

THE ADRIAN MINE EXPLOSION CAUSE STILL A MYSTERY

**Inspectors Believe Broken Wire
Ignited Coal Dust, Following
Fall, But Are Not Sure.**

MAKE FURTHER INVESTIGATION TODAY

**Inquest Held Yesterday Throws No
Light on Cause of Thursday's
Explosion.**

FINDINGS OF THE JURY

The cause of the explosion that brought death to eight miners at Adrian last Thursday is as much a mystery as ever, although the five mine inspectors who on Monday made a thorough examination of the mine, concur in their belief that a broken wire wrought the initial damage.

The inspectors had formed no definite conclusion after their inspection of Monday last and had only partially formulated their report, believing that the truth of the mystery might come to light at the inquest.

Twenty witnesses were examined at the inquest yesterday and it took from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4:30 p. m. to accomplish the examinations. The twenty men examined were those who had worked in that part of the mine in which the explosion had occurred, and several of them were in that immediate vicinity when the explosion took place. Each and every man who testified could throw utterly no light on the cause of the explosion. Every witness also testified to the fact that gas in the Adrian mine was an unknown quantity and that they had never encountered it. Many of the witnesses had been employed in the mine for years.

The night previous to the explosion two men had been working in that section of the mine in which the explosion occurred, timbering several rooms. They testified to the effect that upon their leaving at 3 o'clock the electric switch was open. This somewhat unsettled the opinion formed by the inspectors, who admit that they are at loss for a definite cause, but believe that the explosion occurred not through the ignition of gas but of coal dust. They believe that a fall of rock occurred shortly before 6 o'clock a. m. Thursday, that the fall broke the electric wire and that the switch was closed, the wire as a result sending off sparks that ignited the dust following the fall and causing the explosion. The men who timbered the night previous to the explosion left the mine at 3 a. m. and the inspectors believe that either they were mistaken concerning the open switch or that it in some manner became closed after their departure from the mine.

Separate inquisitions were held on the deaths of Sosnowski and De Achms, and the six Italians. In the case of the two former the coroner's jury came to the following conclusion:

"And now we find that Paul Sosnowski and Michael De Achms came to their death on November 9 between the hours of 6 and 7 p. m. in the Adrian mine, Young township, Jefferson county, death being due to injuries, the result of an explosion, of which from evidence submitted we are unable to determine the cause."

And in the case of the six Italians,

the following conclusion was reached:

"And now we find that Salvatore Bonasantie, Alfonso Bolonana, Peter Terrezzi, Lewis Sacco, Marco Scarpino, Lelior Saxrato, came to death in the Adrian mine, Young township, Jefferson county, on November 9, 1911, between the hours of 6 and 11 a. m., death being due to carbon monoxide poisoning, following an explosion, which from the evidence submitted we are unable to determine the cause."

The jury consisted of C. R. Stevenson, Hector Campbell, Sr., John Kenniberg, E. Beveridge, Hector Campbell, Jr., J. Davis. The findings were also signed by Dr. J. C. Sayres, of Reynoldsville, coroner.

The inspectors, Messrs. Phillip Furniss, Matthews, Lowther and Knapper, are today making a further investigation of the cause of the explosion and their report will probably be formulated and submitted to the Bureau of Mines tomorrow.

CHICAGO PACKERS TO BE PLACED ON TRIAL MONDAY

**Eight Years Since First Proceedings
Were Started Against Beef
Barons.**

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 16.—Chicago packers, under indictment for alleged violation of the criminal provisions of the Sherman anti-trust act in the alleged maintenance of an "unreasonable" conspiracy to restrain the meat industry of the country, will be placed on trial before Judge George A. Carpenter in the United States district court in this city next Monday. A special venire of 15 men has been ordered to report on that day, and it is expected the trial will proceed without further delay.

Prosecutors for the department of justice and the great corps of attorneys for the defense are planning the greatest legal battle ever waged in a federal court. It is estimated that the trial will take at least three months.

From the standpoint of the department of justice the case will break all records in volume of testimony. Already several hundred witnesses have been subpoenaed. The majority of the witnesses to be called are retail and wholesale meat dealers, former officials of Chicago packing companies and out-of-town packers. Many already have given evidence before the federal grand jury which returned the true bills.

Eight years have elapsed since the government first started proceedings against the alleged "beef trust." It was in 1903 that the first indictments were returned and in December of that year the cases were called for trial and postponed. Delay followed until, in 1906,

Find Homes For Children of Adrian Mine Victims

Mrs. J. B. Stewart, of Brookville, president of the Children's Aid Society of Jefferson county, this morning stated to a representative of The Spirit that the society would do everything in its power to secure homes for the orphans of the Adrian mine victims, provided the mothers of the children wished it. Mrs. Stewart also stated that the society would make a cash contribution to the relief fund.