

THE DISASTER IN THE MINE

**At Princeton Was Due to a
Violation of the State
Mining Laws.**

**One of the Men Responsible Was
Killed and Complaint Will be
Led Against Other.**

Princeton, Ind., March 28.—The report of James Epperson, state mine inspector, to Coroner Hollingsworth on the Princeton mine explosion, in which five men lost their lives and as many others were injured, says that gross violation of the law by two persons was responsible for the explosion. The responsible persons, according to Mr. Epperson, were Harry Targett, who was killed by the shot which he fired, and Roscoe Hedrick, who prepared the shot for firing. Hedrick was not killed, and, according to Mr. Epperson, he will be implicated in the report of the grand jury.

According to Mr. Epperson, the shot that Hedrick prepared was in direct violation of the law, in that it was placed in a solid bank of coal that had no "loose end." This "loose end" is a technical mining term, indicating that at one end of the bank or the other there must be space for coal displaced by the shot. In case there is no "loose end" any shot that is fired in the solid bank, not being able to force the coal to either side, shoots backward out of the hole drilled for the placing of the shot, ignites the gases or the coal dust in the mine, and this fire, consuming the oxygen of the air, creates what is known as firedamp, which is poisonous. The only penalty that the law prescribes for the violation of these provisions as to preparing and making shots without "loose ends" is a fine ranging from \$5 to \$100, or as an alternative, imprisonment in the county jail for a period between thirty days and six months.