

State inspector of coal mines reports

Section 21, Pages 601 - 630

These reports of the Kansas State Mine Inspector mostly concern coal mining, though by 1929 the scope of the reports broadens to include metal mines. The content of individual reports will vary. The reports address mining laws and mining districts; industry production and earnings; fatal and non-fatal accidents; accident investigations and transcripts of oral interviews; labor strikes; mine locations; mining companies and operators; and proceedings of mining conventions. The reports document the political, economic, social, and environmental impacts of more than seventy years of mining in southeastern Kansas.

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KANSAS
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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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RECORD OF FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Elijah Hoddison was killed by a fall of soapstone, at N. V. Carpenter's mine, at Fairmount, three miles west of Topeka, Shawnee county. The statement given by the following witnesses goes to show that death was caused by neglect to prop roof:

In the case of accident to Elijah Hoddison, employed as miner at mine owned by the operator, M. V. Carpenter, on the 19th day of January, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of we know not what; he was killed instantly by falling soapstone. To the best of our judgment, the injury was caused by neglect to prop, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon the deceased.

Made this 9th day of February, 1893.

C. W. CARPENTER.
W. O. BUTLER.
J. A. JOHNSON.
JOSEPH WALLWORK.

Morgan Jenkins, employed as shot firer at mine No. 6, Central Coal and Coke Company, better known as Keith & Perry Company, met a sad fate on February 4, 1893, at about 7 o'clock P. M. In the third room on north side of second east entry, he was found unconscious by Mr. Griffiths, another shot firer. This accident happened previous to my appointment. Such being the case, I can give no details. Mr. Jenkins was a native of Wales, 42 years old, and married; was the father of seven children, all of whom survive him. Mr. Jenkins was well known in Cherokee county and was highly respected by all who knew him.

In the case of accident to Morgan Jenkins, employed as shot firer at No. 6 mine, owned by the Keith & Perry Coal Company, on the 4th day of February, 1893, the undersigned have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of being struck on the head by a piece of coal, from a shot that he was firing in a room in the second east entry, which was caused by his own neglect, or by being mistaken and running into the wrong room, opposite or next to same room that he was firing from. To the best of our judgment, no one is to blame, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon himself.

Made this 4th day of March, 1893.

DANIEL GRIFFITHS.
ROBT. ABBOTT.
WILLIAM HUMBLE.
JNO. WORSLEY.

Lyman Moore, a carpenter by trade, and a resident of Columbus, Kas., came to his death April 7, 1893, at the Scammon Coal Company's shaft, located one-fourth mile southwest of Steppville, and 1½ mile north of Columbus. This mine was commonly known as the Osthoff Bros.' mine, at present leased by the Scammon Coal Company. The deceased, Lyman Moore, fell from the top landing, a distance of 76 feet, and landed on the west cage, which was then on the bottom. He was doing some carpenter work on top, and it is claimed he slipped off a plank which he used as a scaffold to sit on. This plank projected across and over the buntings which divide the main shaft in the center. I am led to believe, after a careful investigation, that the deceased was thrown down the shaft by the action of



the opposite cage coming in contact with the end of the plank, which projected over the center of the shaft, which is termed in mining phraseology "midwall." I diligently inquired into the cause, and I am led to believe that the cage which descended shortly before the deceased fell was lowered to the cage seat, having a water box adjusted under the cage, which filled itself in the sump by means of a clack valve, consequently necessitating the raising of the east cage to a level with the top landing. By so doing, the east cage was bound to come in contact with the plank before mentioned. The engineer acknowledged to me that he was in the act of hoisting water. The deceased was a married man, and the father of two children. He lived 2½ hours. I questioned Samuel Cunningham, B. Smith, Fred. Osthoff, farmer, Stewart Crewson, engineer, Geo. Adams, miner, Jake Henney, top hand, and Wm. Hollingsworth, carpenter, who were working on the same day on the shaft. All they knew was that he fell into the shaft bottom. Investigation, April 11, 1893.

AFFIDAVITS.

I was at the Scammon Coal Company's works on Friday, April 7, 1893, at the time the accident happened to L. C. Moore. I was on the girders and saw Mr. Moore fall. He had a scaffold of one board, 2 inches thick and about 12 inches wide; but as to the cause of the accident, I don't know. The distance the said Moore fell was 75 feet. He asked for the cage to fix his scaffold, and a few moments after he told Mr. Crewson, the engineer, to lower the cage, which was done; and I don't think it was over 15 minutes until I saw him falling.

WILLIAM HOLLINGSWORTH.

I was at work at the Scammon Coal Company's works on April 7, 1893. I was at work about 40 or 50 feet away from the mouth of the shaft, and what attracted my attention was, I heard some lumber falling, and, looking up, I saw L. C. Moore falling; and I was at the mouth of the shaft as soon as they raised him up to the top, and I thought him dead, and I helped carry him to the engine room; but as to the cause of the accident, I do n't know.

JACOB HENNEY.

I was in the engine room of the Scammon Coal Company's works on Friday, April 7, 1893, and saw L. C. Moore falling from the works above the shaft; could see him until he passed below the surface. As to the cause of said L. C. Moore's falling, I cannot say, but my judgment is that the board he was standing on slipped with him.

STEWART CREWSON.

On Friday, April 7, 1893, at the Scammon Coal Company's works, at the time of the accident happening to L. C. Moore, I was at the bottom of the shaft, and was about 10 yards away from him. I heard some boards falling, and I did n't know anyone had fallen until I was a few yards away and saw the said L. C. Moore lying at the bottom of the shaft; and when I first saw him I took him to be dead. I was the first man that took hold of him, and helped to raise him to the top, and remained with him until he died, which was about 2½ hours from the time he fell. As to the cause of the accident, I do n't know.

J. E. WARSTLER.

At the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company's shaft mine No. 1, Jesse Curry, who was working in Thomas Clark's place, on Friday, April 7, 1893, fell down the shaft, a distance of 77 feet. While in the act of emptying a barrel of water, he slipped off the truck that covered the top of the



shaft. He was rendered senseless by the fall. In addition to internal injuries received, both legs were broken by the fall. Doctors Graves and Boyer were in attendance soon after the accident, which happened at 3:30 p. m. The poor fellow's sufferings were relieved by the grim hand of death at 11:15 p. m. that night. Deceased was 20 years of age, unmarried, and resided in Cherokee, Crawford county. The shaft where this accident occurred is at Maplewood, five miles southwest of Cherokee. I was not notified until after the man was buried.

In case of accident to Jesse Curry, employed as top man at mine No. 1 owned by the Fidelity Land and Improvement Company, on the 7th day of April, 1893, I, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of fracture of one leg—badly fractured—in three places, which resulted in death on the same day, which was caused by falling down the shaft, a depth of 77 feet. To the best of my judgment, the injury was caused by the party standing on truck, and possibly at same time was taken with a fit, as I have since learned he was subject to such spells. The responsibility for said accident rests upon himself. He was not an employé of the company, but was working in place of the regular man employed for this work, and was working at the request of this regular employé, and not at request or by permission of the company. He had worked only two parts of days.

Made this 10th day of April, 1893.

