

INQUEST STOPPED BECAUSE JURY OBJECTED TO PUBLISHING EVIDENCE

Shamokin, Dec. 2.—The jury sworn by Deputy Coroner George Dreher to hold an inquest on the bodies of Thomas Orentus, Charles Murat, Leon Sikoski and Walley Senkawicz, who were fatally injured and burnt by the explosion in the Luke Fidler mine Saturday at noon, met last evening to hear witness as to the causes of the accident, but adjourned owing to the presence of newspaper reporters.

Coroner Dreher ruled that they had a right to be there whereupon the jury asked the Coroner to postpone the meeting until Thursday night, when the public should be admitted along with the press representatives. This was agreed to. The jury said they wanted the inquest to be held in secret, so that miners on the jury, and witnesses who are miners would not risk possible intimidation through mine superintendents learning what testimony was given.

MINE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATES.

Mine Inspector Edward Brennan conducted an investigation and from the evidence brought out it would seem that the miners working breast 42, No. 1 gangway, in the deep slope, discovered a feeder of gas and immediately gave the alarm to the workmen in the breasts adjoining, all of whom repaired to the gangway. On reaching that point they dispatched a messenger boy to the fireboss, telling him of their discovery. Before the boy returned the explosion took place.

Breast No. 36 was worked by Jesse Koppenhaver and yesterday morning a cartridge half made was found there along with a safety lamp, the condition of which showed at once that it had been parted by being unscrewed and not burst apart, the condition of the threads furnishing this supposition. The Mine Inspector at once sent a messenger to Koppenhaver's residence to secure his statement, if possible, but death had relieved him of his sufferings ere the person sent reached his home. He breathed his last at 11:30 o'clock yesterday, making the fifth victim of the explosion. John Brezgol, one of the injured, is reported dying at the Miners' hospital at 3:30 this afternoon. Seven more complete the list of injured, all of whom will recover. Koppenhaver was the only man burned.

The joint funeral of the four men instantly killed took place this morning with services at St. Stanislaus' Polish Catholic church, conducted by Rev. Frank Psnar. Interment was made at the parish cemetery. A band headed the large funeral procession.