



Correspondence

DATED

January 21, 1907 - March 26, 1907

Dering Mine #7

Jan. 21, 1907

Mr. Jas. Taylor,
State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am sending by accompanying mail a blue print showing the holes in No. 3 Room, Ninth West, in Dering Coal Company's No. 7 mine, Clinton, Ind. Also blue print of sketch of entries 9 and 10 of same mine, from my remembrance, and therefore is subject to revision. I was not able to send these Saturday as I was in conference most all of the day.

I am in hopes that the local Dering officials will act promptly in getting us maps of this portion of their mine from actual surveys.

I am also sending by accompanying mail a blue print map of the Cardiff mine from recent survey. As soon as my assistant can get around to it, I want him to make a new tracing which will be more presentable than the old one. When it is made I will send you a copy of same.

Yours very truly,

C.

P. S. Owing to conference again today, could not finish the sketch maps. Will send without fail tomorrow.

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. R. R. Hammond, President,
Dering Coal Co.,
Old Colony Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith one blue print copy of sketch map of scene of explosion in your No. 7 Mine. Pending the completion of the survey now being made, this may be of interest to you. I am sending one by accompanying mail to Mr. Smith.

If you desire any more copies, I will be glad to furnish them.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Clinton

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Sec'y.,

Illinois Coal Operators Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

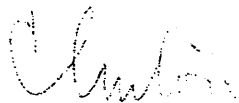
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose copy of sketch map relating to Dering mine No. 7, for your information.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton".

Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. Jas. Taylor,
State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir.

I enclose herewith three blue print copies of the maps relating to the explosion in Mine No. 7 of the Dering Coal Co. One point has arisen which was overlooked on Friday, namely, the condition of the top of the box found in the middle cross-out of the 10th west. The top of this box, as you will recall, was thrown against the brattice over in the corner. As on the previous day I had worked on the theory that it was a blown out shot in No. 3 room that caused the trouble, I did not examine this cover so carefully, but if the cover was still padlocked to the top of the box, and if there was no crack or opening in the top of the box, it would look as if the seat of the trouble could not be in the box, but external to it. Another blown out keg was found in this vicinity, but I do not know the precise locality. Can you give me any information about this, or about the padlocked box?

Fortunately, before I left Clinton I suggested to Mr. Smith that he should secure the box as an exhibit. I have today wired to him asking about the padlocked box, but have not yet had reply.

Yours truly,

I.

Clinton

Chicago, Jan. 22, 1907.

Mr. S. K. Smith, Division Manager,
Dering Coal Company,
Terre Haute, Ind.

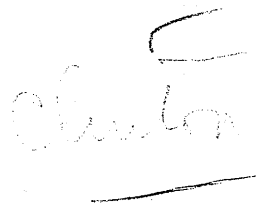
Dear Sir:

If I recall correctly, a second blown out powder keg was found in the vicinity of the little cross-cut of the 10th west. The location of the powder kegs was chalked on the cans, and I believe that in addition you also had a record. Will you please inform me the exact location of the four or five blown out kegs found.

I enclose herewith two copies of a sketch map of the 9th and 10th west, which may be of service to you pending the completion of your survey. I will be obliged if you will go over same carefully and let me know if there is anything wrong, marking on one of the prints what is incorrect and returning to me.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jan. 23, 1907.

District Forecaster,
U. S. Weather Bureau,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

For purposes of investigation into the cause of the recent mine explosion near Clinton, Ind., I should like to obtain a record of the barometric readings covering the following period; from Saturday, Jan. 12th, to Jan. 18th, inclusive. If possible, I should like this by hourly periods. If this cannot be provided, I should like to have the readings on Jan. 14th, from 6 A. M., to 12 P. M., and on Wednesday, Jan. 16th, between 10 A. M., and 3 P. M., and on Jan. 18th between 10 A. M., and 3 P. M. As stated previously, I should like to have it consecutively from Jan. 12th to 18th. The explosion occurred at 6:40 A. M., Jan. 14th. If there is any weather bureau station nearer to Clinton than Indianapolis, I should prefer the records from the nearest station.

I trust you will see your way to giving me this information, and as promptly as possible, as the matter is of importance.

Yours very respectfully,

I.

*Spcl file
Clinton Accident Case*

ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS MUTUAL EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
INSURANCE COMPANY

1312 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6176

CHICAGO, ILL.. January 23, 1907.

Mr. Geo. S. Rice,
734 The Rookery,
Chicago.

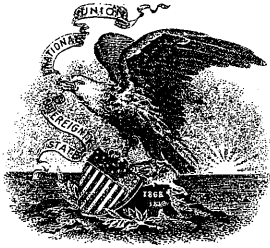
Dear Sir :

Your favor of the 22nd, enclosing copies of sketch maps relating
to accident at Dering Mine No. 7 at hand.

Thanking you for same, I am,

Respectfully,


Secretary.



Mine Inspection Service

STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Peoria ————— *Jan 23, 07.* ————— *190* —————

Mr.G.S.Rice,
Supt,C.C.Co,
Chicago,Ill.

My dear Sir:-

The top of the box in the second or middle cross-cut in the 10 West was very badly broken, but as to the condition of the padlock, you will remember I was not so sure, and you then requested Mr. Smith to make sure and secure this box.

I picked up the second keg that had been exploded outward, at the cross-cut between the Main South entry, and and the Main South air-course; the keg was nearer to the Main air-course than the Main entry, and it was in a direct *line* with the 10 West entry, as indicated on the enclosed sketch thus-~~x~~.

Yours truly;

James Taylor

L.R.14, 1907.

(L.M.D.)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Climatological Service of the Weather Bureau

INDIANA SECTION

INDIANAPOLIS

January 24, 1907.

Mr. Geo. S. Rice,

The Rookery,

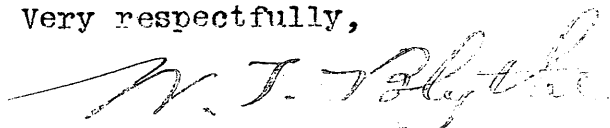
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request, dated January 23, 1907, I take pleasure in handing you herewith a tabulated statement showing the atmospheric pressure at this station for each hour on January 12, 1907, to January 18, 1907, inclusive.

This is the nearest Weather Bureau station to Clinton, Ind. at which barometer readings are recorded.

Very respectfully,



Section Director.

(1 Inclosure)

Barograph Record (Station Pressure, i.e., Barometer Readings Cor-
 rected for Temperature but not for Elevation) at Indianapolis, Ind., Jan-
 uary 12 to 18, inclusive, 1907.

		<i>A.M.</i>												<i>P.M.</i>																			
<i>1907.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>								
<i>Jan</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>32.5</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>32.9</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>32.2</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>32.0</i>
<i>..</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>21.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>21.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>21.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>25.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>25.2</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>								
<i>..</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>.18</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.21</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.27</i>	<i>.28</i>	<i>.26</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.26</i>	<i>.29</i>	<i>.26</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.22</i>								
<i>..</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.27</i>	<i>.27</i>	<i>.30</i>	<i>.30</i>	<i>.32</i>	<i>.35</i>	<i>.34</i>	<i>.33</i>	<i>.33</i>	<i>.32</i>	<i>.35</i>	<i>.35</i>	<i>.36</i>	<i>.38</i>	<i>.39</i>	<i>.39</i>	<i>.38</i>	<i>.37</i>	<i>.35</i>	<i>.35</i>	<i>.35</i>									
<i>..</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>.34</i>	<i>.32</i>	<i>.32</i>	<i>.31</i>	<i>.30</i>	<i>.29</i>	<i>.29</i>	<i>.29</i>	<i>.27</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.23</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.23</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.25</i>	<i>.24</i>	<i>.23</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>16</i>									
<i>..</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>.15</i>	<i>.13</i>	<i>.14</i>	<i>.15</i>	<i>.11</i>	<i>.12</i>	<i>.14</i>	<i>.15</i>	<i>.16</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.15</i>	<i>.15</i>	<i>.16</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.21</i>	<i>.21</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.18</i>	<i>.17</i>	<i>.17</i>	<i>.17</i>								
<i>..</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>.18</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.18</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.20</i>	<i>.21</i>	<i>.19</i>	<i>.17</i>	<i>.14</i>	<i>.12</i>	<i>.12</i>	<i>.10</i>	<i>.08</i>	<i>.07</i>	<i>.05</i>	<i>.02</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>28.9</i>								

Chicago, Jan. 24, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Secretary,

Ill. Coal Operators Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith copy of letter sent to Mr. S. K. Smith Jan. 22nd. I have not yet had reply, but I presume Mr. Smith has been extremely busy. In corresponding with Mr. Jas. Taylor, he states that he did not observe about the padlock in the box mentioned, and is relying on the suggestion I made to Mr. Smith in his presence, asking that he take possession of the box as an exhibit. Mr. Taylor writes that the second powder can he picked up and which was exploded outwardly, was near the mouth of the Tenth West, between the First Cross-cut and the Main South. This would have been "outside" of where the two men were found, and about fifty feet "outside" of the cross-cut where the powder box and other exploded keg were found. In the event that the padlock is still on the box and the top was tight, we will have to look to this exploded can picked up by Mr. Taylor as being the source of the explosion, theorizing that it was carried to the point where he found it either by one of the visitors after the explosion, or else by the current of the gases resulting from the explosion subsequent to the blowing up of the keg itself. There does not appear to be anything to locate where this can came from, therefore, the evidence regarding it is very unsatisfactory. As you suggested yes-

E. T. B.

terday, your defense will have to be constructed to embrace as causes either the explosion of one of the kegs in the Tenth West, or the possibility of the blown out shot in Room Three, Ninth West.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. R. R. Hammond, President,
Dering Coal Company,
Old Colony Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith a blue print of the scene of No. 7 Mine accident, at Clinton, Ind., which has been revised from some information obtained through your Mr. Smith.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Sec'y.,

Illinois Coal Oprs. Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith two copies of a report, which I rather hurriedly made up this afternoon, with the expectation that it might be used in connection with Mr. Epperson. Mr. Traer informs me that you do not expect to give him such written reports at the present time at least. I have of course given another copy of this report to Mr. Traer. My detailed report covering all my notes will be ready until Monday. The chief value of it will be to preserve the records. The report I am sending herewith embraces my ideas of the explosion.

I am enclosing herewith two blue print copies of the map which I prepared a few days ago, which has been revised from some information about the tracks, doors, etc., obtained for me by Mr. Smith. The most important information that Mr. Smith gave is with reference to the broken box in the middle cross-cut being still padlocked. You will note I have explained about this in the accompanying report.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. S. K. Smith, Division Mgr.,
Dering Coal Company,
Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a copy of revised map.
If you wish other copies, please let me know.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS MUTUAL EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
INSURANCE COMPANY

1312 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 6176

CHICAGO, ILL.. Jan. 26th 1907

Mr. Geo. S. Rice,

734 Rookery, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir :

I have your favor of the 25th inst with various enclosures
as stated which are favorable. I await with interest your full
report.

