

ous, coking and smokeless coal, and the chemical analysis of this coal is approximately:

Moisture69
Volatile Matter	23.95
Fixed Carbon	72.04
Ash	3.32
	<hr/>
	100.00
Sulphur74
Phosphorus008

At Parral, on March 2nd, 1907, Mr. J. P. Staton, J. P., convened a Coroner's Jury and took the evidence of many persons touching upon the probable cause of the accident, and the Jury rendered the following verdict:

"We, the Jury, find that Frank Loving and others, a list of which is here attached, came to their death by a gas and dust explosion in Stuart Mine on 29th day of January, 1907.

This, the 2nd day of March, 1907.

(Signed.) R. H. DICKINSON,
THOS. WHARTON,
S. D. TAYLOR,
J. L. JOHNSON,
O. B. LIVELY,
A. C. POOLE.

A list of the persons killed in this accident will be found on pages 213, 214 and 215 of this report.

All the foregoing is respectfully submitted.

JAMES W. PAUL,
Chief of Department of Mines.

Charleston, W. Va.

—o—

THOMAS MINE EXPLOSION.
February 4th, 1907.

See Plate III.

The Thomas No. 25 mine is located at Thomas, Tucker County, on the West Virginia Division of the Western Maryland Railroad and is operated by the Davis Coal & Coke Company. The mine has a drift opening at tipple height, and the coal operated is the Upper Freeport which has the following section:

Black draw slate roof			
Coal	18	inches	
Boney coal	5	"	} 19 " rejected.
Coal	5	"	
Boney coal	3	"	
Coal	5	"	
Black slate	1	"	

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Coal	7	"
Slate	1	"
Coal, clean,	38	"

83 inches.

This coal has the following proximate analysis:

Moisture49
Volatile Matter	22.71
Fixed Carbon	70.62
Ash	6.18
	<hr/>
	100.00
Sulphur52
Phosphorus01

On Monday morning, February 4th, 1907, at about 6:30 o'clock, an explosion occurred within this mine which killed 24 persons. The Superintendent of the mine lost his life after the explosion by advancing too far into the after damp, making a total of 25 lives lost.

Upon investigation it appears that about 18 to 20 hours previous to the explosion the fan was stopped by reason of an accident to the electric equipment,—the fan being driven by an electric motor

It further developed that on the morning of the explosion the fire boss did not make an examination of the workings of the mine, although he was at the mine at the time the workmen entered the mine.

The mine was liberating gas, especially in the Smith heading and the 3rd Left off the Smith heading.

Only three workmen had reached their working places when the explosion occurred.

During the idleness of the fan the gas had collected on the Smith and the 3rd Left off Smith heading and as the two workmen entered the 3rd Left their open lamps ignited the gas which resulted in an explosion.

In the third room on the 3rd Left off Smith's entry there was found an air punching machine on a truck. On this truck and inside of the socket of the machine plunger was found granules of charred dust.

At the mouth of the 4th Left off Smith's entry there was some charred dust on the ribs of the coal.

Evidence of charred dust throughout the mine was negligible, although the dust may have been a factor in the propagation of the explosive wave.

On the North heading just opposite the 4th Left two bodies were found, badly burned, and at this point parts of two powder flasks were found which bore evidence of having been exploded.

The Superintendent, Jones, against the advice of his comrades, proceeded along the 4th Left off the Main entry and was overcome by the after gases at a point within fifty feet of daylight.

This is the first explosion in which over three lives have been lost that has occurred within a mine in the State operating in the Upper Freeport Coal, and it appears to have been caused by the ignition of a body of standing gas.

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

From the past experience in mining in this County it would appear that the coal dust does not easily lend its aid in the propagation of an explosion in the absence of an appreciable quantity of explosive gas.

The writer personally examined this mine after the explosion occurred and observed many conditions which had not been disturbed after the explosion.

Two District Inspectors went to the scene of the explosion and remained until after the hearing before the Coroner's Jury.

In his report upon the explosion, Mr. J. F. Bratt, Inspector of the district in which the mine is located, said, "In regard to the disaster at Thomas, I am satisfied it was a gas explosion. The accumulation of gas was caused by the fan not being in operation for at least 18 or 20 hours,—from some time on Sunday until after the explosion on Monday morning. I am satisfied that the mine was not properly examined by the fire boss on Monday morning before the men started into the mine to work. None of the dead bodies were found in their working places. I think the initial point of the explosion was in the Third Left heading off the Smith heading, and came out to the Johnson heading and thence down the Johnson heading to the North heading and in the Third Butt heading off the North.

It also extended from the Johnson heading up the Smith heading and up the air course of the 2nd Left heading and down the 2nd Left heading.

The force of the explosion was greater in the 2nd Left than anywhere else,—the bodies found on these headings were badly burned. It is my opinion those men going to their work in the 3rd Left heading off the Smith ignited the gas by simply walking into it with their naked lights."

In his report upon this explosion, Mr. F. E. Parsons, Mine Inspector, said: "From the conditions found on the inside of the mine and from the positions and conditions of the bodies which I assisted in recovering, and taking from the mine, and from all other indications, would judge it to be a typical explosion of gas, which was found to be generating near the face of the Third Butt air course off the Smith heading. The accumulation of the same was caused by the ventilating machinery not being in motion for a period of time which we could not definitely establish by the testimony available, but which, in my judgment, was not less than thirty hours. Ignition of same was caused by an open light carried by one of the miners."