W. E. TURKINGTON, *Superintendent.*

At mine No. 5, Western Coal and Mining Company, located at Yale, Crawford county, James Thornton came to his death by the fall of a rock in room No. 2, between the hours of 11 p. m. and 3 a. m., April 13, 1893. I was in Leavenworth county at the time, and Con. Kelleher acted in my absence, according to instructions, as deputy. He examined the place where the deceased was killed, and was present at the coroner's inquest, which is as follows:

In case of accident to James Thornton, employed as shot firer at No. 5 mine, owned by the Western Coal Company, on the 13th day of April, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of head being crushed, which was caused by a fall of rock in room No. 2, in second south entry, on west side of mine. It consisted of one piece, about 14 feet in length and 3 feet in width, and ranged from about 6 inches to 1 foot in thickness. To the best of our judgment, the injury was due to his own carelessness in not placing a prop under the rock or taking it down; and the responsibility for said accident rests upon himself, as it was his duty to set timber, if necessary, to make the place safe, and the setting of one prop would have prevented the accident.

Made this 1st day of May, 1893.

T. KNEEDLER.
WM. HASSLER.
ERIC ISRAELSON.
JOHN RUSSELL.

My age is 24 years; occupation, miner for last nine years; I run a machine. I know deceased—known him for the last four years. I saw him last, alive, 11:10 p. m., in No. 2 room, mine 5. I was in the room with him at that time. I noticed his room. It was well timbered. I first saw him dead about 3 a. m., April 13. He was lying on his left side; one of his legs was sticking out; rest of his body covered; his face on the bottom; a large rock, length 12 or 14 feet, and about 3 feet wide, and about 12 or 14 inches thick.

BEN. DAVIS.



My age is 37 years; occupation, coal miner for last 28 years; residence, Yale. I know deceased; saw him last alive April 12, 1893, about 8:30 P. M.; was going down in mine. I first saw him dead 8:10 A. M., April 13; his right leg was out from under rock up to knee, all the rest of his body was covered with rock; he was lying on his left side, with his left side of his face on the bottom; the rock was one piece; the rock was about 12 or 14 feet long, about 2½ to 3 feet wide; some parts were 14 inches thick. I helped to take the rock off him; nothing but his body to support part of the rock. Blasters supposed to keep timbers safe.

JOSEPH MARKLAND.

My age is 26 years; occupation, coal miner for past 10 years. I knew deceased in the mine for past two weeks. He was a laborer. Last time I saw him was Saturday last. I saw him dead first this morning, shortly after 7 A. M., in room in his boarding house. My occupation is timber man. I was acquainted with the room deceased lost his life in—room 2. Do not exactly know condition room was in last night. The room was well propped. The roof was nothing extra above roadway. I was room at 4 P. M., and set timbers in the room at the time. I left the room in good condition for work. I have been examining the rock almost every day.

DAVID JONES.

My age is 21 years; occupation, miner for the past five years; no personal acquaintance with the man. Do you know him to be a laborer in the mine? Yes, sir. At what time did you see him dead. At 3 A. M., when I found him lying on his left side, the rock wedged up to about his breast. My work in the mine is scraper after the machine. What room did the deceased work in? No. 2 room; room seemed in good condition. Question by jurymen: How large was the rock? About 10 or 12 feet long. The rock was over him—should say his limbs. Had you been in the room prior to this? Yes, sir. Was there anything said about the rock being good or bad? Nothing said.

WILL. ROSS.

An inquest, holden at Yale, in Crawford county, on the 13th day of April, A. D. 1893, before me, G. E. Cole, coroner of said county, on the body of James Thornton, a person there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed. The said jurors, upon their oaths, do say: That the deceased, James Thornton, came to his death by the accidental fall of a rock in mine No. 5 and room No. 2, Yale, Kas., between the hours of 11 o'clock P. M. and 3 o'clock A. M.; and that his death was not felonious.

In testimony whereof, the said jurors have hereunto set their hands, the day and year aforesaid.

GEO. W. HARE.
OLIVER GRIFFITHS.
HENRY ELLINGS.
G. H. MCKINNEY.
LOUIS DEAN.
J. D. POLLOCK.

Wm. Williamson, whose practical and theoretical knowledge of mines and mining surpassed that of the average miner in this district, received internal injuries in a mine located northeast of Scammon, and in which he was interested, which proved fatal. On the 24th day of August, while in the act of shoveling coal, a part of the roof fell upon him, bruising his entire body. He lived in great agony for a few days, but finally passed to his last resting place. The deceased was highly respected by all who knew him. He leaves a wife and family, who reside in Scammon. The deceased, Williamson, was a native of Scotland, and held many positions of trust under certain coal companies in this country.



About 5 o'clock on the evening of the 18th of September, Frank Laden, regular engineer, hoisted a cage of men from the bottom to the first or lower landing. Names of those on the cage are as follows: John Shaw, John McFadden, John Sweeney, Isaac Bailey, Fred. Spain, Frank Fogelberg, and the deceased, James Halladay. The cage stopped at the lower landing as usual, at which place the miners generally get off when being hoisted. All of the above-mentioned miners got off, with the exception of Fogelberg and Halladay. Said Halladay was in the act of getting off when the cage started toward the top landing, his head coming in contact with the gate on northeast side of shaft, and before he had time to recover, owing to the rapid ascent of the cage, he was struck against a cross beam about half way between first and second landing, thus dashing him to the bottom head foremost, a distance of 106 feet, killing him instantly. His body was taken to the top, and Mr. Wilson, the superintendent, sent a man to Girard to notify the coroner, G. E. Cole. Instead of Mr. Cole coming, he sent a man by the name of Squire Mason, of Girard, who went to the engine room, talked to the engineer, and started for home, claiming it was unnecessary to hold an inquest.

I went to Frontenac as soon as notified, and talked to Frank Fogelberg, the only man on the cage when Jas. Halladay fell down the shaft. He considered the necessity of an inquest, so did Mr. Wilson, the superintendent, and Fogelberg followed the so-called coroner, Mason, to Pittsburg; but he had gone on the train to Girard. I notified Mr. Fogelberg to call together at 2 p. m. all those men who were on the same cage with the deceased, Halladay. They met at the engine room, also the two shot firers, Gus. Peterson and Elijah Dodson, who saw Jas. Halladay fall down the shaft, and I got their statement. Statement of Frank Laden, engineer, is as follows: "While in the act of lifting his chair, it caught the steam valve, causing the cage to make a rapid ascent, thus causing the accident."

I caused several witnesses, amongst whom were Wm. Golden, of Pittsburg, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Wilson, superintendent, and several others, to come into the engine room, and had Frank Laden, the engineer, hoist the north cage to where it was when the men were getting off, then place his chair in or about the same position as it was in before he lifted it. He (Laden) then lifted the chair, showing how it caught and opened the steam valve. By doing so the engine started, and the north cage went rapidly toward the shive wheels.

However, Jas. Halladay met an untimely death, he being the only support of an aged and widowed mother and two sisters. I do severely criticize the so-called coroner for not having an inquest held, and have the jurors render a verdict either to exonerate Frank Laden, the engineer, or hold somebody responsible. In my estimation, there are too many of these accidents overlooked. If there is blame, let it rest where it belongs.

In case of accident to James Halladay, employed as a driver at No. 1 mine, owned



by the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company, on the 18th day of September, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of falling down No. 1 shaft, at Frontenac, Kas., and we believe that death was almost instantaneous, which was caused by the removing of the engineer's chair, which, striking the steam lever, caused the cage to ascend just as James Halladay was in the act of leaving the cage, and, losing his balance, fell backward into the shaft. To the best of our judgment, the injury was accidental, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon no one; and that we, the undersigned, can swear to the above.

