

CORONER'S INQUEST AT MULGA TODAY

The inquest into the mine disaster at Mulga last Monday morning will begin this morning when Coroner Charles L. Spain will impanel a jury and go down in the mine to the scene of the explosion and take testimony from survivors as to what caused the fatal accident. In the disaster 16 lives were lost and 18 injured.

The official investigation of Chief Mine Inspector C. H. Nesbitt is over, it was stated yesterday, and a report is being prepared for the governor. It was stated yesterday that the mine was ready to resume operations and that all the miners would be at work this morning.

1914 Mulga Mine explosion NEWS3

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CORONER SPAIN IS BUSY AT MULGA

**He and Jury Are Investigating
the Disaster There Last
Monday.**

Coroner C. L. Spain is at Mulga, where, in the mines of the Woodward Iron Company, a gas explosion occurred last Monday, killing sixteen men and injuring sixteen others. An inquest is being held Monday.

Upon authority of the Chief State Mine Inspector, C. H. Nesbitt, the mines were permitted to resume operations Monday. Mr. Nesbitt announced Monday morning he had some evidence to get from living witnesses at Bessemer and elsewhere, after which the official report would be sent to Governor O'Neal. No intimation is given as to the blame to be attached, if any, for the explosion.

The mines, as stated before, were not damaged to any great extent, and at the places where the explosion had the greatest force there remains but little to show for it. A pocket of gas was ignited, it is stated by those who assisted in the investigation, but as long as there are coal mines, according to men of long experience, it is expected there will be accidents.

That Coroner Spain and a jury will bring out information other than that of a technical nature, as deduced by Chief State Mine Inspector Nesbitt, is doubted. However, a number of witnesses will be examined by Coroner Spain and a verdict rendered.

Report from Mulga is to the effect that there is labor in sufficient numbers to fill the mines and produce the usual amount of coal. Work at this place has been quite steady. The mines are known as "hot" or gaseous mines, and for that reason extraordinary care is urged by the officials and others at all times.

CORONER'S JURY IS STILL AT WORK

Ten Witnesses Have Been Heard in Investigation of Mulga Explosion.

Coroner Spain and the jury organized to investigate the accident in the Mulga mines explosion October 5, in which sixteen men lost their lives, after taking the testimony of about ten men at Mulga, will take testimony of men in the hospital in Bessemer Tuesday. The jury will also make inquiry of Chief State Mine Inspector C. H. Nesbitt and Assistant Inspector Kelso before returning a verdict.

It may be Thursday before the final decision is reached, and until that time, no intimation will be given out as to what has been ascertained. Men who were in the rescue party after the explosion are serving on the jury. They are men who know mine work and are acquainted with conditions in coal mines before and after explosions. It has not been deemed necessary to spend any time in the mines during the investigation.

That the mines were in splendid condition at the time of the accident is reiterated as the investigations are pushed.

Coroner Spain said Tuesday the public was interested in the final report of his jury, and for that reason it would not be right to make public any information until the work was completed. He said that every line of testimony was being taken, and that there was no interference whatever in getting every fact concerning the explosion. Testimony will be taken from the State officials in the mining department and, together with testimony from living witnesses in the hospital at Bessemer, this will conclude the work before the drawing up of the verdict.



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