Yours truly,

E. T. Bent

Chicago, Jan. 26, 1907.

Mr. W. T. Blythe, Section Director,
United States Weather Bureau,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 24th, with enclosed tabulated statement of atmospheric pressure from Jan. 12th to 18th inclusive.

This is just what I desire, and I thank you very much for your trouble.

Yours very respectfully,

I.

Chicago, Jan. 26, 1907.

Mr. Jas. Taylor, State Mine Inspector,
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am sending herewith a blue print of the map which I prepared a few days ago of the scene of the accident at Dering No. 7 Mine, at Clinton, Ind. This map has been revised from some information about the tracks, doors, etc., obtained for me by Mr. S. K. Smith.

Yours truly,

I/enc.

DERING COAL COMPANY

OPERA HOUSE BLOCK

GENERAL OFFICES:
OLD COLONY BUILDING
CHICAGO

TERRE HAUTE, IND. 2/8/07.

Mr. George S. Rice, Mining Engineer,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your request to me to find out where the man who was blown to pieces in the explosion at our #7 Mine, at Clinton, was going at the time of the explosion:

He was going from the 1st room on the 8th west into the 9th west entry to turn a room there.

Very truly yours,



District Manager.

SKS-LM

March 26th, 07.

Mr. E. T. Bent,
1st Nat'l. Bank Bldg.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you herewith two copies of my detailed report on the explosion at the #7 Mine of the Dering Coal Co., near Clinton, Indiana. In this report I have recorded all my notations made in the mine in a way to preserve them in form, so that they can be used by your lawyers if necessary. I would like, however, to call your attention to the last two pages embracing my conclusion.

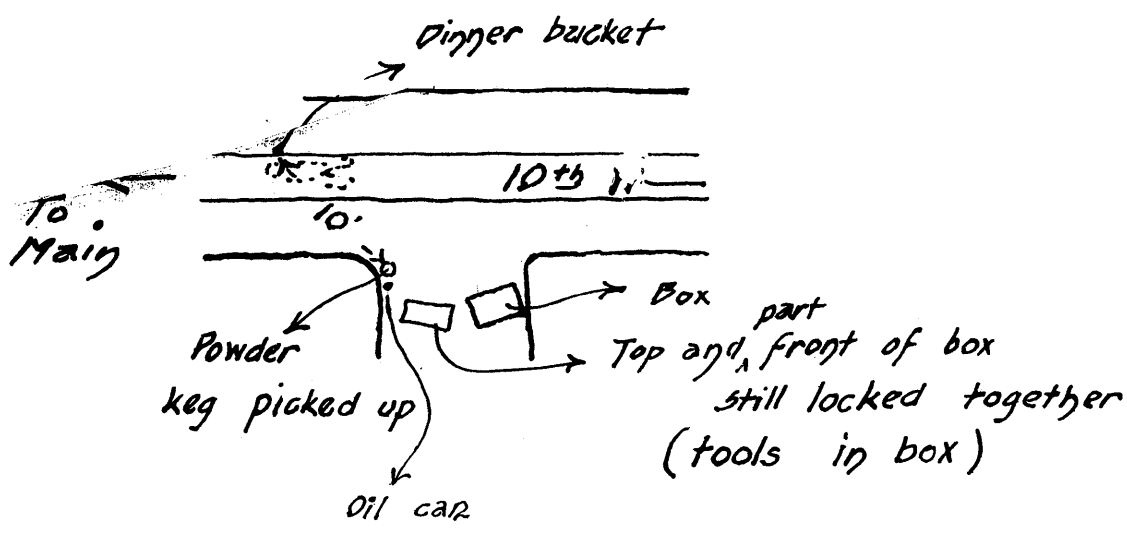
Regarding the preliminary report which I made you on Jan. 25th. Mr. Jenkins has asked if he shall furnish a copy of same to Mr. S. K. Smith, District Manager of the Dering Coal Co., which report should be furnished you are a better judge than I.

I note in looking over my report of Jan. 25th, there are one or two typographical errors. Page two, third line, there should be the word (and) introducing "Main South" (and) "Air Course" In the twelfth line from the bottom of the page, insert the word (powder) between "exploded" (and) "can". On the third page, tenth line from the top, the word "and" between "Jan. 16th" (and) "two days", should be omitted. In the eighth line from the bottom the wording within the parenthesis signs should be (Miners 11 and 12 East).

Yours sincerely,

— Location of Powder Keg — From mine office

- 1- Keg, flattened out, picked up in main Entry about halfway bet. 6" & 7" w.
- 1 Exploded Keg picked up in 2nd C.C. between 9" & 10" West, 18" from oil can.
Charred paper picked up on N. side of Car in cut-off
Another charred paper picked up in cut-off where original keg, one that started explosion, was exploded
- 1- Exploded Keg picked up in main ~~air~~ Course near where man was found.
- 1- Keg blown to partial fragments, edges of can very ragged, picked up in main Entry at cut-off that goes from Main Air Course to 7" & 8" West, close to man who had top of head blown off.
- 1- Keg blown open with powder in^d another with paper cork men picked up in 10" w, between 1st C.C. and main Entry



DERING COAL CO.

MINE No.

190

DAILY TIME SHEET AND REPORT

TIME PRICE

not key of powder box which had top of front broken
 whether was padlock open or unlocked. Cannot tell
 whether there was any crack in top which would allow
 of a spark getting inside ^{as metal} ^{tools still in box}
 does cross cuts are right as shown on your blue
 prints.

The track in the 9 East goes straight through into main
 shaft

Some changes will have to be made on your
 blue prints & will have to get the exact locations of
 powder keys before same can be accurately shown
 on the prints

DERING COAL CO.

MINE No.

190

DAILY TIME SHEET AND REPORT

Worker	Hour	Amount	Notes
*45 C. Miller First power of Mt. Liberty	1		powder
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5	7900	
	6		
	7	2500	
	8		
	9		1 Keg
	10	8500	
	11		
	12	8200	1 Keg
	<u>27100</u>	<u>2</u>	
*89 John Bragon second power of Mt. Liberty	1		
	2	17300	1 Keg
	3	14400	
	4	11200	1 Keg
	5	11600	
	6		
	7	17500	
	8	10500	1 Keg
	9	12300	
	10	11000	
	11		
	12	11900	1 Keg
	<u>1187</u>	<u>4 Keg</u>	
*30 John Brashua Room 3 - of Mt. Liberty	1		
	2	7600	1 Keg
	3	4900	
	4	7900	
	5	7900	1 Keg
	6		
	7	11100	
	8	11100	1 Keg
	9	13800	
	10	8200	
	11		
	12	2200	1 Keg
	<u>74700</u>	<u>4 Keg</u>	

on 9 in 10 E or pm mine = 17 1/2 ft 8 in from top of
 1 9 ft 10 1/2 ft n a u X mark

Jan 8 9 10 and 11 1909

No Keg Powder used 4 day previous to explosion

3	Wm Buckson	10 East	0 Keg
8	Wm Jones	10 East	1
10	Wm Jones	10 East	1
21	J Bohasto	10 West	✓
29	Chas Ogden	10 East	1
30	John Berchus	9 West	✓
38	Gas Nesbit	9 East	✓
45	Q Miller	9 West	✓
56	Wm Black	9 East	✓
65	Mo Winkler	9 East	1
69	J. Dyestons	10 West	1
70	Ed Wolf	10 West	3
89	John Bregal	9 West	✓
112	Chas O'Rourke	10 East	1
115	M. Hatrik	9 West	3
119	Mo Bayent	10 East	1
136	John Kellimer	9 East	1
162	B. Basri	10 West	1
165	Anton J. Rantuch	9 West	1
168	John M. Albrecht	9 East	1



Reports

Dated

01/25/1907 - 06/23/1907

Chicago, Jan. 23, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Secretary,

Illinois Coal Operators Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,
1312 First National Bank Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I beg to make the following report of my trip to Clinton, Ind., in connection with the explosion which occurred in Mine No. 7, Dering Coal Company, near Clinton, Ind., on Jan. 14th, 1907, at about 6:40 A.M. *in which 7 men were killed - Jan 16*

I arrived at Clinton at 3:54 A. M., and went down the mine shortly after the arrival of your Attorney, Mr. Buckingham, of Danville, at 9:30. Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Jenkins and myself drove out to the mine, arriving there about 10:00 A.M. We found none of the officers of the Dering Coal Company. The Superintendent, Mr. Ed Shirkie, and the mine Manager, Mr. Hughes, were said to be at Brazil as witnesses in a damage suit there. The highest man in authority that we found was boss track layer, Phil Roberts, who accompanied us in our trip into the mine.

We took safety lamps and lanterns and proceeded rapidly down the main south entry until we reached a point where the first effects of the explosion could be observed. This was at what is known as the second parting. Cars of coal were standing on one of the tracks. These cars had considerable fine coal dust deposited over same, but no grit or coke was noted.

VENTILATING CURRENT. It may here be noted that all of the workings in Main South and Air Course are on one split of air. The intake, passing south on the main air course is deflected by a door into the 7th East, thence coming out the 8th east, again passing south in the air course, again deflected eastward into the Ninth East, back in the Tenth East, thence south to the Eleventh East and into same, and out the Twelfth East thence to the face of the air course, through a cross cut into the main South, thence north to the Tenth West, into same and then out the Ninth West, again north in the Main South Entry to the Eighth West, into same and out the Seventh West, again north in the Main South to the Sixth West, into same, out the Fifth West, again north, and out of the field of investigation. This split when measured

by Mr. Ja. Taylor, near the mouth of the Eighth West Entry, on Jan. 18th, showed about 4000 cu. ft. per minute.

~~At this point~~ it may be well to call attention to a discrepancy in the numbers given the east side entries. In enumerating the entries above I have given the designations by the miners. The map gives the numbers of the entries two less in each case. That is, the last pair on the map is Ninth and Tenth, instead of Eleventh and Twelfth, as called by the miners. The map is more consistent, as it makes the east entries correspond in numbers with the ~~opposite~~ pair on the west side, but the coroner stated at the request that the miners' naming should prevail.

There is a door in the Main South between the Fifth and Sixth West. This door opens "outwardly" in the direction of the current of air, and in this connection, it may be noted that all of the ventilating doors open in the direction of the air current. This door between the Fifth and Sixth West was uninjured and unmarred, but five or six powder cans were observed by me on the morning of Jan. 16th in a rolled up condition on the outside of the above mentioned door. These cans had plainly been rolled along for considerable distances. There was also considerable fine coal dust in the vicinity of the mouth of the Sixth West, such dust on the rail being compressed by a car running over same to about an inch in thickness, but there were no other evidences of any explosive force. Mr. Roberts stated that all the men in the Fifth and Sixth West had no trouble in getting out after the explosion; one man in fact was found loading coal.

