

Mining Concern, Inspectors Face Negligence Charge

SILVERTON, Colo., Jan. 13.—(AP)—A coroner's jury held that the death of eight men in the Pride of the West mine last Friday was "due to criminal negligence on the part of the mine management, the state mineral mine inspector and the state compensation fund inspector. . . ."

William Maguire, San Juan county coroner, announced the verdict late yesterday after an inquest at Silverton. Eight men were suffocated in the gold and silver mine when smoke from a fire at the mine entrance poured into the tunnels.

District Attorney James M. Noland said at Durango today that he would study a transcript of the inquest testimony and make a further and more complete investigation before deciding whether to take official action.

Maguire said that the verdict, after listing the victims, stated:

"The above named men met their death in the Pride of the West mine on Jan. 9, 1942, due to criminal negligence on the part of the mine management, the state mineral mine inspector, and the state compensation fund inspector, inasmuch as the testimony was given that the fire door, although of satisfactory construction, was inoperative due to the fact that it was propped up with an iron pipe and had been for at least since last September, 1941."

A blaze that originated from an unexplained oil explosion in a machine shop destroyed the shop, a boarding house, an abandoned mill and a compressor house near the mine entrance.

STATE IS BLAMED FOR MINE DEATHS

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William Maguire, San Juan county coroner, announced the verdict after an inquest late yesterday.

District Attorney James M. Noland said at Durango today that he would study a transcript of the inquest testimony and make a further investigation before deciding whether to take any action.