Made this 20th day of September, 1893.

F. O. HOGELBERG.
JOHN SHAW.
ELIJAH DODSON.
GUS. PETERSON.
JUSOEUN RUNISZARE.

A young man, whose name is given as James Caten, or Keaton, employed as a driver at No. 20, was found dead under an empty pit car by Oscar McCoy, a miner, who testified as follows: "About 3:30 P. M., November 1, while on my way to the bottom, I found the deceased, James Keaton, under the front car of an empty trip, composed of three empties. It was in fourth west on north side, about 60 or 70 yards from main entry. Upon examination, I found out he was dead. I went back toward the face of fourth west and called upon Richard Ring, a miner, to come immediately, stating that a driver was dead. We lifted the car, which was off the track, and pulled him out, and with the assistance of others we put him in the car, and the body was taken to the top."

As soon as notified, at 7 P. M., by a miner, I went to the shaft immediately, and in company with the mine boss, Peter Simmons, and Oscar McCoy, and Richard Ring, went down into the mine, about 8 P. M., and examined the place where the deceased, James Keaton, was found dead.

There is no fall of roof or obstruction of any kind visible. The mule was unhitched when found, and the tail chain was partly around the neck or shoulders of the deceased. There is a little incline or grade in fourth west, and my opinion is that he was walking in front of the cars to keep them back, and stumbled, as there are gutters 15 inches deep between the ties; consequently the cars ran on him when down, which is evident by a mark or bruise on right side, and one on right shoulder. Mr. Doubleday notified the coroner, but up to 10:30 P. M. received no answer.

The poor, unfortunate man seems to have been a stranger, as no one knows anything about him. This was his first day as a mule driver. However, he is some mother's affectionate but most unfortunate son.

Last saw deceased on Wednesday, about 1 o'clock. He was gathering his trip to return to bottom. I next saw him on the fourth entry, under a car, dead. The mule was unhitched from the trip. The time I found him was half past 3 in the afternoon. He was under the car crosswise, his feet sticking out. Tail chain was around his neck. He was stiff. The driver was going west; the mule was a little down; was not acquainted with the driver. Oscar McCoy.

Do not know the deceased. I do not know of his having trouble with anyone. I helped Oscar McCoy lift deceased from beneath the car. A car weighs about 800



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pounds. I did not notice any marks on the body. He was near the center of the car. His head was between the wheels, and he was lying across the track. The whole weight of the car was on the deceased. The roof was five feet high along the entry, and the driver, sitting in the car, would have two feet free between his head and the roof. There was a little down grade where the accident occurred.

RICHARD RING.

Saw driver on Wednesday, at 7, and at times until noon. Next saw him in the car, dead. Noticed no marks. Did not know of his having had trouble with anyone.

A. G. W. SAMPLES.

I first met deceased 10 days ago. He said he was an experienced man; that he had driven a mule in mine No. 18. Last saw deceased at about 11 o'clock. Next saw him dead. Wednesday was his first day at driving.

PETER SIMEON.

Not acquainted with deceased. Saw him Wednesday, at 9 o'clock, at face second and end on north. Saw him at noon, eating dinner. Saw dead body on top. New driver; did not seem to understand his route. Pit boss told him did not consider him much of a driver. Deceased said he was an experienced driver, and could haul more coal than anybody.

D. T. RAY.

I have known deceased for 10 months. I first met him at Pittsburg. He had some trouble with Fletcher, who said that when they met there would be blood. His wife, deceased claimed, is dead since July. Fletcher was down on the river Wednesday.

EVA THOMISON.

Known deceased for 10 months; he was in St. Louis in that time; had trouble with Fletcher about a picture. He was at my house for a month in the spring. Deceased was in the penitentiary, at Lansing, Kas.; sent up from Oklahoma, for rape and shooting an officer. I heard Fletcher say that he would kill deceased; he made the threat Sunday morning at 8 o'clock.

LUCY BRASIER.

Have known deceased since April. I saw him alive on Tuesday evening. I started to work at mine No. 20 two weeks ago.

WILLIAM FLETCHER.

An inquest, holden at shaft No. 20, at Pittsburg, in Crawford county, on the 2d day of November, A. D. 1893, before me, G. E. Cole, coroner of said county, on the body of James Caton, or a person unknown, there lying dead; by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed. The said jurors, upon their oaths, do say: We, the jury, find that deceased came to his death by being run over by pit car, by accident in shaft No. 20, owned by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company, on November 1, 1893.

In testimony whereof, the said jurors have hereunto set their hands, the day and year aforesaid.

E. E. FORD.

J. J. CAMPBELL.

D. A. BROWN.

JAMES HENRY.

N. E. WOOD.

R. E. CARLTON.

G. E. COLE, Coroner.

Cain Hodge, a colored shot firer, and a late arrival from Alabama, was killed by going back on a missed shot. Sam. Smith, another colored shot firer, who accompanied the deceased, is the only man who could give any information. He testified before the coroner's inquest, the following day. The following is extracted from the Pittsburg *Kansan*:

"A MODEL INQUEST.

"On Saturday last an inquest was held on the body of one of the imported negro miners, who was working in shaft 22, Litchfield, for the Kansas & Texas Coal Company. The dead body was found in one of the entries, and the story leaked out be-



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fore he could be buried, so the Kansas & Texas Company was forced to go through the form of holding an inquest.

"The jury was made up of company employes, mostly, if not all, from their armed mercenaries; the witnesses were company employes; the company's legal adviser was examining attorney; the doctor who testified as to the cause of death is in the company's service; the inquest was held in the company's blacksmith shop; and the shop is situated inside the company's stockade, within whose fortified limits no person is permitted to go without the written or verbal authority of the officer in command.

"It was not difficult to get such a verdict from such a jury, conducted by such persons, in such a place, as the corporation wanted, and so the nigger was officially dropped into his hole to await the signal from Gabriel's trumpet.

"What think ye of this, ye free men of Kansas? A great public function involving the death of a human being, and, perhaps, a question of sanitation to the community, held in a private barricade, conducted by the hired creatures of an unscrupulous corporation, under the guns of its hired Hessians.

"Who can tell how that negro came to his death? Who knows that he was not a victim of yellow fever, smallpox, black vomit, or some other of the pestilent disorders that prevail among the negroes in the black belt? Or, again, suppose his death was accidental, is the Kansas & Texas Coal Company to be awarded the prerogative of sitting in judgment on the victims of its own probable criminal neglect? Such exalted privilege is not awarded any aristocrat in all England; yet, here in Kansas it goes without a protest."

AFFIDAVITS.

I am a coal digger at Kansas & Texas Coal Company's shaft No. 22; have worked there little over two months. I have seen Cain Hodge during his life often, but was not personally acquainted. Was in the mine last night after Cain came to his death, before the body was removed. When I first went down with Mr. Smith, who led the way, I saw the dead body of Hodge. The deceased was wounded in the forehead, and looked as if his skull was crushed. He was lying on his back when I saw him. I, with others in the mine, laid down until bank boss should come; he did not come. We took the body out, and took it to place it now lies. I know deceased to be Cain Hodge. The body was not covered with coal or anything when I saw him. I do not know how deceased came to his death.

CHARLES HAMILTON.

