

MINE HORROR INQUIRY

EXPERTS BEFORE CORONER'S
JURY AT VICTOR, COLO.

They Testify That They Found Machinery in Independence Mine in Perfect Condition—Engineer Says Accident Was Due to Air Brakes Not Working.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 28.—A special to the Republican from Victor, Colo., says the members of the committee of experts, consisting of three master mechanics connected with mines in the district, testified today before the coroner's jury investigating the cause of the accident on Tuesday last in the Independence mine, which resulted in the death of fifteen miners.

They said that they found the machinery which controlled the cage in which the men were dashed to the bottom of the 1,500-foot shaft to be in perfect condition. The master mechanic of the Independence mine swore the machinery had not been tampered with between the time the accident occurred and the examination by the committee of experts.

Engineer Frank T. Gillice was also on the stand. He testified that he discovered the brakes would not work when attempting to make the customary stop at the 200-foot level. Further tests, he said, showed the steam brake would not work, either, and then he learned that this brake was not attached. He also said the supply of air in the air brake was low.

The inquest was adjourned until tomorrow night in order to permit all interested to attend the funeral of the victims of the disaster.

1904 Independence Mine hoist disaster
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