

# EXPLOSION OF COAL DUST OCCASION OF DISASTER

## Coroner's Jury, Investigating Franklin Mine Accident, Blames Practice of Solid Blasting.

**SPECIAL TO THE PITTSBURGH POST.**

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Nov. 18.—The coroner's jury which had been in session since yesterday rendered the following verdict this afternoon regarding the Franklin mine disaster, near this city, on October 31, when 13 miners lost their lives and another was so injured that he is not expected to survive:

"We find the men came to their death in Franklin slope No. 2, a coal mine owned and operated by the Cambria Steel Company, Sunday, October 31, 1909, as the result of an explosion of coal dust, caused by the igniting of an overcharge of dynamite at the face of the eleventh parallel slant off a fourth left heading. We are of the opinion that the responsibility rests with the common practice of blasting from the solid, as was in vogue in said Franklin slope No. 2 prior to and at the time of said explosion."

The verdict followed closely upon the reading of the report made by the seven State inspectors who had examined the mine after the disaster, and the questioning of a few of the inspectors. In their report the mine inspectors say: "In our examination we found no evidence of fire damp and we are of the opinion that none was present to play any part in the explosion, but that it was the result of a careless and improper method of blasting without undercutting the coal and the use of flaming explosives."