

CAUSE OF BLAST IN DAWSON MINE DETERMINED BY CORONER'S JURY

Car Knocked Down Timbers,
Raising a Quantity of
Dust, Which Was Ignited
by an Electric Arc

THREE MORE BODIES HAVE BEEN REMOVED

Are Found Under Cave-ins
by Mucking Crews; Eleven
Have Not Yet Been Found
Among the Debris

Dawson, N. M., Feb. 14.

—Derailment of an outgoing motor "trip" mine car knocking down timbers to which the trolley feed line was attached, raising a quantity of dust, which was ignited by an electric arc, caused the disastrous explosion in mine number 1 here Thursday last, which cost the lives of 120 men, according to the verdict returned by the coroner's jury here this afternoon.

The arc, which set off the coal dust, was caused when the feed wire came in contact with one of the iron pit cars, the jury declared.

Three more bodies were recovered from the demolished interior of the mine today, still leaving 11 not yet found amid the debris.

Verdict of the Jury

The verdict of the jury impaneled by Justice of the Peace T. L. Kinney, reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned justice of the peace and the jury who sat upon the inquest held this fourteenth day of February, on the bodies of Albert English, Jr., (mine foreman) and others found in precinct number 13 of the county of Colfax, state of New Mexico, find that the deceased came to their deaths by reason of a dust explosion in mine number one of the Phelps-Dodge corporation at Dawson, N. M., on or about the eighth day of February, 1923; that said explosion was caused by the derailment of an outgoing trip which knocked down the timbers to which the trolley feed line was attached, raising a quantity of dust which was ignited by an electric arc, resulting from the feed wire coming in contact with one of the iron pit cars."

The three bodies recovered today were those of Anton Kobana, W. H. Lawson and Andres Gonzalez.

They were found under cave-ins by mucking crews which have been clearing the passageways in the workings since the 106 bodies of miners who were caught by rock falls, were brought out.