Passing through the above mentioned door between the Fifth and Sixth West, we passed the mouth of the cross cut leading directly into the Fifth East (miners' Seventh), which is about 50 feet "inside" of the Sixth West and on the opposite side. ~~At this point~~ it may be well to explain what is meant by the terms "in" and "out", and "inwardly" and "outwardly". They are used in the miners' sense the former meaning further into the mine, that is, in the direction of the face, and the latter, further out of the mine, that is, away from the face and toward the shaft.

In the Main South, 12 feet "inside" of the first cross cut "inside" of the Fifth East (miners' Seventh), or in other words, about 72 feet "inside" of the latter, a nearly full keg of powder was noted standing

at the side, and on the middle of the road several handfulls of coarse-grained powder were scattered in little heaps. The grains were damp and soft from absorption of moisture, but still retained their form. It was explained by Roberts that this scattered powder was spilled from the powder can standing at the side, but which was in the middle after the explosion, and that in rescuing a couple of men immediately "inside" of where the powder was found, the can had been rolled over, thus spilling some of the powder. ~~At this point~~ It may be stated that the invariable custom of the miners of this No. 7 mine in opening powder is to strike a pick into the top of the can. They then cork the hole with a loose paper wad.

The above mentioned two men who were rescued were found just "inside" of the place where the full powder keg was found, and about 75 feet "inside" of the Fifth East (miners' Seventh). These two men were partly suffocated, but were otherwise uninjured, and were later revived. Their dinner pails were noted upset, but the food showed no effect of the violence. Several eggs, evidently rolled out of the buckets, were not smashed.

On the right hand side of the Main South Entry, about 150 feet "inside" of the Fifth East (miners' Seventh), and about 100 feet "outside" of the mouth of the Seventh West, I noted a roll of paper such as is used by the miners for making cartridges or "dummies". The roll, evidently a new one, about four inches in diameter and about two feet long, had a strap passed through the center of same and ^{around} the outside lengthwise of the roll, evidently used for a handle in carrying. The outer layers of paper were dented and somewhat broken, plainly showing that the roll had struck against various objects. The outer leaf was blackened by fine coal dust, but it showed no evidences of burning or scorching, nor were there any coke particles adhering.

Fifty feet further "in" or fifty feet "outside" of the Seventh West, there is a cross cut to the air course through which a track runs. It is called the Seventh and Eighth West ~~Cut-off~~, and is used for hauling empties from the air course "into" the Seventh and Eighth west.

~~At this point it may be stated that~~ the system of hauling through the south entries is for the loads coming out of the cross entries to run "out" (north) on the Main South Entry, all empties going "in" (south

use the air course. Immediately outside of each pair of West Entries there is a track passing through a cross cut to the air course, and as above mentioned, this is called a cut-off. The switch of each cut-off, being for empties passing "in", only, points "inward". At the above mentioned cut-off at the Seventh West in the angle between the two tracks just "outside" of the frog, a place was pointed out on the ground by Roberts where the body of a man was found. The head and shoulder had been blown off and the body completely stripped of clothing. Later I was informed by one of the men said to have helped take out the body that, while it was not badly burnt, that the hair on the lower part of the body was burned or scorched. I was also informed that almost all of the bones of the body were broken. Part of the head was said to have been found a little south of the body in the mouth of the cut-off. While the man had been subjected to tremendous violence, it will be noted that he was not disembowelled. While observing the place, we picked up one of his shoes and the trousers-leg in the immediate vicinity. Also, there was a remnant of a curtain on the middle of the track. It may be here noted, that there were several curtains missing further "inside", notably at the Ninth and Tenth West. Several miners' tools were scattered along the side for a short distance, a charger and tamping bar (and I think an auger was found, but I failed to put the latter down in my note book and cannot positively state about it).

This man was identified as one who had been working in the second room on the Eighth West. He had been directed by the mine Manager to

move to the 9th West entry and turned a room there. At the moment of the explosion he was unquestionably in the main south entry proceeding south. As the mouth of the 8th West is 80' inside of the cut-off where the body was found, he must have been blown this distance and possibly more.

Main South when the explosion occurred. If between the points stated he would have been carried about 100 feet to where found.

Between the Seventh West and the Eighth West in the mine there is a door and frame. The door opened "outwardly" in the direction of the air, as usual in this mine. The door was not injured by the explosion, it had evidently been blown wide open at the first rush of air.

The injury to the frame was ^{only} on the west side of the door, between the frame proper and the rib, a space of about 2 1/2 feet, filled by a partition. This partition had been blown out. At the time of my inspection new boards had been nailed across this 2 1/2 foot space. The side walls were but very little marked, even on this side of the door there was little scarring from flying objects hitting it. Such scarring was noticeable on projecting points only. No coking or other heating was observed in the immediate vicinity.

There was a doorway in the cut-off where the man was found. I find I have failed to inquire whether this was blown out or not. At the time of my visit a door was in place, which I think to have been the old door.

In the cross-cut, leading straight through to the Seventh East (miners' Ninth) there was a door which had been blown eastward ten or fifteen feet to the edge of the air course, and I am further informed that it was too much broken up for use. A new door had been put up at the time of my inspection. At the switch from the Main South into the above cross-cut loose fine pieces of coal and dust had been blown over one or the other rail from three to four inches deep. In going further in the Main South the next two cross-cuts had the brattices blown out eastward, it was reported. They had been re-built at the time of my visit. The method of building the brattices in cross-cuts in this mine is to put in a wooden brattice and then pile up dirt on either side. In most of those observed, the dirt is piled up from three to four feet high, leaving two or three feet of boards exposed.

The Third Cut-off from the Seventh East (Miners' Ninth) was blown westward, I am so informed, but in the work of renewing the brattice the evidence had been destroyed.

The next cross-cut going in, is the cut-off of the Ninth West. The door in this had been blown east, but had been set up again at the time of my visit, but I made notation that the frame showed the movement eastward. From this point into the face of the Main South all the brattices were reported to have been blown eastward, but all had been re-erected at the time of my visit, except the last two on the entry. It will be noted from the foregoing that only one brattice or door had been blown west, namely, the third brattice "inside" of the Seventh East (miners' Ninth). There was no door between the Ninth West

and the Tenth West, but there had been a curtain which had been blown completely away. A new curtain had been erected. Up to the Tenth West all movement of loose material in the Main South had evidently been "outward", that is, northward. From the mouth of the Tenth West the movement of loose material had evidently been "inward", or south, up to the last cross-cut. As stated in connection with the doorway between the Seventh and Eighth West, there was comparatively little markings on the ribs or roof; here and there small projecting knobs had been knocked off, and behind slight projections there had been a little greater accumulation of dust. Such markings had to be observed closely to be seen at all, and were more in the nature of faint shadows cast by slight projections from a light beyond. No evidence of heat was observed along the Main South. Numerous small pieces of paper were encountered, particularly "inside" of the Tenth West, but which did not show scorching. These, however, were small and light, and might readily have been drawn from their resting places by the suction produced by condensation of the heated gases after the explosion. A pair of sight strings were observed, in the Main South between the mouth of the Tenth West and the last cross-cut, which were not scorched. If there were any plumb-weights on them or chunks of coal as ordinarily used, these had been blown away, but the strings themselves were not injured. There were two cross-cuts "inside" of the Tenth West without brattices or curtains at the time of my visit on Jan. 16th, in other words, were open.

We proceeded cautiously, and I tested for gas with the Davy lamp which I carried, but was unable to obtain any "cap" showing fire-damp. We proceeded until we had reached the face of the Main South Entry, which is about 60 or 70 feet "inside" of the last open cross-cut. A new cross-cut at the regular interval of about fifty foot centers has not been finished through into the air course, but I was afterwards informed they had a small hole through. At the face of the Main South loose coal from the shots on the previous Saturday night was found. There was a sound of hissing and bubbling, which suggested gas, but neither I nor Mr. Jenkins, testing with separate Davy lamps, were able to obtain any showing of fire-damp, even on holding the lamp close to one of such hissing points. This noise was due to water bleeding from the face of the coal. If fire-damp was given off, it was in less quantities than could be observed with

the safet. lamp.

In a cross-cut between the Main South and the air course, "inside of the Tenth West, and where the brattice had been blown east, as per previous statement, the top part of a powder box had been blown off, to the east about three feet, leaving the bottom part of the box with a can of powder standing undisturbed on the bottom. This powder can was about two-thirds full of powder with a paper stopper in same, which showed no evidences of scorching.

TENTH WEST. After going to the face of the Main South, our party re-traced their steps back to the mouth of the Tenth West, entering same. There is no track in the mouth of the entry, the track passing through the first cross-cut from the Ninth West, and thence on to the face. Between the mouth and this first cross-cut is a distance of about thirty feet. There were a number of tools strewn about, which may or may not have been moved here by the explosion. They had the appearance, however, of being thrown in different directions. While not bearing directly on the explosion, an auger was found here, which measured eight feet long, with the cutting edge flared to 3 1/2 inches in diameter. A keg of powder was found here about one-third full, with a paper cork in same. Another, badly battered and dented open, was found on second visit to contain powder. I was later informed that one of the men who was killed, had been found in the middle of the entry at this point. He is said to have worked in room No. 1. He was not much burned, and plainly suffocated.

At the mouth of the first cross-cut, and opposite the first room, we encountered an empty car off the track. We were afterwards informed that this car had been found by the party erecting the brattices immediately after the explosion, "within" the cross cut, and butted up against another empty car, which was lodged crosswise of the cross-cut about the middle of same, and which was there at the time of our inspection. Immediately north of it there was a curtain frame, in place and uninjured. The curtain was said to have been in place, but the rescue party thought it was out and set up a temporary curtain on the south side of the car. It is apparent from the position of the car that the latter did not come through the curtain frame from the north, that is, from the Ninth West. We were later informed, on inquiry, that the driver stated the two cars in question had been left by ^{him} ~~the driver~~

