

DUST CAUSED DEATH OF 111 MEN IN MINE

A dust explosion set off by a blow-out shot was the cause of the Layland mine disaster, in which 111 men lost their lives, and from which 53 men were rescued alive after being entombed 95 hours, according to the verdict of a coroner's jury which finished its inquisition and returned its findings on the evidence at 12 o'clock Wednesday night. The inquest was conducted before Justice B. S. Hastings at Layland.

Following a final official investigation conducted by Earl Henry, chief of the state department of mines, assisted by a number of inspectors, mine foremen and superintendents, the inquest was begun and the conclusions of these officials were placed before the jury along with the testimony of many of the men who survived the disaster.

Up until the final investigation it had been the opinion of most observers that the explosion was from gas instead of dust, but when a full examination had been made the dust theory was accepted by practically all of the officials.

OFFICIAL DEATH LIST IS GIVEN OUT AS 111

Capt. S. L. Walker, field agent for the Workmen's Compensation Division, gives out the official list of the dead in the Layland mine disaster as 111. Of these 109 bodies have been recovered at the time, leaving two others still in the wreckage in the mine yet to be recovered.

In addition to these two others who were on the company pay roll are missing, but it is not believed that they were in the mine on the day of the explosion.

According to this only 164 men entered the mine on the day of the explosion. At the time the number entering was variously estimated at from 175 to 225.—The Fayette Democrat.

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