Have known deceased since he was about five years old. Cain was about 24 years old. He was a shot firer at the time of his death. I was working with deceased the night he came by his death, November 13. Cain had fired one shot in the entry, and I told him not to go back in the entry, and he said he was going back. He went back into the entry, and about the time he got back a shot went off. I called him after shot went off, but I got no answer from him. I went in and hunted for him. My light went out, and I crawled up the track and found him in main south entry of the Kansas & Texas Coal Company's shaft No. 22. Cain has worked in mines most of his life. He has had experience in shot firing. When I first found him, I lit a match and saw he was dead. I then came to top of the shaft and told the night watch my "buddy" was dead. Several men went back with me into the mine, and brought the body out and took it to the place where he is now. I pulled deceased around a little when he was first found by me, and called him, but he did not answer. After I lit a match I found his head had been crushed. I know that the body of deceased is that of Cain Hodge. I know that the pit boss of the mine has instructed shot firers not to go back after lighting shot under 5 or 10 minutes after shot was lit, but deceased returned in less than three minutes.

SAM. SMITH.



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I was at mine last night after Cain Hodge was killed; went down into mine after I found he was dead. It seems that Hodge fired his first shot and lit another at the same time. Only one shot went off, and deceased went back to see why second shot did not go off at same time. Just then the second shot went off. The deceased's shots were fired all right. Do not know why second shot did not go off at time of other shot. When I got in the mine, the body was loaded in a pit car, being brought to main shaft, to be brought from the mine.

OSCAR YOUNG.

An inquest, holden at Kansas & Texas Coal Company mine No. 22, Litchfield, in Crawford county, on the 14th day of November, A. D. 1893, before me, G. E. Cole, coroner of said county, on the body of Cain Hodge or a person unknown, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed. The said jurors, upon their oaths, do say, that deceased, Cain Hodge, came to his death in the main south entry of Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 22, about 8 o'clock P. M., on the night of November 13, 1893. By the evidence rendered, he had lighted two shots at once, in the main south entry, and only one went off. After waiting less than three minutes, he returned to see the other shot, contrary to the caution and advice of his partner, and the last shot exploded and crushed his skull, killing him instantly. We find the deceased, Cain Hodge, came to his death by his own carelessness.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid.

CHARLES A. WATSON.
JOSEPH PALMATEER.
J. W. HAMILTON.
D. D. BOTTS.
WM. MCKNIGHT.
JAMES DAY.

G. E. COLE, Coroner.

John Jenkins and Andrew Holmes (colored), whose fatalities are recorded in table, came from Alabama during the suspension of the Cherokee county mines. I was not notified of any such accident until the Central Coal and Coke Company forwarded statistics of 1893 to this office, in January, 1894.

Wm. McKeever's death may not be counted as an accident; nevertheless, I make mention of it, as it happened at the mine.

NOTE.—Wm. McKeever, a colored miner and a late arrival from Alabama, was shot by Chas. Elliot, mine boss, at mine No. 8, Central Coal and Coke Company, near Weir City, Cherokee county. Elliot may have been justified in his action, as the negro was considered a dangerous character.

The inquest over the colored man, Harris, at Litchfield, was held by Esquire E. M. Mason, and there is no copy of the inquest only that filed with the county clerk. The other three find inclosed. Most respectfully, G. E. COLE, Coroner.

This man Harris referred to came to his death in one of the Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mines. He was an Afro-Alabamian. I was not notified of his death until I received the above note from the coroner of the county, in February, 1894; accident occurred in the autumn of 1893.

To the above list of fatal accidents may be added the names of two persons who were killed at the State Penitentiary mine, at Lansing. One of these, Josa Thorpe, was an officer connected with the Penitentiary mine, while the other, Frank Dolan, was a convict miner. The latter was single, but the former was married. I was not notified of these accidents, and, consequently, cannot give the causes or dates of occurrence, nor any detailed account of the same.



NONFATAL ACCIDENTS.

The number of nonfatal accidents for the year ending December 31, 1893, was 61, many of which were of a serious nature. They occurred in the following counties:

Crawford	33
Osage	11
Cherokee.....	10
Leavenworth.....	5
Linn	2

The causes are as follows:

Fall of roof.....	27
Fall of coal	9
Explosion following shots.....	5
Burned by natural gas.....	4
Caught by cage.....	4
Caught by mine cars.....	3
Struck in eye by sulphur spark.....	3
Falling down shaft	2
Gas lighting in needle hole.....	1
Piece of timber falling down shaft.....	1
Caught by pump piston.....	1
Shot exploded while tamping.....	1
Total.....	61

The last of these was the most serious, a description of which is given as accident No. 20.

TABLE OF NONFATAL ACCIDENTS FOR 1893.

No. 1, January 20; Kansas Shaft Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 1, Crawford county; J. W. West, Cornell; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof; broken leg.

No. 2, March 20; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Fleming, Crawford county; Louis Fleece, Fleming; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof; both legs broken.

No. 3, April 5; Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; Patrick Logan, Midway; miner, employed at widening main east entry for double track; fall of roof; third finger on left hand and collar bone broken, and cut on head.

No. 4, April 5; Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; John Bunton, Midway; miner, employed at widening main east entry for double track; fall of roof; collar bone and three ribs broken, and skull fractured.

No. 5, April 5; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Fleming, Crawford county; Alf. Gaffney, Fleming; miner, employed at mining; burned by natural gas; burned on face, neck, and hands.

No. 6, April 22; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 3, Fleming, Craw-



ford county; Hugh McNeilly, 1½ miles northwest of shaft; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof; broken leg.

No. 7, April 28; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Crawford county; Ignacius Paulowitz, Fleming; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal; broken leg.

No. 8, May 4; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, Yale, Crawford county; Wm. Delany, jr, Yale; miner, employed at loading coal after machine; fall of roof; bruised and cut on head and body.

No. 9, June 5; Home Mining Company's mine, Leavenworth county; Martin McDonald, Leavenworth; miner, employed at timbering; fall of roof; scalp wound, right leg broken, and foot crushed.

No. 10, June 14; Davis's mine, Cherokee, Crawford county; John Davis, Cherokee; miner, employed at sinking airshaft; falling down shaft; foot fractured and injuries on body.

No. 11, June 26; Santifer mine, Crawford county; Oscar Barnett, Pittsburg; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof; broken arm.

No. 12, August 14; Leavenworth Coal Company's mine, Leavenworth county; Jas. Graham, Leavenworth; pump man, employed at oiling pump; caught by pump piston; lost fore finger of right hand.

No. 13, August 15; Arnott & Lanyon's mine, Crawford county; Sylvester Kenson, Pittsburg; miner, employed at mining; ear breaking loose from trip and running back down grade to face of entry and catching; broken leg.

No. 14, August 20; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 37, Litchfield; Crawford county; S. G. Sigman, Litchfield; miner, employed at shot firing; explosion of shot; burned on face, neck, and hands.

No. 15, August 24; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 37, Litchfield, Crawford county; Sherman Dotts, Litchfield; miner, employed at (do n't know); caught under cage; badly bruised and crushed.

No. 16, August 25; Black Diamond Coal Company's mine, Crawford county; M. B. Ferguson, Pittsburg; mine operator, employed at dumping coal on top; falling down shaft; breastbone and three ribs broken.

No. 17, September 7; Durkee Coal Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; Fois Emery (colored), mining camp, Schwab's farm; trying to mine coal; fall of roof; broken leg.

No. 18, September 30; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, Yale, Crawford county; Mark Perry, Yale; laborer; fall of roof; cut on head.