Saturday afternoon, prior to shooting-time in the Tenth West-South. The car at the mouth of the cross-cut, and which was noted by the parties at both inspections, had certain interesting features. The gate, which in this mine is always headed towards the "inside" or face of the workings, had the right-hand part of the top of the second board knocked into the car. From certain blackening and the presence of coke particles on the edges of the remaining boards, it was evident this had been knocked off prior to the explosion. At the top of the gate on the right-hand corner there was a heavy band of coke particles, three-eighths of an inch thick, several inches wide, and extending from near the top edge down four or five inches to the bottom of the first board. The peculiar and interesting feature of this was that the left edge of it extended in a perfectly straight line parallel with and half an inch away from a vertical iron bar on the face of the gate. This iron bar projected about half an inch from the face of the car, and it was immediately apparent on inspection that it was not necessary to fix the position of the car, no matter where the car was at the time of the explosion, to see that the direction of the impinging current of products of explosion had struck the gate at an angle of 45° . The foregoing two points suggest that the two cars had been driven to the position where found, not by the explosion, but by the discharge of the heavy shots on the previous Saturday evening. The grade of the Tenth West-South is slightly "outward", so that if the cars were set strongly in motion by a more or less windy shot, they would run out to the Tenth West, swinging around the curve, the first car jumping the track, the second car aiding to throw it around crosswise by its impetus, and also jumping the track, where it was found by the men putting up brattices soon after the explosion. Mr. Brock, a miner, and spokesman of the pit committee, who aided in this, pointed out on the inspection the following Friday the location of the car where it had been found in the cross-cut. In this position the force of the explosion passing eastward in the Tenth West, and branching in the cross-cut, would have struck the end of the car at an angle of about 45° . The breaking of the gate might have been done by the shot in the face of the Tenth West-South Entry on Saturday evening, which, I conjecture, set the cars in motion down the entry, the force of which was possibly augmented by the other four shots, which the shot firer (Larson) testified before

the coroner that he had fired in this and the Ninth West-South entries at one time. He stated that he did not return after the five shots had been fired, so did not know the effect. No heating of the roof was observed in the immediate vicinity of the cross-cut, nor beyond the coking of the corner of the car, were there any noticeable particles of coke. The car was somewhat blackened by dust, but not markedly. A little inside of the first cross-cut, and ten feet from the corner of the second cross-cut, the body of one of the men who had been killed was said to have been found. I understand his name was Wolf, and that he worked at the face of the Tenth West. Roberts, who accompanied us on Jan. 16th, did not know the exact location, but Mr. Brock, on Jan. 18th pointed it out. The man was said to have been found with face down, like the other, with his head toward the outside, but this man, unlike the other, was seriously burned, so badly blackened that it was stated by the men who found him that they were not sure whether it was not a negro's body.

At the second cross-cut, which is also the middle one on this pair of entries, interesting evidence was found. On the floor of the cross-cut the lower half of a powder or tool box was found, evidently in its original position, with tools resting on it. A blown-out powder keg was found at the outer right-hand corner of the cross-cut, with an oil can close by it. The powder keg was flared out in the side seams. It had not burst the heads, indicating the explosion had been more in the nature of a burning of the powder, rather than an instantaneous explosion. The keg had originally been opened by a pick driven through the top. Up to the date of writing this it is not known whether the powder keg belonged in the box nearby or was elsewhere. The interior of the box, ^{while blackened} did not show burning. The top of the box had been thrown up-side down on a pile of dirt built against the brattice, five or six feet away from the bottom. The adjacent brattice had not been blown out, although it had been shaken, that is, one or two boards were loosened. At the time of my examination this top had not been touched. I asked Mr. S. K. Smith to secure the box as an exhibit and to see if it was still padlocked. He states that it was padlocked and this held the lid to the upper part of the front side of the box. The lid of the box did not have hinges, but slid back into place.

This would allow an open crack through which it was possible to drop a spark.

Going further in on the Tenth West, no special evidence was noticed until the Third and last cross-cut was reached. Gas was tested for at the face of the Tenth West, but none was indicated by the Davy lamp. A heavy shot or shots had been fired at the face of the Tenth West-South, throwing some of the coal back thirty or forty feet to the mouth of the cross-cut. I suspect that this is what drove the cars down the entry on Saturday night.

At the last cross-cut, which necessarily was an open one, tools lay strewn around on the bottom. Evidently they had been disturbed from the point where stored. A large powder box was found in the middle of the cross-cut, placed diagonally and resting on the tools. It was not apparent where the box had been moved from: Mr. Roberts did not know. One of the miners, then working on brattices in the mine, was called in, and claimed that the box belonged against the side of the cross-cut, about five feet away, southeast of where it was found. The two positions are indicated on the accompanying map. The box was still padlocked, and not damaged. Coke particles showed at both ends, but more on the end towards the north as it then stood, but there was some coke particles adhering all around it. I was later informed by Mr. Smith that on opening the box an exploded powder keg was found within.

On the west side of the cross-cut, in a slight recess of the rib, a few feet away from the Ninth West, there was a powder keg partly filled with powder, and with a paper cork, uninjured, and showing no signs of having been moved, and the cork showing no signs of scorching.

NINTH WEST-SOUTH. The face of the latter was tested for gas, but none shown by the Davy lamp. A heavy shot or shots had been fired in the face, throwing some of the coal back thirty or forty feet, to a point not far from the cross-cut. Opposite the inner corner of the cross-cut an empty pit car stood at the time of the examination. This car had been thrown off the track. It had apparently been driven off by being forced "inwards" towards the face. It was not apparent whether this was done either from a shot in the last room neck off the Ninth West, which was a little "outside" of where the car stood, or from the

explosio. The gate at the west end of the car is pitted on the east, or interior, face with particles of coke. In apparent contradiction to this, the east end of the car is not marked or coated.

On the roof opposite the cross-cut, and at the east end of the car, there is considerable evidence of heating, indicated by the coke particles adhering to the roof. This extended for a distance of six or eight feet, but it was not observable in the cross-cut itself. This heating is fifteen or twenty feet "inside" of the No. 3 room. About the same distance outside of the mouth of No. 3 room there is also evidence of heating on the roof, but not so much. A very small powder box sets alongside of the north rib, twenty feet from the "outside" of No. 3 room. It is entirely uninjured and not moved at all. There are very noticeable globules of coke on the west end of the box, a little on the front of same, but none at all on the east end.

In the Ninth West-South, opposite room No. 3, there is a wooden track. There is no switch into the room. A blown-out shot was found in room No. 3. The face of room No. 3 is twenty-three feet from the side of the entry. This blown-out shot had thrown coal south-westerly past the corner of the room neck, breaking one of the rails of the track in the entry and piling over the top of the other, and some coal was thrown against the opposite rib of the entry. In the entry the force of this blown-out shot had been expended "inwardly" towards the last cross cut.

This blown-out shot had resulted from a dead hole near the top in the right-hand corner of the #3 room. About three feet of the hole still remained in the solid coal, widened out to six inches diameter at the mouth by the blowing-out process. Measurements of this and of other holes in this room were taken, and a plat is submitted with this report. Evidently another dead hole had been fired within a day or two prior to Saturday, four feet of the bore of the hole still remaining, but it did not show evidence of so badly a blown-out shot as the other. It was in the bottom. Coal that had been thrown off had gone southeast. The man employed in No. 3 room, John Breslina, was said not to have gone into the mine at all on the morning of the explosion.

In the second room no recent shots had been fired, but the miner who worked in same, John Bregor, had gone in on the morning of the 14th, and had been killed. His body was said to have been found immediately

"outside" of his room, his face down, and headed towards the east, showing he had tried to escape. The man who worked in the face of the entry, A. Hetrick, was also said to have been found between the first and second rooms and in a similar position. Neither of these men are said to have been noticeably burned.

In going east in the Ninth West from a point twenty feet east of Room 3 no evidence of force of an explosion was encountered. In the first room, the face of which is in about forty-two feet from the entry a couple of heavy shots had been fired on Saturday night. These had thrown considerable of the coal back to the mouth of the room. One of these shots, in the right-hand corner, I measured on Jan. 16th, and the measurements were repeated by some of the party on Jan. 18th. The hole, as shown by the markings along the rib, was about ten feet long, and four inches in diameter. 3'-1" of the hole was still in the solid. At the point it had a lift of seven feet. The hole is a trifle below the middle of the seam, which is here a little over six feet thick. No connection between this dangerous hole nor those in No. 1 room with the explosion now seems probable, but at the time of the first inspection on Jan. 16th, it looked as if the blown-out shot in room No. 3, which had evidently been a windy one, had possibly not been discharged until immediately prior to the explosion, and was responsible therefor. This was supported by the statements of the shot firers, of whom we made inquiry on the night of Jan. 16th, and the testimony of whom was brought out the following morning before the coroner. The shot firers claimed that they had fired but one hole in room No. 3, and Larson, the leader, stated that it was in the bottom, he thought on the right-hand side, but was not clear about this point. The blown-out shot was in the top and on the right rib, so that he either overlooked same, or else fired it and did not recall correctly.

MAIN SOUTH AIR COURSE. During the investigation Jan. 16th our attention was directed to the point a little "outside" of the Tenth East (miners' 12th) where a miner, who worked in the air course was said to have been found dead, and badly burned. This was at the inner corner of the first cross-cut, "outside" of the entry. In the cross-cut a keg, burst open from the inside, was found and taken out of the mine on Jan. 18th by one of the investigators, Mr. Jas. Taylor.

TENTH EAST (MINERS' 12TH). It was noted at the mough of the Tenth East that the "sight strings", hung from the roof, had not been burned. If weights were formerly tied to the strings, they had been blown away, but there was ^{no} noticeable disturbance to the strings. As in the case of the "sights" in the Main South, they are hung from nails driven into plugs in the roof, and therefore would be thrown up against the roof with a passing blast. There is no track laid through the mough of the Tenth East, the entry track goes through the first cross-cut into the Ninth West. At the turn an empty pit car was standing knocked off the track northeastward. From the position of the car, it would appear to have been driven off the track by a force exert from the west, pushing it eastward, as it was driven off on the inside of the curve. An outward force would have clearly driven the car off the track to the outside of the curve. The car shows coke particles on both ends and within the car, about evenly distributed. There is heating on the roof a few feet west of the car, indicating a flaming immediately over same. In the cross-cut through which the track leads to the Ninth (Miners' 11th) there is a curtain frame, which shows considerable coke particles on the south side, particularly on the east post, none at all on the north side of the frame, indicating the heated current was from the south. This frame was about fifteen feet from the heat effects near the car. Further inside the 10th East from the car, with the exception of loose, empty powder cans and small pieces of coal and dirt, there is no evidence of violence all the way to the face.

I tested for gas in the first and second rooms, and at the face, but the Davy lamp did not show any indication at all of fire-damp, in spite of the fact that some of the curtains had been left open so that there was no circulation of air through this pair of entries for several hours.

NINTH EAST (MINERS' 11TH). There was no evidence of violence found in the Ninth East, nor any heating observed. I tested the face of the entry for gas, but found none with the Davy lamp.

AIR COURSE. On leaving the Ninth East we went south "out" the air course. After passing the cross-cut where the exploded can and box were said to have been found, there could be seen along the road more or less pieces of coal and wood and empty powder cans in a rolled up condition, all indicating an outward northward direction of force.

Near the Eighth East (miners' Tenth) two men were said to have been found, suffocated, but not burned. One of these, it was claimed by one of the rescue party, had been heard to groan up to a short time before they could get to him. Considerable doubt is felt that a man could live for two hours after the explosion, exposed all the time to the resulting smoke and gases.

