

Safety Devices Are Placed In Carolina Mine

**Pou Says Mine Where
Convict Workers Were
Killed Is Made As Safe
As Possible.**

Raleigh Bureau of The News
Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Dec. 31.—"Ninety per cent of the prisoners who worked in the Carolina coal mine are now back at work and safety devices have been installed which make a repetition of last Wednesday's tragedy in which four convicts were killed and seven injured virtually impossible," George Ross Pou, superintendent of the State Prison, said upon returning from Sanford where he personally investigated the disaster.

"I personally talked to everyone of the 180 prisoners who are working in the mine, and almost all of them wanted to go back. One of the prisoners who was in the accident said: 'People are killed by automobiles every day, but people don't stop riding in them. I see no reason why I shouldn't go back to work in the mine, just because we had an accident there.'

Not Forced to Work

"No prisoners are required to return to work in the mine and those who objected to returning have been assigned to other work. Safety devices have been installed, which absolutely prevent the possibility of a similar accident.

"The investigation reveals that all of the prisoners who were injured lost their heads and stood up in the cars. In consequence their heads struck the beams in the mines. If they had followed instructions, and laid down in the cars, there would have been only minor injuries, since none of the cars turned over.

"Only five prisoners occupied a car, allowing plenty of room for them to lie down. Forty prisoners, in eight cars, were being hauled out of the mine when the accident occurred.

"The defective coupling pin, which broke and caused the accident, has not yet been recovered, and it has

been impossible to examine it and see just what the defect was," Mr. Pou stated.

Safety Devices Installed

The prison superintendent added that he had talked with J. R. McQueen, C. W. Reeves and O. A. Wakefield, officials of the Carolina Coal and By-Products Company, owner of the mine, and that they reported that all the safety devices recommended by nited States Mining Engineer Cash had now been installed in the mine, which is now said to be as safe as it is possible to make one.

"Monthly inspections of the mines are desired by both the prison officials and the coal company," Mr. Pou said, "and the prison board has offered to pay the cost of the inspections. It has always been the policy of the prison to make the mine as safe as possible, and to only send prisoners there who volunteer for the work."

Motor Measures Rolling Up Huge Leads in Ballot

Greensboro, Dec. 31.—The proposed State highway patrol, State-wide driver's license and the safety responsibility act, three major items on the legislative program submitted to the members of the Carolina Motor Club for referendum vote, are running neck and neck in piling up overwhelming favorable majorities, according to figures made public today at club headquarters.

The vote on the State highway patrol is 3,829 for and 414 against, while 3,752 favor the State driver's law and 497 are opposed. Discussion of the proposed licensing act has disclosed that the measure does not provide for an exhaustive mental and physical examination but does require that applicants be able to read and know the simple, ordinary rules of the road. On the safety responsibility act the vote is 3,622 for the 466 against.

The measure provides for the establishment of financial responsibility for the safe operation of motor vehicles on the highways. It has been evolved by a national committee after two years' extensive study of compulsory liability insurance. The safety responsibility measure will be introduced in 41 legislatures during the coming year.