

CORONER'S JURIES GIVE VERDICTS; LACKAWANNA MINE WAS SET AFIRE WANT SAFE EXITS FOR BREAKERS

Juries that investigated two serious mine disasters in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties returned their verdicts last night. The Gypsy Grove fire inquest resulted in a verdict that the mine law should be so amended so that safeguards exacted of factories be installed at collieries. The coroner's jury that probed the mine fire in the Boston colliery, at Larksville, found that it was of incendiary origin.

Mine Was Set On Fire.

The Boston inquest was held in the Edwardsville town hall and a number of witnesses gave material testimony. It will be remembered that a fire broke out in an airway at the Boston mine, owned by the D. & H. Co., on May 16, and caused the deaths of five men. There was a strike on at the colliery and only 11 men were in the workings at the time.

Superintendent Storcham was the principal witness and explained the interior conditions in the mine and where the men were at work when the fire broke out. Mr. Storcham told of the air currents and said that the five men who were suffocated could have been saved had they saturated their handkerchiefs with water and placed these over their faces.

Several witnesses told of leaving the mine a short time before the fire and saw no signs of it. John Morrissey, one of the men who escaped, said he detected smoke in the tunnel and called the attention of three workers to it. They all escaped. He believed the fire to be of incendiary origin, because he knew that a lighted lamp could not have been carried up and down the airway on account of the strong air currents. Messrs. Evans, Brevers, Bedulis and Shatanosky corroborated Morrissey. Edward Powers, an experienced miner, said he thought the mine was set on fire. He examined the place of origin of the flames and said that several ties had been ignited. These were outside the mouth of the intake, just where the air would carry the smoke in. There was too much air, he said, to allow a light to be carried in.

There were several other witnesses who thought an incendiary was responsible. The jury was then taken to the mine, where tests were made against the air current and it was unanimously decided that no light could have been carried into the manway against the air current. After brief deliberation, the jury found that the fire which caused the men's deaths was of incendiary origin.

Safe Exits for Breakers.

After hearing testimony for over a week in the disaster at the Gypsy Grove colliery, where the burning of a breaker brought death to three men and serious injury to a number of others, the jury sitting at Scranton returned its verdict to Coroner Salty. The jury censured one man, criticized a second, and recommended the installation in breakers of the same safeguards and protective devices as are provided by the laws applicable to factories. The verdict scored the system of fire drills used at the Gypsy Grove as "confusion, treacherous and vicious." John Early and Tony Hatiste were found to have come to their deaths through their failure to estimate the seriousness of the fire.

In recommending the enactment of further mining laws, the jury declared its belief that the laws should require an outside foreman to qualify for his position. "If responsibility rests with the inside foreman," the verdict said, "equal responsibility rests with an outside foreman." The verdict then goes on to state that "efficiency should be the test and that no person should be charged with the duties incident to an outside foremanship who would fall to rise to the standard of qualification exacted of an inside foreman."

With reference to the suggestion for a change in the mining laws the verdict recommended the installing of fire escapes in this language:

"The Gypsy Grove breaker differed in no architectural respect from the majority of other breakers in the upper anthracite region, and we are convinced that no unreasonable demand would be made or hardship imposed on any coal company should the statutes be so amended as to require that the same laws as apply to factories be extended to coal breakers, insofar as the factory laws provide for fire escapes and suitable and safe exits from buildings used in the carrying on of industry." "The jury is satisfied," continues the verdict, "that the laws which makes it binding upon one set of employers to adopt means and appliances for the safety of employees should bind with equal force all employers, including coal companies and operators of collieries, breakers and washeries; that such exits should be so maintained that men in face of danger could, with confidence, rely on those exits to safely deliver them from peril."

CARNEGIE PEACE COMMISSION OUTLINES PLANS OF MOVEMENT

Lake Mohonk, May 24.—Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, today outlined the plans for the Andrew Carnegie Peace Commission, which is endowed with \$10,000,000, at the opening session of the International Arbitration conference. Little money will be spent in propaganda. The leading jurists and economists will be hired in the service of humanity to ascertain the advantages to follow the organization of the world into a group of co-operating nations bound in a judicial system.

There will be a department of International Law. Dr. James Brown Scott, the economist, will be in charge of the History Department and John Bates Clark of the Department of Intercourse and Education. Others are yet to be selected.

A resolution was introduced to establish a National Peace Council. W. J. Bryan spoke, urging arbitration treaties among all the countries of the world.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Nicholas Murray Butler, of New York; secretary, H. C. Phillips, of Mohonk Lake; treasurer, Alexander C. Wood, of Camden, N. J.

DAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN COMMON PLEAS COURT

The trial list for the week in Common Pleas court has practically gone to pieces with the continuance of 26 cases on the list.

Insurance Case Still On.

The case of the Post Leather Goods Company, of Wilkesbarre, to recover from the American Central Insurance Co., on an insurance policy, is still on trial before Judge Jones. The plaintiff claims \$950 on a policy because of a fire in the store, at Wilkesbarre, in 1908. The defense is that the loss was not so heavy as the plaintiff claims.

Lee Case Still On.

Before Judge Garman is being held the trial of Conrad Lee against the Lehigh Valley Railroad, in which the plaintiff asks heavy damages because of water running into his plating mill property on North Pennsylvania avenue. He charges that the railroad maintained a drain inadequate to carry off the surface water and the overflow damaged his property.

Appeals from Audit.

Harry Mason, land agent of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Co., today filed an appeal from the report of the auditors of Wilkesbarre Township.

Protest Against Society.

Claiming that the purpose of the organization is to sell liquor, the Law and Order Society, of Shickshinny, today filed objections to the granting of a charter to the Shickshinny Benevolent and Social Association, which recently petitioned the court for incorporation.

The suit of Mary Stephenson vs. Durven Borough was marked settled and the following cases were continued until the next term: Michael Kopochik vs. Pennsylvania Coal Co.; Elizabeth Harris vs. Lehigh Valley Coal Co.; Dunn Coal Co. vs. Kingston Coal Co.; John Richards vs. Mt. Lookout Coal Co.; W. I. & S. Co. vs. Shepherd & Sons.

POLICE STILL HUNTING FOR WILKESBARRE MAN

The Wilkesbarre police were informed today that on Monday, a short time before Little Elizabeth Micholosky was kidnapped from her home and assaulted by a brute, a man was seen attempting to lure a little girl away. The occurrence was near the school building at East End and the principal saw it and started after the man, who released the little girl and ran off. He is believed to be the same man who assaulted the Micholosky girl. The police are still searching for the man, but he has vanished completely as if the earth had swallowed him up.

Read the Gazette and keep posted.