EIGHTH EAST (MINERS' TENTH). In the Eighth East I went into the first two open rooms, which are rooms 2 and 3, testing for gas in both, but obtaining no showing with the safety lamp in either case. In room 2 a miner named Chas. Ogden work. In an interview given in the Terre Haute Star, Ogden states, "At the mouth of room 1 (which was worked out "I kept my paper, fuse, etc., and when we came up the entry (Monday "Morning) we found that a 'windy' shot Saturday night had scattered "my paper in the entry . Jones (who worked in room 3) helped pick up "some of it, and then while I finished gathering it up Jones went on "to his room. Just as I finished, and while I was yet stooping over, a "roar like the wind whistling around a house or through the woods, only "twice as strong, came along, and I was thrown forward on my face."

"I threw up my arm to protect my face and felt myself carried "forward, but had no idea how far. My cap was torn off and my lamp "extinguished. I called to Bill as soon as I got my breath, and he "answered and came toward me. As soon as I saw his light I crawled "toward him and found I had been blown along the entry, past my room, "and up to his room, No. 3, a distance of over 100 feet. He helped me "into his room, where the air was good, and after about fifteen minutes "when I had regained my strength somewhat, we started to try to get out.

"Jones led me from room to room, through 'break-throughs', until "we came to the last room, when we were obliged to go out into the entr "It was very hot, and the doors being down there was no circulation of "air, and the smoke lay like a blanket.

"We were unable to go on, and retreated to a room, where there "was a little water. By placing my face near the water I got a little "fresh air and revived somewhat.

"Jones made two attempts to get out, and finally decided we should "try once more. Emptying the tobacco out of our sacks, we wet the sacks "in water, and holding them over our mouths and noses, crawled through

"the scorching hot entry till we reached the air course."

He adds, "I had never noticed any gas in the mine, and had no thought of any, but believe it was a gas explosion. The wind rushed along at a terrible rate, and the air was full of powder cans, cap pieces, chunks of coal, and other things, with a roaring noise, like a hurricane, through the woods."

Mr. Ogden has a large scalp wound, and the skin was scraped off his back, arms and hands.

The above feature is of interest, for having read his account before going into the mine, we observed that very little violence was in evidence in this entry beyond the powder keg and scattered dust and dirt on the roads. It will be noted that Mr. Ogden speaks of "smoke", but not of after-damp. As he was in the entry, it is evident that the force cannot have been very great or he would have been more severely injured. I believe no brattices were blown out in this pair of entries I tested for gas at the face of the Seventh East, as well as the Eighth East (Miners' Ninth and Tenth) but the Davy lamp did not show any "capping".

The mouth of room No. 1, where Mr. Ogden states he was picking up papers, is about 35 feet from the air course, and measuring around the roads, about 200 feet from the point where the man was blown to pieces on the Main South.

In the air course between the mouths of these Seventh and Eighth (miners' 9th and 10th) entries there is a doorway. This door opened "inward" with the air current, hence, when the explosive force came "outward" the frame as well as the doorway was carried north down the air course. It was found in the Seventh East (miners' ninth) opposite the first room about 35 or 40 feet from the air course. It will be recalled that the cross-cut door in line with this entry between the air course and the Main South had been blown "inward" or east, to the edge of the air course. It seems evident that the air course door above mentioned cannot have been carried around a corner into the Seventh East at one blast. Its inertia would have carried it onward. It therefore seems probable that the explosive force, coming down the air course struck the door and carried it to the mouth of the Seventh East opposite the above mentioned cross-cut, and that a moment later, when the door in this cross-cut was blown east, the first mentioned door

was also packed up again and dropped where found, about forty feet inside the Seventh East. This pointed to one of two alternatives, that the explosive force came out the air course first, and followed a moment later by that which came out the Main South; or that the second effect was produced by a local explosion of a keg of powder over in the Main South, possibly the one which blew the miner to pieces. However, in either case, an explosive blast must have struck the door in the air course first.

Beyond, or north of this point in the air course there are no further evidences of explosive force, beyond the dust and small loose pieces of coal on the road. The Fifth West Cut-off is where the boy (who was employed in room No. 2 in Tenth West) and was on his way in at the time of the explosion, came through into the air course and revived there.

On finishing the examination to the outer end of the explosive area, we returned to the shaft and were hoisted out, about 5:30 (Jan. 16th.

That evening we thought it advisable to follow up the matter of the shot firing, as the indications at the time pointed to the cause being the blown-out shot in room No. 3, Ninth West. Roberts went after the two shot firers, finding them at a miners' meeting, and got them to return to the hotel, where Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Jenkins and myself interviewed them. Their names were Larson and Johnston. Larson spoke broken English, but Johnson could not speak English. Larson did all the speaking. He had been shot firer for three or four years. Johnston had been on only about a month. Larson explained his method of firing. He put cotton in his ears and carried a piece of lamp cotton in his hand to test for gas. He also carried a wet sponge, as it often was necessary to use same after bad or windy shots. He said they occasionally had some bad ones, but he had always been able to get out all right. He stated they examined the holes and did not fire them unless they thought them safe, nevertheless, they very rarely condemned holes. He said he remembered about the shots on Saturday night; he fired seven in the Ninth and Tenth West, of which two were in the first room.

The latter two he fired first. He and Johnston went into the face in the Tenth West until they had gone off, returned, and Johnston fired two in the face of the Ninth West, and Larson fired one in room No. 3 (there had been nobody in room 2 that day). They then ran through into the Tenth West, lighted one in the entry and one in one of the rooms, then ran over to the 12th East to wait until the five shots had gone off. They were sure there were five, because they counted the blasts. Mr. Jenkins wrote down the statement to this effect as dictated by Mr. Buckingham. The shot firers refused to sign, but at the coroner's inquest the following morning the same points were brought out verbally and finally the paper written by Jenkins was accepted as Exhibit A.

I pursued the investigation about the men working in the Ninth and Tenth West Entries. It was claimed that a man working in room 3 Ninth West did not go in on the morning of the explosion, (Jan. 14th). The man himself, John Bresna, or Bercsik, as variously reported, could not be found. A friend, who was a saloon keeper, stated that he had been intoxicated the night before and had not gone into the mine. This was also corroborated by the mine Manager, Wm. Hughes, who said that he had not seen him that morning, and felt very confident that he would have seen him either entering the mine or going out, had he been there. While the man at the face of the entry, who was killed, was his fellow countryman, it would not seem probable that he would have set off a shot in room 3, in the morning hours against the mine rules. Therefore, the theory that the blown-out shot was fired on the morning of Jan. 14th and caused the explosion was rendered much less probable, and it would be considered only a remote possibility.

We waited over until the following day to await the coming of others to renew the investigation in the mine. While Mr. Jenkins and I were attending the inquest the suggestion made by Mr. Brock, the spokesman of the miners' pit committee during the testimony of the shot firer Larson was that we had endeavored to bribe the latter. The lawyers on the miners' side threatened to call us to the stand, but it was not done.

The following morning, Friday, Jan. 18th, a party consisting of Mr. Jas. Taylor, State Inspector, of Peoria, Ill., Mr. Baudy, Gen'l. Supt. of the Taylorville Coal Company, Mr. Money, of the Brazil Block

Company, Mr. Ed. Shirkey, of the Oak Hill Coal Company, and also Mr. Ed. Shirkey, Supt. of the mine, and several other operators of Indiana, together with the pit committee, coroner, and Indiana Deputy Inspector Irving, went into the mine to make an examination. Safety lamps were carried by a number of the party. As the party was a large one, consisting of about twenty-two, it separated more or less. Those that I was with went around the south part of the mine from west to east. We visited room 1 off the Seventh West, as the party who worked in this room had testified that he had gotten out by crawling through a small hole near the face of his room and then had gone around through old break-throughs. This ran a comparatively short distance, 150 feet, around about to the Seventh West Cut-off where the man was found blown to pieces. It was therefore evident that the explosion had no force in this room. We visited the mouth of room No. 2 in the Eighth West, from which the man who was blown apart was said to have been moving his tools when killed. There was a recent fall in the mouth of this room. We also visited room 4 off the Eighth West, as this room was reported to have been very gassy by one of the miners. There was insufficient gas to make any showing whatever with a safety lamp, but in the dead portion of one of the top holes on the right-hand side sufficient gas was found to flash within the hole, but not sufficient to come out. This was the first sign of any gas observed by the writer. I did not actually see the burning, but the man holding the lamp, and who stood in front of it, said it flashed, and I have no reason to doubt his statement.

Considerable time was spent in examining the place at the Seventh West Cut-off where the man who had been blown apart was found, and two powder cans which had been exploded were picked up and taken along. One of these was found in the Main South, half way between the Sixth and Seventh West, flattened out. The other was found in the mouth of the Seventh West cut-off, near where the body of the man who had been killed was said to have been found.

The party proceeded carefully along the road, noting the absence of the general heating effect. It then turned into the Ninth West. Room 1 was visited, and the ten foot drill ^{hole} previously mentioned was re-measured. The next point dwelt upon by the party which I was with

was in the last cross-cut, where a full keg of powder, with the cork in same and unscorched, was found and taken along by the party. At the middle cross-cut in the Tenth West a further study of the situation there seemed to make it apparent to everyone that this was the seat of the explosion. A powder can, flattened out at the seam, was considered to be evidence of the initial explosion, due to the man inadvertently having set off the powder, or by a spark dropped from his lamp on loose grains of powder on the can. It would not appear likely that he would be opening a keg early in the morning. The place where the man, Wolf, who worked at the face of the Tenth West, was found was pointed out. He was the most badly burned of any, and it was said that it was at first thought that he was a negro. The location where he was found was pointed out by Brock and others, and was seven feet outside of the edge of the cross-cut, or ten feet, measured in a diagonal line, from the exploded powder keg, although it is quite possible that the latter was moved from its original position, either by its own force, or by one of the rescue party. However, it was thought to be in the position where it was found after the explosion. The broken tool box was observed. From the fact that the box was padlocked (as later developed), it seems probable that the powder keg was on the outside of the box when it exploded, although it is possible ^{it was within and} that a spark had dropped through the top of the box on the keg. The latter had been opened with a pick, like practically all others in the mine. If no cork were in it, the sloping shape of the hole would readily throw any spark or drop of burning oil down into the powder.

It is quite evident that Wolf was not in his working place at the moment of the explosion, for if he had been, he would not have been burned. It seems evident that he was at the mouth of the middle cross-cut when the explosion occurred, and that he had only vitality enough to throw himself "outwardly" on the track.

In the next cross-cut "outside", the one in which the empty pit cars were located, considerable time was spent in examining the coke on the corner of the first car and in investigating the surroundings. A German newspaper and also a Slovak paper were found immediately north of the car, and just inside of the turn in the cross-cut. These papers while much blackened, were not burned. Under the car a pocket of a (19) jacket and part of the lining was found. The pocket contained a piece

also some lamp cotton and an enameled pin button of an order. At the time of writing this the owner of the pin was not known. It is quite probable that it belonged to Wolf, that he had either hung it on his coat up at the cross-cut or that it was torn from him.

