

# FEDERAL OFFICIALS INSPECTING MINES

Scene of Tuesday Explosion Is  
Being Gone Over By Rice  
and Sutton.

George Rice, of Pittsburgh, connected with the United States Bureau of Mines, accompanied by E. B. Sutton, in charge of the Federal Rescue Station here, spent Friday at the Acton No. 2 mines of the Alabama Fuel & Iron Company, where an explosion occurred Tuesday, causing the deaths of 24 men. These representatives of the government will gather data on the explosion for report to the Bureau of Mines at Washington.

Assistant State Mine Inspector Ray has been through every entry and curve in the mines. His inspection has been thorough. Chief State Mine Inspector C. H. Nesbitt will make out the official report the first of next week. As to resumption of operation at the mines, Mr. Nesbitt stated Friday that as soon as the few repairs necessary are made and these are passed on by the State mine inspector's office, work will be started.

There have been no desertions from the camp since the accident, and the indications are there will be a force ready to take up the work when the company is in position to start the wheels again.

No light is yet thrown on the cause of the explosion, officially. The belief is expressed by some that it will be shown that the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company kept the mines moistened, that there was a fire boss employed and care exercised so far as dust and gas are concerned. While there may be some censure in other directions, none is hinted at.

All the victims of the explosion have been buried.