head. The three, he said, had concluded to take more of the planking off and allow the gas to escape more freely.

John Hagggar, a road man, testified that he accompanied Eastwood and Howey in the mine. He and James Howey were ordered to take the planks off the bulkhead to allow more gas to escape. They took off four planks and noticed a white mist coming out at the top. About 10 a. m. all sat down to eat lunch. After eating Howey and Eastwood took a smoke, lighting their cigars from their safety lamps. He said James Howey had cautioned his father not to smoke, but the latter replied, "ne had been there before." Eastwood after finishing his cigar tramped upon it to extinguish it, but Howey kept on smoking and when they reached the brattices was still smoking. In a few minutes after reaching it the explosion occurred. There could not have been a more graphic or dramatic story than Hagggar told to the jury of how he crawled over the dead bodies of his companions through the stifling afterdamp to the mine telephone.

John McVicker, mine foreman, testified that in his opinion it was unsafe to smoke in any mine where there was gas. Lute Hornickie, a former superintendent, testified that he did not consider the mine more dangerous than other mines of the same class. He considered Howey a competent man.