Just beyond the car at the South Rib, and only a few feet from the Main South, as was previously mentioned, two dented and battered powder kegs were found, partly filled with powder. One of them was dented open, but neither had ignited. These were taken possession of by some of the party.

The course of the explosion through the Main South and in the Ninth and Tenth East (miners' 11th and 12th), and then out the air course, was followed, but no other points of interest were developed. None of the party testing at the faces with safety lamps were able to detect fire-damp. I personally tried it at a number of points, including the face of the Main South where the bleeding of water with its bubbling sound was noted as in the first inspection.

I obtained from the Weather Bureau Observatory at Indianapolis the nearest Weather Bureau to Clinton, a record of the hourly barometric reading from Jan. 12th to Jan. 18th inclusive. This indicates that there was a steady rising barometer from Jan. 12th to Jan. 15th culminating at 6 P. M. Jan. 19th.

It is fully understood and accepted with a rising barometer which indicates an increased atmospheric pressure, gas in mines is retarded. With a falling barometer indicating a lowering pressure, gas comes out from the coal, roof, the floor, and from the old workings if there is any gas present at all.

The bearing of this, is that if the mine made gas naturally it would have been more apt to have shown on Jan. 12th than on the morning of Jan. 14th when the barometer was 12" higher, for there was the same opportunity for lighting the gas on Jan. 12th had it been present.

Further the barometer had begun falling at the time of my first visit on Jan. 16th and was still lower on the second inspection Jan. 18th, yet neither of these inspections was gas found in quantities sufficient to show in a Davy Lamp, which shows a lower percentage of fire damp than would be explosive.

LEADING EVIDENCES OF THE EXPLOSION.

- 1- The restricted area of the explosion.
- 2- The small amount of damage done to timbering and property.
- 3- The lack of violence except at a few local points.
- 4- The suddenness with which it died away and on dusty roads.
- 5- The absence of heating except at a few isolated points.
- 6- The equal facility with which the explosion traveled with and against the air currents.
- 7- The fact of at least 2 kegs of powder being exploded within a radius of one hundred yards.
- 8- The erratic condition by which some kegs of powder within the area were exploded and others were not.
- 9- The ability of the rescue party to go through the affected area within two hours.
- 10- The absence of comment of the rescue parties about "black-damp" (carbon dioxide) and "white damp" (carbon monoxide).
- 11- The entire absence of smell of black damp at the time of my first inspection, even at the face of the Main South with three cross-cuts unbratticed and open. (This was very striking, as the smell of black-damp from an explosion clings to workings for many days).
- 12- The pick holes in the powder kegs and use of loose paper wads as corks.
- 13- The practical absence of fire-damp on the several days succeeding the explosion when the barometer was lower than on the day of the explosion (according to records obtained from the weather bureau at Indianapolis).

C O N C L U S I O N S .

The 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th point to the improbability of its being a fire-damp explosion.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 13th point to the improbability of its being a so called dust explosion.

All of the small "features" and particularly the 3rd, 7th, 10th, and 12th, point to the explosion of successive kegs of powder being "the explosion" unassisted by either fire-damp or dust.

Respectfully submitted,

Geo S Rice

P.S. Since writing the foregoing report I have come to the conclusion that the "windy" shots on the preceding Saturday played a part in the explosion in this way: From the kegs of powder which were found here and there about the mine and several in the 9th and 10th west, which had evidently not been placed in boxes, in conformance with the laws of the state I am inclined to think that such a keg somewhere in the 10th west had been overturned by one of the "windy" shots, the overturning occurring in the vicinity of the middle crosscut of the 10th west, probably knocking out the powder cork and strewing the powder and that this was lighted by Wolf within a few feet of where his body was found.

Yours very truly,

Geo S Rice

261

Chicago, Jan. 25, 1907.

Mr. E. T. Bent, Secretary,

Illinois Coal Operators Mutual Emp. Liability Ins. Co.,

1312 First National Bank Bldg.,

Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I beg to present the following report of my investigations into the cause of the explosion at the No. 7 Mine of the Dering Coal Company, near Clinton, Ind.

I conclude that the initial point of explosion was at the Second Cross-Cut off the Tenth West-South Entry, and that it was due to the ignition of a keg of powder, through the dropping of a spark into same from a lamp, or possibly from opening a keg of powder with a pick in the hands of the miner named Wolf, who worked in the Tenth West-South Entry. A keg burst open by an explosion within was found at this point. Nearby was a tool box, the top of which had been blown off. As the lid was still padlocked, it seems evident that the exploded keg was not in the box, or if so, that a spark had dropped through a crack in the lid, igniting the powder. However, the probability is that it was outside of the box.

Wolf, according to the evidence presented by the rescue party, was the most badly burned of any of the dead. He was blackened all over I believe that he had only vitality enough left after the explosion of the keg to throw himself face down on the ground. He was but ten feet from where the keg was found. His death must have been practically instantaneous. However, there is a case on record where a man had lived after igniting a keg of powder, and of another who crawled fifty feet after exploding a keg.

The main evidences of the explosion are outward from the face of the entry, as would be natural. Pieces of a man's coat, probably Wolf's were found fifty feet further out under a car in the mouth of the next cross-cut. Undoubtedly inflammable material was lighted by the explosion of the powder, and the current of exploded gases carried incandescent particles of coal and other substances with it. In the Main South the current divided, part going in toward the face, part

going outward, gaining in intensity as it went along. These two currents burst all the brattices in the cross-cuts between the Main South ^{and} air course, eastward, except one, as far as the Seventh and Eighth West. At this point it caught up a man on the entry with his tools and probably a powder keg, hurling him outward, and at the same time exploding the keg of powder, possibly two kegs. The man was hurled to the mouth of the cut-off of the Seventh and Eighth West, and which is the first cross-cut outside of this pair of entries ~~below him~~, through a door, which probably opened at the first blast, and as suggested by Mr. Jas. Taylor, it is probable that his head and his arm were cut off by the tools he was carrying. One keg, exploded from within, was found close by him, and another keg, also burst from within, was found a little further out on the Main South. There may have been, and probably were, other kegs of powder exploded through heat or by striking iron objects, thus making a spark, between the original starting point and where the remains of exploded kegs were found. As an evidence of force, rather than heating, a couple of kegs near the mouth of the Tenth West were dented and broken, but not exploded. In the meantime that part of the explosive force which passed in the Main South ^{south} from the mouth of the Tenth west, burst through the stoppings between there and the face. At the Third cross-cut, inside the Tenth West, a box had the top blown off, and a keg, two-thirds full of powder, rested on the bottom of the box, and was not set off, although it had a paper cork, showing no heating at this point. At a cross-cut immediately opposite the Tenth West, in which the brattice had been blown east, an exploded ^{powder} can was found. Nearby there was said to have been found one of the bodies of the miners, badly burned.

In the Ninth and Tenth East (miners' Tenth and Eleventh) there was some movement inward, but no particular violence. The same is true of the Seventh and Eighth East (miners' Ninth and Tenth), where a door, which had been in the air course, had evidently first been blown to the mouth of the Seventh East, and a moment later, probably when the keg which dismembered the man went off, the door in the cross-cut leading to the Seventh East was blown east, and the door from the air course was again picked up and dropped fifty feet east. At the mouth of the Fifth and Sixth West it is evident that the explosive force was not at all serious. A man going through the doorway in the Main

South was blown down, but not injured. A boy coming in a little behind him testified that he threw himself on the ground and was rolled over three times, then got up and got into the air course, where he revived. The most noticeable thing in going around the mine is the absence of heat, except at certain isolated points, probably due to the explosion of powder in the immediate vicinity.

There is no evidence whatever of any general flaming, such as would come from the presence of fire-damp. Evidences without number are found with exposed paper, wood and other inflammable material that ^{are} ~~is~~ not scorched in the slightest.

The explosion died out with a suddenness that is remarkable, except as explained by its being a powder explosion. A man was blown to pieces at the Seventh and Eighth Cut-off, and less than 100 yards beyond in a straight line a man is not injured who was passing through a doorway. Were it a dust explosion, such explosion would accelerate on its way to the shaft, and almost invariably such an explosion is more severe in traveling against the air current than in going with it, yet in this instance the most explosive force is shown in a direction traveling with the air current, namely, out the main south entry.

I examined the mine very thoroughly on January 16th, ~~and~~ two days after the explosion, and tested with a safety lamp in the faces of all the entries, and some of the rooms of the affected area, but did not find sufficient indications of fire-damp to make any showing whatever with a Davy safety lamp. I again tested on Jan. 18th, and did not find sufficient to make any showing. No doubt there are times when gas may be found in the drill holes, but, taken as a whole, the mine is remarkably free from gas. I made a test in the Ninth and Tenth East ^(Niners 11th East) ~~(Tenth and 12th West)~~ when the doors and curtains near same had been open for several hours so there was no current within. I also tested in the Main South when the last two break-throughs had been open since the explosion.

With a view of seeing if there could have been any different atmospheric conditions on the morning of the explosion, Jan. 14th, I have studied the weather bureau maps. I find the following for the vicinity of Clinton:

Friday, Jan. 11,	30.0
Saturday, " 12	29.9
Sunday, " 13,	no report
Monday, " 14,	30.2
Tuesday, " 15,	30.25
Wednesday, " 16,	30.2
Thursday, " 17,	30.0
Friday, " 18,	30.1
Saturday, " 19,	29.75

It will be observed from the foregoing that there was a rising barometer from the 12th to the morning of the explosion, reaching its highest point on the day following. Under such conditions, I have invariably found that the flow of gas is retarded, as the rising barometer means a heavier column of air which holds back the gas. On the other hand, the highest point is Tuesday. There is a slight falling of the barometer for the rest of the period, so that if gas in material quantities were present, it should have shown on Jan. 16th and Jan. 18th.

Furthermore, I do not think it would be possible to have as much force as shown in this case from an explosion by gas, unless far greater evidences of heating were found. There were but isolated points where small coke particles were found, and this coke was to an insignificant degree. The wood and paper were not scorched, and had there been gas, the flame would have undoubtedly set fire to inflammable, dry material like wood and curtains and sight strings, none of which showed any scorching whatever.

Respectfully submitted,

Geo. S. Rice, E.
 734 The Rookery
 Chicago



Newspaper Accounts

LEGISLATORS SEEKING CAUSE OF EXPLOSIONS

QUESTION INSPECTOR EPPERSON AS TO MINE DISASTER.

OPERATORS ARE PRESENT

The inquiry desired by the United Mine Workers into the causes of the recent explosions in Indiana mines and into the conduct of his office by Mine Inspector Epperson, began this morning before the joint committee of the Legislature, composed of Senators Cavins, Goodwine and Moss, and Representatives Slimp, Garrard, Johnson and Pierson.