No. 19, October 5; Root mine, Crawford county; C. Martin, Pittsburg; miner, piece of timber falling down shaft; cut on head.

No. 20, October 20; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 4, Chicopee, Crawford county; Jas. McGregor, Chicopee; miner; employed at tamping shot; shot exploded while being tamped; permanent disability—both eyes blown out and right arm disabled; face, hands and breast almost burned to a crisp and entirely denuded of flesh.

No. 21, October 21; Peter Graham's mine, Cherokee county; Quincy Adams, Scammon; miner; employed at mining; fall of coal; bruised.

No. 22, November 2; Kansas & Texas mine 37, Litchfield, Crawford county; Eme-lins Seig, Litchfield; miner; employed at mining; fall of roof; internal injuries.

No. 23, November 11; Darkee Coal Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; Peter Luppín, Weir City; mule driver; employed at filling crosscut; fall of roof; leg broken, and other bodily injuries.

No. 24, November 23; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine,



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Frontenac, Crawford county; John Kittos, Frontenac; miner; employed at mining; fall of coal; leg broken.

No. 25, December 2; Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 6, Yale, Crawford county; Joe Longcake, Yale; miner; employed at mining; fall of roof; leg broken.

No. 26, December 8; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; David Purdon, Greenbush; farm hand; employed at shot firing; gas lighting in needle hole; leg and ankle badly lacerated.

No. 27, December 14; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; Thos. Phillips, Frontenac; driver; employed at driving; foot caught between cars; hook of tail chain went through his foot.

No. 28, December 20; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; Ed. Pezze, Frontenac; miner and shot firer; employed at shot firing; explosion; face, neck and arms burned.

No. 29, December 20; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; Grnl Tucno, Frontenac; miner and shot firer; employed at shot firing; explosion; face, neck and arms burned.

No. 30, December 20; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; Frank O'Neal, Frontenac; miner and shot firer; employed at shot firing; explosion; face, neck and arms burned.

No. 31, December 20; Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county; Ed. Erwin, Frontenac; miner and shot firer; employed at shot firing; explosion; face, neck and arms burned.

The list now following contains those of which I have received no dates. Many of the returns forwarded to me were only partial, and the absence of the date of injury was a marked feature of the reports I received. In fact, I was not informed of such accidents having occurred until the yearly statistical reports from the operators were received; therefore, I am unable to give the character of injuries, or the causes which led to the accidents, in many instances. A descriptive explanation of the following cannot be given:

No. 32; Leavenworth Coal Company's mine, Leavenworth county; Jim Taylor, Leavenworth; miner; employed at mining; burned by natural gas; face, hands and neck burned.

No. 33; Leavenworth Coal Company's mine, Leavenworth county; Squire Williams, Leavenworth; miner, employed at mining; burned by natural gas; face, hands and neck burned.

No. 34; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's Riverside mine No. 84, Leavenworth county; John Dornachowski, Leavenworth; miner, employed at mining; burned by natural gas; burned on arms and back.

No. 35; Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 7, Cherokee county; John Murray, Scammon; miner, employed at mining; eye injured by sulphur spark.

No. 36; Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 7, Cherokee county; Patrie Griffin, Scammon; miner, employed at mining; eye injured by sulphur spark.

No. 37; Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 7, Cherokee county; Anglo McCormick, Scammon; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof; foot sprained.

No. 38; Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 8, Cherokee county; Robt. Mitchell; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal; bruised.

No. 39; Wear Bros.' mine, Cherokee county; Alf. Bennett, Weir City; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal.



No. 40; Excelsior Coal Company, Cherokee county; Grant Carlock, Weir City; miner, employed at mining; caught by cage.

No. 41; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 18, Cherokee county; Wm. Fox, Weir City; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 42; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 18, Cherokee county; P. Lessen, Weir City; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 43; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 18, Cherokee county; Chas. Bilock, Weir City; carpenter; caught under cage.

No. 44; Wear Coal Company's mine No. 2, Crawford county; Chas. Besson, Chicago; caught by cage.

No. 45; Pleasanton Mining Company, Linn county; Fred. Garrett, Pleasanton; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 46; Pleasanton Mining Company, Linn county; Moses Thomas, Pleasanton; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 47; Minard & Company's shaft, Crawford county; A. Lambargh, Pittsburg; miner, employed at mining; caught by mine car.

No. 48; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 17, Crawford county; G. W. Jenkins, Litchfield; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal.

No. 49; Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 37, Crawford county; Julius De Maret, Litchfield; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 50; Black Diamond Mining Company, Crawford county; Wm. Richards, Pittsburg; miner, employed at mining; struck in eye by piece of coal.

No. 51; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 10, Osage county; Mike Lindregan, Scranton; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 52; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 12, Osage county; Henry Hall, Scranton; miner, employed at brushing; fall of roof.

No. 53; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 12, Osage county; Sam Barlow, Scranton; miner, employed at brushing; fall of roof.

No. 54; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 22, Osage county; Frank Peterson, Osage City; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal; hand hurt.

No. 55; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 23, Osage county; Chas. Noble, Osage City; miner, employed at brushing; fall of roof.

No. 56; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 24, Osage county; Chas. Olson, Osage City; miner, employed at brushing; fall of roof.

No. 57; Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 27, Osage county; Frank Rosetta, Osage City; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal and roof.

No. 58; Western Fuel Company's mine, Osage county; Gust Lindahl, Osage City; miner, employed at mining; fall of coal and roof.

No. 59; Burlingame Coal and Mining Company, Osage county; A. Daniels, Burlingame; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 60; Thos. Martin's mine, Osage county; — Myers, Scranton; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

No. 61; Harry Isaacs' mine, Osage county; August Kroft, Scranton; miner, employed at mining; fall of roof.

In case of accident to J. W. West, employed as miner at No. 1 mine, owned by the Kansas Shaft Coal and Mining Company, on the 20th day of January, 1893, the undersigned have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of a broken leg to J. W. West, which was caused by a fall of rock. There had been a dozen props in J. W. West's place when accident occurred, and two dozen cap pieces. To the best of our judgment, the injury was caused by careless-



ness, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon J. W. West, and that the Kansas Shaft Coal and Mining Company is free from all blame.

Made this 30th day of January, 1893.

PETER MCQUADE,
E. C. OVERMAN,
J. T. RUITEER.
Witnesses.

March 20, 1893, at Western Coal and Mining Company's shaft mine No. 3, Fleming, Lue Fleece, an Austrian, had both legs broken, in third room, second south. He was in the act of turning a room. The accident happened before my appointment, but, when informed, I examined the place. In my opinion, it was purely accidental. One of those treacherous slips set in, on right-hand rib. By propping, he could not have room to move around at face, and, unexpectedly, a large rock fell, breaking both legs and crippling him for life.

April 5, 1893, at shaft No. 4, Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company, Crawford county. John Bunton and Patrick Logan, miners, met with a serious accident. They were working day work, and in the act of mining coal on roadside of main east, preparing for a double roadway. In widening, or mining, on rib side, one of those treacherous slips was truck. Unexpectedly, a large fall of roof followed, resulting in the breaking of Logan's collar bone and third finger of left hand, and a very bad cut on head. Bunton's injuries consisted of three ribs and collar bone broken and skull fractured. Mr. Bunton was in a dangerous state, as the brain was visible and partly protruding through the fracture of the skull. Both have recovered, but not sufficiently to engage in any laborious work.

