

BOOMER EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY GAS

Blowout Theory Abandoned as the
Evidence Was Against It.—
Twenty-Three Killed.

Boomer, W. Va., Dec. 6.—That the explosion in the Boomer mine on November 30, and which resulted in the loss of 23 lives resulted from the ignition of gas was the coroner's jury which began its probe into the disaster here today. Justice E. G. Landers, of Boomer, is conducting the inquest.

Mine Superintendent T. H. Huddell declared that he was convinced that the blast was due to gas which entered the workings from a seam above. The point where the explosion occurred was more than two miles from the opening of the mine and the pillars of coal were being drawn prior to abandoning that section of the mine. This opinion was also expressed by James Diana, a survivor of the explosion. Diana said for several days he had heard rumblings overhead, but had attributed it to a loose roof.

Other witnesses today were John Huddy, mine foreman; C. E. Lilly, assistant mine foreman, and Albert Johnson, a miner. The hearing will be resumed tomorrow.