Mr. Epperson was before the committee for two hours answering questions of a general nature, for the most part with reference to causes of explosions. Three sorts of explosions, fire damp, smoke and dust, were discussed by him, and his opinion was obtained as to the share of blame attaching, in most instances of each kind, to the miner and the owner.

Representatives of the Vandalia and the Dering Coal companies were present at the hearing, as well as representatives of the mine workers. The coal company men made evident their intention to prove, if possible, that the greater part of mine accidents are due to the careless and unlawful actions of the men.

The committee will take up its investigation again at 10:30 a. m. Monday, and will visit the coal fields during the week.

The Inquiry Not Limited.

The hearing to-day was held in Room 29 of the State House. Senator Cavins, of Terre Haute, presided.

Some time was spent in determining the scope the investigation should take, and it was finally decided that it should not be limited, but should advance as far as developments would show to be necessary.

Attorney Charles E. Barrett, for the Vandalia Coal Company, said he thought the investigation should go into the question of whether there were differences between the company and the men as to the method of construction of coal mines; whether in firing shots the miners might have been careless; whether coal companies have left "top coal" for the protection of miners, and whether miners have objected to this. The company was willing, he said, to produce all rules and agreements in its possession that the committee might desire.

President Alfred M. Ogle and Vice-President John McFayden, of the Vandalia Coal Company, were present, but allowed attorney Barrett to speak for them on this point. Ed Shirkie, superintendent of the Dering Coal Company, said Mr. Barrett's remarks would apply for his company also. S. K. Smith, district manager of the Dering Coal Company, arrived later in the morning.

Mine Workers' Statement.

Wellington O'Conner, for the United Mine Workers, said:

"My understanding is that we want to find out as far as possible the causes of mine disasters that have occurred and remedies that may be obtained. We want the office of the mine inspector probed. We think we have not been fairly dealt with, that the companies have been favored.

"As to contracts, with reference to top coal or anything of that nature, we are able to take care of those ourselves and do not think this committee should be troubled with those questions."

It was decided by the committee that the scope of the investigation should be unlimited, and that if it was decided that the point was essential the exhibition of contracts between the companies and the miners would be called for.

Senator Moss offered a resolution to have the first day's work of the committee be limited to the examination of Mine Inspector Epperson, excluding all questions of cause and effect of the particular mine explosions to be considered. This procedure was decided upon.

Epperson's Report for 1903.

Senator Moss read that part of the report of Inspector Epperson for 1903, relating to improper use of explosives, as follows:

"The increased number of casualties in 1903, as indicated by this report, is attributable, in some measure at least, to the number of new mines that have been opened, thus affording more avenues of danger—there being more coal mined, necessitating the employment of a greater number of miners and other mine employes, also the use of more explosives, all of which are important factors in the history of mine accidents. The prime factor, however, is the use, or in a majority of cases the misuse, of these explosives.

"In making an inspection of a mine recently, I overheard a miner remark that powder was cheaper than muscle. This

Continued on Page Two.

LEGISLATURE SEEKING CAUSE OF EXPLOSION

Continued from Page One.

seems to be the maxim of the average miner to-day, hence the increase in the number of mine accidents.

"In our report for the year 1901, we made the statement that at least 50 per cent of the mine accidents for that year were due either directly or indirectly to the use of powder; by smoke explosions caused by a number of heavy shots being fired simultaneously; by premature and delayed shots, also by windy or blown-out shots, the latter being caused by shots that were either misplaced or overcharged; all of which is very destructive to the safety of the miners and the property of the mine owners.

Miners Not Careful.

"It will require but a brief review of the table of causes and the description of casualties occurring in 1903, to substantiate the fact that the above statement will more than hold good for that year.

"Of the thirty-four fatalities, as shown by the table, nineteen (19), 35.7 per cent., were due directly to the use of powder and other explosives, while seventeen (17), or nearly 31½ per cent., were due to falling slate. Conservatively speaking, at least one-half of the latter number would have been avoided had the most ordinary precaution been taken in examining the roof after shots had been fired, and by resetting props which had been knocked down by coal thrown from such shots. All of such precautions are incumbent upon the miners for their own safety.

"While discussing this subject, it will not be amiss to mention two other factors that have played important parts in connection with the fatal and serious accidents that have occurred within the last three years, namely, dynamite and fuse—the former being used in conjunction with blasting powder, resulting in almost every instance in an overcharged shot, while the use of fuse in preference to squibs has been the cause of accidents in many ways, such as delayed or premature shots.

"The great danger in this practice is the fact that the shot-firer will commence lighting shots at the head of an entry and continue from one room to another as long as there are any shots to light in that part of the mine, and the fuse on which the shots are tamped being cut at different lengths, will occasionally result in a dozen or more exploding simultaneously, causing a severe explosion, or an accident from the extra heavy concussion.

"Both of the above practices can not be condemned too severely, and there should be laws enacted prohibiting the use of either dynamite or fuse in blasting coal."

Mr. Epperson Examined.

Senator Moss then questioned Mr. Epperson, asking first the causes of explosions in mines.

"Fire damp, smoke, coal dust and gas or smoke powder and blowout fires," Mr. Epperson said, and he explained what each term means. "It is the duty of the fire boss to see that mines are free from the conditions that bring about explosions," he said.

"If the fire boss does his duty," he said, "there is little danger of explosion from these causes. There might be an explosion in a very gaseous mine, but it is not usual."

"Under the laws of the State," asked Senator Moss, "is it the duty of the miners or of the operators to detect fire damp in a mine?"

"The company must provide a fire boss to do it."

Most Gaseous Mine is at Princeton.

No. 5 coal mine, at Princeton, he said, probably carried more gas than any coal mine in the State. In the Seeleyville district he had never found any gas and there is very little in the Linton district. In the mines of these districts, he said, there are no fire losses, and in answer to a question by Manager Hewitt, of the Dering company, he said there was no necessity for one.

Three years ago, Mr. Epperson said, there had been a fire loss in No. 7 of the Dering company at Seeleyville, but he had been taken away, on request of the company, and a showing that there was no longer gas in the mine.

On the point of smoke explosions, and answering a question by Senator Moss, Mr. Epperson said that even if the charge of powder were limited to the eight pounds fixed by law, there would be danger of a smoke explosion. Eight pounds might be used where only one pound was necessary, he said, and there would then be danger.

"Where a smoke explosion occurs, is that presumptive evidence that a miner has exceeded the lawful charge of powder?" Senator Moss asked.

Caused by Excessive Charge.

"It is that there has been an excessive amount used, at least," Mr. Epperson answered.

"Can conditions arise legally by which smoke explosions may occur?" Senator Moss asked.

"Yes."

In answering Representative Johnson's question he said a powder explosion could not occur early in the morning, but must be some hours after shots are fired.

Inspector Epperson said that after the Seeleyville explosion an investigation showed twenty-five drill holes from two and a half to five feet beyond the solid coal, whereas the law specifies that one foot beyond the solid shall be the maximum depth.

"I'd like to ask you," said attorney Barrett, "if nine out of ten miners do not violate the law every time they fire a shot?"

"I wouldn't make a statement that broad," answered the inspector, "but violations are very frequent."

He said that the law governing tamping of shots was very generally disregarded by miners. "Ninety-five per cent. of the drill holes are tamped with coal slack and drill dust, which is in violation of the law," he said. The introduction of pure firing, he said, had increased explosions 50 per cent. He went into considerable detail to describe different methods of firing shots.

No Limit to Number of Shots.

Representative Garrard's questions brought the statement that a miner might fire as many shots as he desired, each with an eight-pound charge, under the law.

Attorney Barrett explained questions of his own along the same line by saying he wished to bring out that many of the accidents are caused by the miners through their own carelessness in violation of the law.

"Is it not a fact," Manager Hewitt, of the Vandalla company, said, "that since we have been using squibs in Vandalla No. 10, the most gaseous mine owned by our company, there has been no explosion and no decrease in the amount of coal mined?"

Mr. Epperson said this was the case, and that he favors the use of squibs in preference to fuse firing.

"If dust accumulates in a mine to the extent of becoming dangerous is that evidence of dereliction on the part of the mine owner?" Senator Moss asked.

Mr. Epperson, who had already said it was the duty of the mine owner to see that the dust was sprinkled or removed, said such an accumulation would indicate dereliction.

SEVEN WORKERS ARE KILLED IN CLINTON MINE

Explosion Causes Death, But
Is Not Heard or Felt
at Shaft.

CAGER LAUGHS WHEN BOY
TELLS HIM OF ACCIDENT

Rescuers Meet With Difficulty
in Removing Bodies of Victims
on Account of Intense Heat
in Entry.

THE DEAD.

JOE JOSEPH, 30, German,
widow and three children.

ED WOLF, 34, Slav, unmarried,
mother, sisters and brothers in
Germany.

HERMAN DREHMER, 30, Fin-
lander.

JOE POHADLO, 26, married.

ANTON HOTEREK, 28, Slav,
widow and two children living on
Third and North streets.

JOHN BERGER, 35, Slav, mar-
ried.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN, supposed
to be Leopold Pajk, 32, Slav, with a
wife and four children.

The injured:

Frank Dabrovnsk, 30, Slav, mar-
ried, lives here. May die.

Anton Ohe, will recover.

Charles Ogborn, will recover.

CLINTON, Ind., Jan. 14.—(Spl.)—
Seven men were killed, one probably
fatally and two others more or less
seriously injured by an explosion in
the Dering Coal company's mine, No.
7, about a mile southwest of here at
6:40 o'clock this morning.

It is thought that the explosion was
caused by one of the miners, who, un-
knowingly, set off a pocket of gas with
his lamp and the lighted gas, it is
thought, set fire to a keg of powder.

Over 200 men were employed at the
mine and about half of that number
had gone down into the mine before
the explosion occurred. Several of the
men who were in the mine at the time

of the explosion were north of the
shaft and knew nothing of the ex-
plosion until they were told to leave
that part of the mine so that all the
air could be forced into the south part,
where the explosion occurred.

The men at the shaft knew nothing
of the explosion until Orris Black, who
was working in the south part of the
mine with his father, rushed up to the
cage and said that there had been an
explosion. The cager at the bottom
of the shaft thought the boy was jok-
ing and paid no attention to the story
until Black came up to him and con-
firmed the story, saying that he had
been knocked down but was uninjured.

Rescuers Are Hindered.

The signal to lower the cage was at
once sent to the men at the top of the
shaft and the work of rescue was be-
gun. It was almost impossible for the
rescuers to go far into the mine on
account of the high temperature of the
air caused by the explosion of the gas.

The explosion occurred about a
quarter of a mile from the shaft, but
no sound or sensation was noticed
by the men working near the shaft.
None of the dead or injured men were
in the room where the pocket of gas
is supposed to have been.

The body thought to be that of Pajk
with the head and one arm blown off
and the feet and the other arm broken,
was found about 500 feet from the
workings. The body of Joseph was
then found. He had been suffocated
and his body was neither bruised nor
burned. The three injured men were
the next to be removed.