In case of accident to Pat. Logan, employed as timberman at No. 4 mine, owned by the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company, on the 5th day of April, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of broken collar bone, which was caused by fall of slate in main east entry, while timbering. To the best of our judgment, the injury was caused by unavoidable accident, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon no one, and that the accident was not due to any negligence on the part of the company.

Made this 21st day of April, 1893.

JOS. BISHOP.
WM. BIRD.

In the case of accident to John Bunton, employed as timberman at No. 4 mine, owned by the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company, on the 5th day of April, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of fractured skull and broken ribs, which was caused by fall of slate from side of main east entry, while timbering. To the best of our judgment, the injury was accidental, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon no one, and that the accident was not due to any negligence on the part of the company.

Made this 21st day of April, 1893.

THOMAS L. MILLER.
WM. BIRD.
S. HILDERBRAND.
JOS. BISHOP.
SAM. GRINSTEAD.

April 5, 1893, at Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Fleming, Alf. Goffeny, a miner, entered his working place in the morning



and fired the gas which had accumulated inside of a "horseback." Unexpectedly his face, neck and hands were burned.

April 21, 1893, in first north, on west side, in room No. 1, Hugh McNeilly, miner and driver, got his leg broken by a fall of rock roof inside a "horseback," while in the act of drilling a hole. Unexpectedly roof gave way. McNeilly is very careful, on most occasions, but this was purely accidental. Accident, 10:30 A. M.; witnesses, Pat. Barry, Geo. Baker, Joe Bradley, Tom Brady. Room examined Saturday, April 21, 1893.

In case of accident to Hugh McNeilly, employed at No. 3 mine owned by the Western Coal and Mining Company, on the 22d day of April, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of one leg broken, which was caused by a fall of slate. To the best of our judgment, the injury was due to trusting too much to the loose slate; and the responsibility for said accident rests upon the injured man, as he had ample timber in his room.

Made this 24th day of April, 1893.

GEO. W. BAKER.
PAT. BARRY.
WILLIAM UTLEY.

I examined room No. 39, Western Coal and Mining Company's shaft No. 2, Fleming, on fourth south on west side, where Ignos Paulowitz got his right leg broken by a fall of coal which he was in the act of mining, on Friday, April 28, at 11 A. M., and, to the best of my judgment, it was purely accidental. On examination, May 1, 1893, said room was about 50 yards from entry.

In case of accident to Ignos Paulowitz, employed as miner at No. 2 mine, owned by the Western Coal and Mining Company, on the 28th day of April, 1893, we, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of one leg broken, which was caused by a fall of coal which he was undermining. To the best of our judgment, the injury was such as would or could occur with any miner, in mining off loose coal; and the responsibility for said accident rests upon the injured man, as he had sufficient timber beside him to sprag the coal, if he had been so inclined.

Made this 5th day of May, 1893.

JOHN BULLOCK.
TOZE RAZENEER.
ANTON SKUBIC.

At Yale, May 4, 1893, Wm. Delaney, while in the act of loading a car of coal in room No. 12, mine No. 5, Western Coal and Mining Company, was badly squeezed, or crushed, by a fall of roof. I was not notified by the company. Mr. Delaney, the boy's father, informed me some days after the accident, and claimed it was on account of said room not being properly timbered. Men were employed in this mine to look after timbering, and others employed to load coal, which was mined by machines.

On June 5, Martin McDonald, aged 45 years, was injured in the Home Mining Company's mine, of Leavenworth; nationality, Irish; married; has wife and five children; age of oldest, 14 years, and the youngest, 4 years. His injuries consist of a scalp wound, the right leg broken between the knee and ankle, with right foot crushed and wounded. His injury was caused by the falling of slate from the north side of the main west entry, just at the point where the first south leaves said entry. Mr. McDonald, with Martin Olson, W. H. Mitchell, and J. R. Scott, have for the past



four or five weeks been timbering the main west entry, preparatory for double track, and had on the morning that the accident happened reached the first south.

I thought best, in order to make you a complete report, to have those working with Mr. McDonald make a statement, which I inclose to you as a part of this report. These three men were the witnesses present when the accident happened.

G. W. KERSTEADD, *Superintendent.*

June 14, 1893, John Davis tried to slide down the winding rope in an airshaft which was being sunk near the Davis shaft mine, Cherokee. He fell to the bottom, a distance of 40 feet, resulting in a fractured foot and bodily injuries, which laid him up for a few months.

On June 26, 1893, Oscar Barnett, a helper employed by Tom Burgess, miner, had his right arm broken below the elbow while in the act of trying to mine a standing shot. A piece of roof slate, weighing about 100 pounds, fell on him, breaking his arm. Not being a practical miner, there was no one to blame except Tom Burgess, who had him hired as a laborer. I was not notified of this accident until I was going the rounds of examination. Information by J. C. Sandefer.

At Leavenworth Coal Company's mine, August 14, 1893, while working around and oiling the electric pump near the bottom of shaft, James Graham lost forefinger of right hand. He was working around the pump piston, which caught his hand, with the above result.

August 15, 1893, Sylvester Kensor, employed at Arnott & Lanyon's coal works, met with an accident, by which he sustained a compound fracture of the left leg. He was working in the entry at the time, and the driver had started out with a string of cars. During this trip the two rear cars became uncoupled and, being on an incline, started back towards the entry, striking Kensor, with the above result. He was taken to his home, in Chaplin's addition, and Doctor Fisher called, who reduced the fracture.

August 20, 1893, at the Kansas & Texas Company's mine No. 37, Litchfield, S. G. Sigman, a shot firer, received a severe scorching around face, hands, and neck. The flames of the shot went back in the entry further than expected.

August 24, 1893, at mine No. 37, Kansas & Texas Company, Litchfield, Sherman Dotts, a negro, got caught while crossing under the descending cage.

August 25, 1893, M. B. Ferguson, who had been doing duty as pit boss for some time, accidentally fell down the shaft, and did himself considerable damage. His chest was crushed and several ribs broken, and for a time it looked as if he had been killed. He was taken to his home, put under the care of a surgeon, and began to improve. Mr. Ferguson had recently purchased a half interest in the mine, and it is probable that his not being familiar with the work led to the accident.

September 7, 1893. The following is the report made to this office of Fois Emery's injuries. Emery is one of the negroes imported from Ala-



bama to take the place of the white miners at No. 4, Durkee's, better known as Schwab's mine.

In case of accident to Fois Emery (colored), employed as a miner at No. 4 mine leased by the J. H. Durkee Coal Company, on the 7th day of September, 1893, I, the undersigned, have carefully examined the locality of said accident, and find that the injury consisted of a broken leg, which was caused by a fall of rock. To the best of my judgment, the injury was accidental, and the responsibility for said accident rests upon no one.

RICHARD ANDERSON.

Made this 8th day of September, 1893.

September 30, 1893, at Western Coal & Mining Company's mine No. 5, Yale, Mark Perry, employed as a laborer, received a bad cut on the head, while in the act of loading a car of coal. It was caused by a fall of roof rock, which was not properly timbered.

October 5, 1893, Charles Martin received a bad cut on the head. He was in the act of crossing the bottom of the shaft, in search of picks, when a piece of timber, 2x4, fell down from the top, striking him on the head. Mr. Rooth, the operator, was doing some carpenter work on pit top; the piece referred to fell out of his hands accidentally.