A coroner's Jury was impaneled to take testimony upon matters relative to any neglect that may have been responsible for the explosion, and after hearing the evidence the following verdict was rendered:

State of West Virginia,

Tucker County, to-wit:

An inquisition, taken at Thomas, in the county of Tucker, on the 8th to 12th days of February, 1907, W. A. Jones, Justice of the Peace, acting as Coroner, upon the view of the bodies of: Tom Polowicz, Frank Polowicz, Felix Julian, Charles Panepinte, Oscar Allen, Vincent (or Jim) Bottice, D. R. Jones, John Sabosky, Constantine Karlis, Paul Herock (or

Original from

Halotine), Joe Beziac, (or Bisyank), Frank Shavich (or Sholatis), Frank Beziac (or Bizerk), Adam Bermuda, Joseph Arcari, Tony Scarponi, John Scarponi, Sullivan Liberti, Patsy Douglas (or Danjelas), Ralph Dandrea, Frank Ferrin, Harry Lastrappo, Ernest Benumento, John Serpone and Jack Stucine, there lying dead.

The jurors sworn to inquire when, how, and by what means said Ton: Polowicz, Frank Polowicz, Felix Julian, Charles Panepinto, Oscar Allen, Vincent (or Jim) Bottice, D. R. Jones, John Sabosky, Constantine Karlis, Paul Herock (or Halotine), Joe Beziac (or Bisyank), Frank Shavich (or Sholatis), Frank Beziac (or Bizerk), Adam Bermuda, Joseph Arcari, Tony Scarponi, John Scarponi, Sullivan Liberti, Patsy Douglas (or Danjelas), Ralph Dandrea, Frank Ferrin, Harry Lastrappo, Ernest Benumento, John Serpone and Jack Stucine came to their death, upon their oath do say:

We, the jury, find from the evidence taken before us that on the 4th day of February, 1907, an explosion occurred in mine No. 25 of the Davis Coal & Coke Co. located at Thomas, Tucker County, W. Va., whereby the following named persons came to their death: Ton: Polowicz, Frank Polowicz, Felix Julian, Charles Panepinto, Oscar Allen, Vincent (or Jim) Bottice, D. R. Jones, John Sabosky, Constantine Karlis, Paul Herock (or Halotine), Joe Beziac (or Bisyank), Frank Shavich (or Sholatis), Frank Beziac (or Bizerk), Adam Bermuda, Joseph Arcari, Tony Scarponi, John Scarponi, Sullivan Liberti, Patsy Douglas (or Danjelas), Ralph Dandrea, Frank Ferrin, Harry Lastrappo, Ernest Benumento, John Serpone and Jack Stucine

And we, the jury, upon the evidence before us find the deceased came to their death by gas explosion, which gas accumulated through the ventilating machinery not being in motion, and the following parties are responsible for the same:

Arthur Stewart, as fire boss, to the extent as that on entering the mine on the morning of February 4th, 1907, he failed to see that the ventilating machinery was in motion, that he failed to make a thorough and complete examination of mine and discover the gas which we believe must have at that time have accumulated and reported the mine as unsafe before any miners are allowed to enter.

Mr. Rigglenan, as mine boss, to the extent that he failed to properly instruct the men under him who had charge of the running of the ventilating machinery, and in seeing that men were on duty in their respective places.

The Davis Coal & Coke Co., to the extent that they allowed incompetent men to occupy the responsible position of running the ventilating machinery.

In testimony whereof the said Justice and Jurors hereto set their hands.

(Signed)

For the detailed list of persons killed within this mine see pages 211 and 212 of this report.

Two or three Grand Juries have considered the facts brought out by

Original from

the Coroner's inquisition and in each hearing the accused have been held under bond for an appearance before a subsequent Grand Jury.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. PAUL,
Chief of Department of Mines.

Charleston, W. Va.

WHIPPLE MINE EXPLOSION.

May 1st, 1907.

See plate IV.

The Whipple mine is operated by the White Oak Fuel Company and is located $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Scarbro on the line of the White Oak Railroad in Fayette County. The mine is reached by two shafts having a depth of 446 feet and the coal operated is the New River or Sewell, the same as is operated at Stuart and Parral shaft mines.

At 3:30 o'clock on the afternoon of May 1st, 1907, an explosion occurred in the Thurmond entry section of the mine which resulted in the death of fourteen persons immediately following the explosion and the death of two others, who died as the result of burns, after having been admitted to the McKendree Hospital.

The face of the Thurmond entry and the 2nd Right and 1st Left entries liberated explosive gas and the first rights off Thurmond entry were in coal that had abnormal conditions,—shale having appeared in the coal.

At the face of the First Right at "A", the measures had a section as follows:

coal	6 inches
shale	17 "
coal	32 "
<hr/>	
Total	55 "

Two men were engaged in advancing the entry at "A" and had been furnished a mining machine with which to undercut the coal.

These two men, after the explosion, were found at "B" and the machine was found near the face in "A", but there was no evidence of the machine having been used to undercut the coal.

Near the left rib at the face of the entry there was a cavity in the breast of the coal that appeared to have been shot out by the use of dynamite.

All the conditions indicated that three holes had been drilled in the lower ply of coal distances of 32, 42 and 66 inches deep respectively. Two of the holes were only 6 to 10 inches apart while the third hole was only 33 inches from the middle hole. These holes had been fired in the solid coal and it would appear that the last shot was responsible for the explosion. The two men at "B" were badly burned.

The flame of the explosion reached the bottom of the shaft and se-