Many Waiting Anxiously.

Then came a long wait for the
hundreds of anxious persons who had
flocked to the mouth of the mine as
soon as the report of the explosion be-
came known. The trap doors and
"bradishes" in the entries near where
the explosion occurred had been torn
out and it was necessary for the res-
cuers to use planks and canvasses to
confine the air currents to the main
entry, so that the air could be cooled
enough to permit them to go back to
where the rest of the bodies were lying.
Several gangs of men relieved each
other at frequent intervals for the heat
was intense and the men could work
only a few minutes at a time.

The men gained control of the air
about 11 o'clock and the search was
then extended to the remote workings
and the bodies of the victims were re-
moved to the surface.

All the bodies were taken to Frist's
morgue where the identification was
slow because the men were blackened
with coal dust and their hair had been
singed.

One Not Identified.

All but the headless body supposed
to be that of Leopold Pajk were finally
identified and since Pajk is still miss-
ing, it is almost certain that the
seventh body is all that remains of him.

It was reported here some time ago
that the mine where the explosion oc-

SEVEN WORKERS KILLED IN MINE

Continued From Page One.

safety appliances in use did not comply with the law. However, Mr. Erwin of Cayuga, a deputy state mine inspector, was here last Thursday and after making an investigation, he pronounced the mine to be safe.

It is said that the matter has been placed in the hands of Prosecuting Attorney Frank Miller and that he has been looking up in regard to the safety of the mine.

The prosecuting attorney will hold an inquest here tomorrow when it is probable that the real cause of the explosion will be learned. The inquest probably will be held before Justice of the Peace R. H. Gulnn.

It is claimed that although it was known that gas existed in the mine, no fire boss was employed to see that proper precautions were taken to prevent a gas explosion.

All the men who were killed were foreigners, and five of them, besides Pajk were married.

Pajk had a wife and four children, who, together with his mother-in-law arrived here from Germany last Saturday. They are left in destitute circumstances. Pajk borrowed \$100 to assist in defraying the expenses of the trip to this country.

Joe Pohadlo had been in this country only about a week and is survived by his widow, who is still in Germany, where he married her about eight months ago.

Joe Joseph was a member of the local lodge of Red Men, and had recently moved into a new home which he built on south Ninth street.

BLOWN ONE HUNDRED FEET.

Survivor of Explosion Tells What Happened to Him.

CLINTON Ind., Jan. 14.—(Spl.)—Charles Ogden, one of the survivors of the explosion at the Dering mine No. 7 here today, told the Star correspondent his experiences. He said:

"I work on the entry No. 10, east, south and had just reached that entry before the explosion. I went in the mine with Bill Jones, who works in room 3, entry 10. My room is No. 2, and room 1, or the first room on entry 10, off the main entry is worked out and abandoned.

"At the mouth of room 1 was an old powder can in which I kept my paper, fuse, etc., and when we came up the entry we found that a 'windy' shot Saturday night and scattered my paper

in the entry Jones helped me to get out of it and then while I was getting it up I went on to his room. Just as I finished and while I was yet stooping over, a roar like the wind whistling around a house or through the woods, only twice as strong came along, and I was thrown forward on my face.

"I threw my arm up to protect my face and felt myself carried forward, but had no idea how far. My cap was torn off and my lamp extinguished. I called to Bill as soon as I got my breath, and he answered and came toward me. As soon as I saw his light I crawled toward him and found I had been blown along the entry past my room, and up to his room, No. 3, a distance of over 100 feet. He helped me into his room, where the air was good, and after about fifteen minutes, when I had regained my strength somewhat, we started to try to get out.

"Jones led me from room to room, through break throughs, until we came to the last room, when we were obliged to go out into the entry. It was very hot and the doors being down there was no circulation of air and the smoke lay like a blanket.

"We were unable to go on and retreated to a room where there was a little water. By placing my face near the water I got a little fresh air and revived somewhat.

Jones made two attempts to get out and finally decided we should try once more. Emptying the tobacco out of our sacks, we wet the sacks in water, and holding them over our mouths and noses, crawled through the scorching hot entry till we reached the air course. Following this we soon reached a rescue party, and were helped out to the shaft.

I was put into a car with two other men and brought to the top, where we were put into a cab and taken home. I saw no dead men, and did not know any were dead until my friends came to see me and told me the news.

"I had never noticed any gas in the mine, and had no thought of any, but believe it was a gas explosion. The wind rushed along at a terrible rate, and the air was full of powder cans, cap pieces, chunks of coal, and other things, with a roaring noise, like a hurricane through the woods."

Mr. Ogden has a large scalp wound, and the skin was scraped off his back, arms and hands. His ribs are sore, but probably not broken. He believes he was the only man so far in the mine that was not killed, and thinks he was saved by Mr. Jones being so near and able to help him into the room where he could get good air.

MINE WORKERS GO AFTER INSPECTOR

Strong Resolutions Offered Calling for Investigation of Late Dering Catastrophe.

IS EPPERSON INCOMPETENT?

Matter is Referred; Will be Brought Before Convention Later---Split Averted.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 16.—(Spl.)—A resolution was presented to the United Mine Workers' convention today by members of Indiana district No. 11 reflecting on the record of James Epper-son as state mine inspector and expressing grave doubt of his ability to administer the affairs of the office. The resolution was apropos of the recent mine disaster at Clinton, in which eight men lost their lives. The resolution, which is as follows, was referred to the committee on resolutions:

Resolution in Full.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by the president of district No. 11, present the following:

Whereas, It has been called to our attention that there has been an explosion in mine No. 7 of the Dering Coal company, located at Clinton, Ind. and,

Whereas, Said explosion occurred on or about 6:30 o'clock in the morning, on the 14th day of January, 1907; and,

Whereas, Said explosion was caused by igniting gas by a miner's open lamp according to information of the miners that were in the mine at the time of the explosion; and,

Whereas, Eight miners lost their lives and two or three were seriously, if not fatally injured; and,

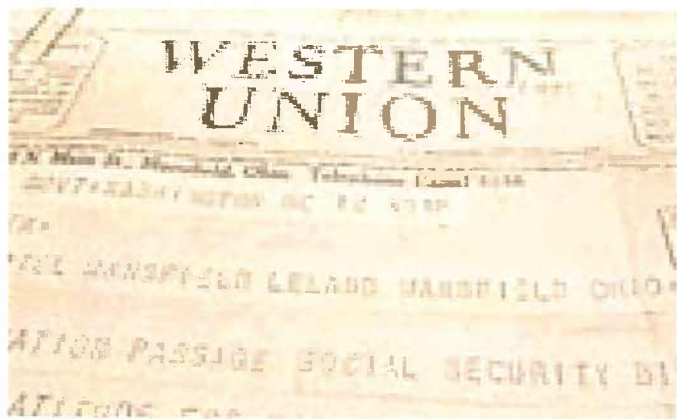
Whereas, The mine inspector had only recently inspected said mine and pronounced it perfectly safe in every particular; and,

Whereas, The verdict of the mine inspector in other recent explosions has given grave doubts as to his ability or of his honesty as an official of such responsibility; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the delegates of the eighteenth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America in convention assembled, demand that the officials of our national organization use all their power in securing a thorough and competent investigation, not only of the causes of said explosions, but also of the office of said mine inspector, that the miners of district No. 11 may know why the office is conducted as it is; and be it further

Resolved, That the national organization donate \$1,000 from the national treasury to aid the sufferers and families of the victims of said explosion; and, be it further

Resolved, That the national organization furnish attorneys to prosecute said coal company for damages in behalf of the families of the victims of said explosion."



Telegraph

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR TELEGRAPH

The Western Union Telegraph Company

THE LARGEST TELEGRAPHIC SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.
OVER ONE MILLION MILES OF WIRE IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

It has over 24,000 Telegraph Offices, including Branch Offices.
It has also Direct Connection by Telegraph or Telephone with as many more remote and smaller stations, making a total list of over 50,000 in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and this number is rapidly increasing.

Seven Atlantic Cables,

Connecting North America with all points in Europe and beyond, including Two Cables of the American Telegraph and Cable Company, Four Cables of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, and One Cable of the Direct United States Cable Co.

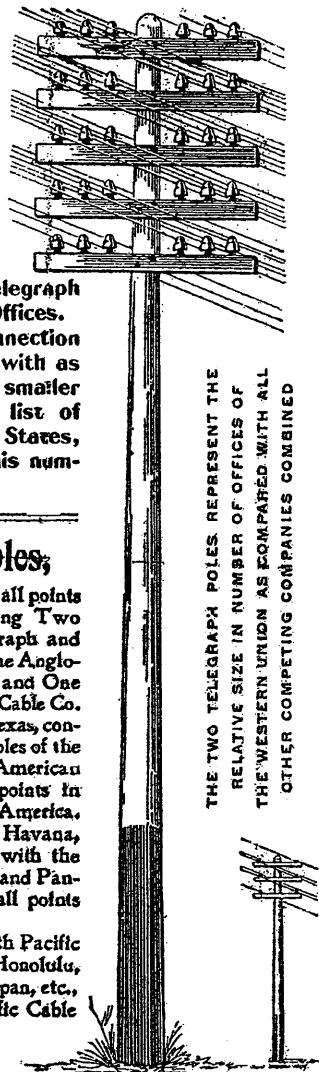
Direct Wires to Galveston, Texas, connecting at that place with the Cables of the Mexican, the Central and South American Telegraph Companies for all points in Mexico and Central and South America.

Direct Wires and Cables to Havana, Cuba, connecting at that place with the Cuba Submarine and West India and Panama Telegraph Companies for all points in the West Indies.

Connects at San Francisco with Pacific Cables to the Sandwich Islands, Honolulu, Guam, the Philippines, China, Japan, etc., and at Victoria, B. C., with Pacific Cable to Australia and New Zealand.

Connects at Seattle, Wash., with U. S. Government Lines and Cables to and in Alaska.

Exclusive connection with the Great North-Western Telegraph Co. of Canada.



THE TWO TELEGRAPH POLES REPRESENT THE RELATIVE SIZE IN NUMBER OF OFFICES OF THE WESTERN UNION AS COMPARED WITH ALL OTHER COMPETING COMPANIES COMBINED

W. U. T. CO.
24,634
OFFICES.

OTHER COS.
4,868
OFFICES.

Domestic and Foreign Money Orders by Telegraph and Cable

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR TELEGRAM

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

1000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

any TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. It is guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of bills paid in advance, not in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days. This message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

ROBERT C. CLOWRY, President and General Manager.

RECEIVED at

48 CH RQ O 21 Paid X X

Rx, Chicago, Ills Jan 22 nd

S.K.Smith Tailoring Co.

Terre-Haute, Ind

Was top of broken powder box in middle cross cut tenth west still
padlocked or was it found unlocked wire answer. *no*

G S Rice.

1215PM.

*front & top blown off but padlock was unopened
& held pieces together*