On the evening of October 20, 1893, James McGregor, employed as a miner at mine No. 4, Chicopee, was detailed by Wm. O'Connor, mine boss, to act as shot firer, in the absence of one of the regular shot firers. Between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock P. M., while in the act of tamping a hole in first west entry on south side, the charge of powder then in the hole, with about nine inches of tamping, exploded. McGregor is a practical man, both in mining and shot firing. He claims he had 9 or 10 inches of tamping on the powder, and was ramming or tamping when the charge of about 2 feet 10 inches, on a common-sized cartridge pin, exploded. The result of the injuries received has not, as yet, terminated in death. He has lost both eyes, right arm shattered and powerless, and right breast burned to bone. In addition to all this, his face, neck, body and arms were burned, and small particles of coal were shot into the flesh of his face, neck, breast, and arms. McGregor is a married man, whose days of usefulness to his family are of the past. I earnestly hope our mining laws will be so amended that our disabled miners will receive at least compensation enough to keep their families from starving. It is evidenced by the fact referred to, that the miner very often, at the risk and peril of his life, performs work that none but those accustomed to their calling are conversant with. This is the same James McGregor referred to who got shot in this same mine when going back on a miss shot, as he thought, on September 30, 1891.

October 31, 1893, at Peter Graham's mine, Quincy Adams, a miner, while in the act of mining a standing shot, received a severe crush. A lump of coal, weighing over a ton, rolled over upon him. I happened to be inspecting the mine on the same day.

November 2, 1893, at Kanas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 37,



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Litchfield, Crawford county, Emelius Seig, a miner, received internal injuries by a fall of slate in room No. 42, in first south on west. A slip inside of a horseback in the roof was the cause.

Saturday, November 4, 1893, Peter Luppín, a driver, employed on the above date filling a break-through in first east on north, at room No. 1, had his leg broken, and received other bodily injuries by the falling of a rock, measuring 7 feet 6 inches in length, about 7 feet in width, and about 8 inches in thickness. There was no one to blame, as he pulled out the building, or "gob," on which the point of the rock was resting. I visited the place the following morning. It was caused by carelessness.

November 2, 1893, at mine No. 1, Frontenac, John Kittos, a miner, had his leg broken by a fall of coal in his room, in third south on east side.

On December 2, Joe Longcake received a severe bruise on leg. A piece of rock of about 300 or 400 pounds fell upon him, while in the act of mining off his second shot in opening up a new room in first north (or south) on east side. There were no bones broken. I visited the place, and I must admit it was negligence on the part of Longcake in not taking it down, as it was partly shot off in the brushing of the entry.

At the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Kas., on Friday, December 8, at about 10:30 p. m., David Purdon and Grant McBroom narrowly escaped being killed. While firing shots in seventh south on west, the gas lighted in the needle hole. They did not have time to get out of the way before the shot went off. A piece of coal struck Purdon on the right leg above the ankle, making an ugly hole, and tearing the flesh off the bone. I was not notified by the company; did not know anything about the accident until December 24, 1893.

December 14, 1893, at mine No. 2, Frontenac, Thomas Phillips, a driver, had his foot caught between two cars. He claimed it was the fault of the trapper boy signaling that the road was clear when there were empty cars ahead on the track, and he dashed into them. The hook of the tail chain went through his foot.

At the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Frontenac, Crawford county, on Wednesday night, December 20, 1893, Ed. Pezze, an Austrian, and Grul Trucno, an Italian, were engaged as shot firers on west side, and when firing shots in fifth south on west a terrific explosion took place, hurling them to the ground, and burning their faces and hands severely. The shock of the explosion was felt on top by the night watchman. He notified parties, who went to the rescue of the shot firers. Both of them were taken in a cart to their homes, and William Reynolds, pit boss, and Peter McCall, top boss, went after Frank O'Neal and Ed. Erwin, regular shot firers, who had completed their work on the east side of mine No. 2 on the same night, and were home, not knowing that anything had happened to those shot firers on west side of the mine. However, more for obligation than anything else, O'Neal and Erwin went back



to mine No. 2 to finish up, or, at least, to fire the rest of the shots on west side; consequently they were highly rewarded. About 2:30 on Thursday morning, while firing in the eighth south on west, an explosion took place, dashing both of them to the ground. O'Neal's face, neck and hands were badly burned. Erwin happened to be more fortunate, as his injuries were not so serious. O'Neal, who is a practical miner and shot firer, also states, to the best of his opinion, that if those places were sprinkled regularly there would be no real danger as to explosions. Ed. Pezze positively swears it was natural gas that caused the explosion in the fifth south. I was not notified by the company in reference to the explosion, which is part of their duty, according to the mining laws of the state. However, being absent from home, when I returned on December 27, I went to Frontenac to make an investigation. I visited those shot firers who got burned, and got their statements. I also went to mine No. 2 and saw Mr. Reynolds, the pit boss, and heard what he had to say in reference to the explosion. Mr. Reynolds claims it was powder smoke that caused the explosion in fifth south on west.

While on my official rounds of inspection at mine No. 2, some time ago, I gave Mr. Reynolds strict orders to have those dry places sprinkled continually, both in rooms and entries, and he promised to comply, as he, Mr. Reynolds, satisfied himself in my presence that coal dust was a very dangerous element, notwithstanding the gas that may generate from time to time. I also wrote a letter to Superintendent Wilson, calling his attention to the necessity of having those dry and dusty rooms and entries watered. Be it remembered—and it will be by many—that this is the mine that exploded on Friday, November 9, 1888, at about 5 P. M., killing 43 miners, and leaving many fathers and mothers, widows and orphans to mourn. Since that time, it has been discussed among men of both practice and theory, as to the real cause of the explosion. Many differ materially in their opinions.

When I asked Mr. Reynolds the reason he did not notify me, he had no excuse to offer, only that he intended to do so, and this was seven days after the explosion occurred. I knew nothing about it, until I read an account of it in the Kansas City papers. Mr. Reynolds, the mine boss, did not go into the places the following day to ascertain whether it was caused by a windy shot or not, but said, in his opinion, it was the powder smoke which ignited and caused the explosion. In my opinion, it was coal dust, and, probably, a little gas, but particularly dust. It is becoming evident that coal dust is a dangerous element, and sprinkling should be oftener resorted to. I am unable to give the date or particulars of the other nonfatal accidents mentioned. The coal companies merely mentioned such accidents when making their annual report to this office for the year 1893.

Chapter 66, paragraph 3856, section 30, of the mining laws, reads as follows:

Loss of Life, or Injury. SEC. 30. Whenever, by reason of any explosion or other accident, in any coal mine, or the machinery connected therewith, loss of life, or serious personal injury, shall occur, it shall be the duty of the person having charge



of such coal mine to give notice thereof forthwith to the Inspector, and if any person is killed thereby, to the coroner of the county, who shall give due notice of the inquest to be held. It shall be the duty of the Inspector, upon being notified as herein provided, to immediately repair to the scene of the accident, and make such suggestions as may appear necessary to secure the future safety of the men; and if the results of the explosion do not require an investigation by the coroner, he shall proceed to investigate and ascertain the cause of the explosion or accident, and make a record thereof, which he shall file as provided for; and to enable him to make the investigation, he shall have power to compel the attendance of persons to testify, and to administer oaths or affirmations. The costs of such investigation shall be paid by the county in which the accident occurred, in the same manner as costs of inquests held by the coroner or justices of the peace are paid.

