

COMPANY NOT TO BLAME

VERDICT OF CORONER BRASHER
IN SHORT CREEK MINE EXPLO-
SION OF TUESDAY.

BIRMINGHAM, Feb. 5.—Coroner Brasher, who, after making a preliminary investigation of the mine disaster at Short Creek in which eighteen men lost their lives, decided that the explosion was caused by a "windy shot," said.

"It was shown by the examination of witnesses and the facts in the case that a green Italian miner fired the 'windy shot.' This miner, it was alleged, made his first shot on the day before the explosion. The entrance where the faulty shot occurred shows that less than a grate full of coal was blown by the force of the shot.

"That there was no gas in the mine was perfectly apparent by the little damage inflicted. The only deaths that occurred were above the entrance where the shot was. The miners below the entrance came out uninjured, bringing the bodies of the dead up to the surface with them. In less than thirty minutes after the explosion the mine was cleared and every-

thing ready for the return to work.

"Just who was to blame for allowing the green miner to go into the mine and fire shots has not been decided, but surely there is no evidence so far as I can see, to condemn the company. From the testimony of experts, the Short Creek mines was said to be in good condition. If there had been gas in the mine, I cannot conceive how the other 130 men in the mine who escaped unhurt, could have been alive to tell the tale."

BIG WIND AND RAIN STORM YESTERDAY

Tuscaloosa was visited by one of the severest wind and rain storms yesterday afternoon that has visited this city in some time.

Along about 1 o'clock the skies became overcast, and it was soon pretty dark in town, and with the wind blowing a regular hurricane it was hard work getting about on the streets. About a quarter to 2 o'clock the rain set in and for several minutes it was a regular deluge, the heavens themselves seeming to have opened wide. A considerable quantity of hail was mixed in with the rain pattering down rather promiscuously.

During the rain part of a brick chimney over Miss Wildman's store