

## **Mine Owners Held Responsible For The Deaths of 77 Men**

**Coroner's Jury Places Blame for Accident at Spangler—Company  
Had Been Warned**

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Nov. 22.—The owners and management of Reilly No. 1 mine, Spangler, where 77 men were killed in an explosion November 6, were found responsible for the disaster by a coroner's jury at 3:55 o'clock this morning. The inquest conducted by Coroner M. W. Swabb began at 10 o'clock yesterday morning and many witnesses were heard. The most damaging evidence was that of Paul Vallalla, whose father and another relative perished in the mine. Vallalla three weeks prior to the explosion reported conditions unsafe from gas and was called a liar by the mine foreman, according to his testimony. The report of the state mine inspectors submitted by Seward E. Button, chief, censured the Reilly company for use of open lights and ordered electrical equipment for the future.

The jury's verdict charged that "with the knowledge of the company there was an insufficient number of fire bosses employed; that open lights were used in the presence of dangerous gas and that the ventilation in the mine was inadequate."

District Attorney D. P. Weiner, who attended the inquest, has not decided upon prosecution.