Such a law is a dead letter, having no penalty for the violation thereof, leaving it optional to the operators whether they report or not. (See recommendations.)



CERTIFICATES OF INSPECTION.

Certificates of steam-boiler inspection were filed in this office last year as follows:

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Wm. Hamilton, at shaft No. 1, in Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 7th day of January, 1893, and found in good condition, and tested at 80 pounds to the square inch, cold-water pressure.

JAS. HAMILTON.

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft No. 18, Weir, Kas., were examined and inspected on the 16th day of June, 1893, and found in good condition, and safe at a pressure of 80 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft No. 47, Weir, Kas., was examined and inspected on the 16th day of June, 1893, and found in good condition, and safe at a working pressure of 80 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the J. H. Durkee Coal Company at their shaft No. 1, at Weir, was examined and inspected on the 6th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition; working pressure, 60 pounds.

DAVID JOHNSON, *Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by J. H. Durkee Coal Company at their shaft No. 3, Scammon, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 6th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Working pressure, 60 pounds.

DAVID JOHNSON, *Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Central Coal and Coke Company at their shaft No. 8, Weir, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 8th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Pressure per square inch, 110 pounds.

HENRY HEWENDER.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Central Coal and Coke Company at their shaft No. 5, Weir, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 15th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Pressure per square inch, 110 pounds.

JOHN T. SCOTT.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Central Coal and Coke Company at their shaft No. 6, Weir, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 15th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Pressure per square inch, 110 pounds.

ALEX. NEVIN.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Central Coal and Coke Company at their shaft No. 7, Scammon, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 14th and 22d days of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Pressure per square inch, 110 pounds.

I. B. GRANT.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Central Coal and Coke Company at their shaft No. 4, Scammon, Cherokee county, was examined and inspected on the 22d day of July, 1893, and found in good condition. Pressure per square inch, 110 pounds.

D. H. COLVIN.



I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Columbus Coal Company at shaft No. 2, Stippville, was examined and inspected on the 9th day of September, 1893, and found in good condition, and pressure 80 to 90 pounds, and safe at 130 pounds.

WM. M. WINN, *Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Central Coal Company at its shaft Daisy was examined and inspected on the 24th day of December, 1893, and found in good condition; pressure, 120 pounds; working pressure, 50 to 60 pounds.

JOHN BROWN, *Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Wear Coal Company at shaft mine No. 2, Pittsburg, were examined and inspected on the 5th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition; pressure, 100 pounds.

EDW. SULLIVAN, *Inspector.*

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company make the following report of the condition of the Western Coal and Mining Company's steam boilers, inspected on the 5th and 6th of July, 1893: Mine No. 2, three boilers; mine No. 3, two boilers. I examined the above boilers by the "hammer test," and report them in good condition.

EDW. SULLIVAN, *Inspector.*

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company make the following report of the condition of the Western Coal and Mining Company's steam boilers, inspected on the 29th of July: Mine No. 4, one boiler; mine No. 5, three boilers; mine No. 6, two boilers. I examined the above boilers by the "hammer test," and report them in good condition.

EDW. SULLIVAN, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Minard Coal Company at their shaft located northeast of Pittsburg, was examined and inspected on the 22d day of July, 1893, and found in good condition and safe at 100 pounds pressure.

N. W. HENDERSON.

I hereby certify that the boilers used by the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company at shaft No. 4, located at Chicopee (has three boilers), were examined and inspected on the 1st day of August, 1893, and found in good condition. Two of the boilers carry 80 pounds, and one carries 100 pounds pressure.

N. W. HENDERSON.

I hereby certify that the boilers used by the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company at shaft No. 1, located at Frontenac (has three boilers), were examined and inspected on the 2d day of August, 1893, and found in good condition. Tested at 100 pounds, cold-water pressure, and carry 80 pounds when working.

N. W. HENDERSON.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company at their shaft No. 2, located at Frontenac, was examined and inspected on the 3d day of August, 1893, and found in good condition. Test pressure, 100 pounds, and when working, 80 pounds.

N. W. HENDERSON.

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company at their shaft No. 4 were examined and inspected on the 3d day of August, 1893, and found in first-class condition in every respect, and carrying 80 pounds to the square inch.

THOS. McNALLY.

Kansas & Texas Coal Company:

I have certificate of inspection from the Union Casualty and Surety Company for the following boilers in your charge: Boilers Nos. 1 and 2 at mine No. 20: Condition good; safe at a working pressure of 90 pounds, which pressure must not be exceeded. Boiler No. 1 at mine No. 37: Condition is good, and safe at a working pressure of 80 pounds, which pressure must not be exceeded. Boiler No. 1 at mine No. 17: Condition good; safe at a working pressure of 85 pounds, which pressure



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must not be exceeded. Boiler No. 1 at mine No. 22: Condition good; safe at a working pressure of 85 pounds, which pressure must not be exceeded. Boiler No. 2 at mine No. 22: This boiler is badly pitted on bottom, and a pressure of 35 pounds must not be exceeded.

F. W. BOND, *Chief Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft No. 20, Pittsburg, Kas., were examined and inspected on the 16th day of June, 1893, and found in good condition, and safe at a pressure of 90 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft No. 22, Litchfield, Kas., were examined and inspected on the 15th day of June, 1893, and found in fair condition: No. 1 safe at a pressure of 85 pounds; No. 2 safe at a pressure of 80 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the two boilers used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft No. 23, Weir, Kas., were examined and inspected on the 16th day of June, 1893, and found in fair condition, and safe at a pressure of 80 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company at their shaft 37, Litchfield, was examined and inspected on the 15th day of June, 1893, and found in a good condition, and safe at a pressure of 80 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boiler used by J. H. Durkee Coal Company at their shaft No. 4 was examined and inspected on the 1st day of October, 1893, and found clean and in good condition, and used under 80 pounds pressure.

J. G. SCHWAB.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Home Mining Company at their shaft was examined and inspected on the 25th day of June, 1893, and found O. K.—good condition.

ARMOUR ROBISON, *Engineer.*

I hereby certify that the four boilers used by the Kansas & Texas Coal Company, at the shaft, Leavenworth, were examined and inspected on the 10th day of June, 1893, and found in good condition, and safe at a pressure of 90 pounds.

S. J. WEAVER, *Inspector.*

I hereby certify that the boilers used by the Penitentiary coal mine, at the shaft at Lansing, were examined and inspected on the 10th day of July, 1893, and found in good condition, carrying 75 pounds of steam.

OSCAR F. LAMM,

Superintendent of Mine.

I hereby certify that the boilers used by the Leavenworth Coal Company at their shaft in Leavenworth were examined and inspected on the 28th day of August, 1893, and found them in good condition.

JOSEPH NEWSOME.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by Wm. J. Thurwell & Co. at their shaft at Pleasanton, Linn county, was examined and inspected on the 29th day of October, 1893, and found in good condition.

J. F. CONNOLLY.

I hereby certify that the boiler used by the Mine Creek Coal Company at their shaft No. 1 was examined and inspected on the 13th day of August, 1893, and found in excellent condition. Pressure made, 115 pounds; carry 90 pounds.

S. N. SHINING, *Superintendent.*

I hereby certify that I have examined the boiler used by the Bellville Coal Company at their shaft at Seranton, and found it in good condition, with safety valve, blow-off and gauge cocks all clear and in good working order.

JOHN BUNTEN, *Engineer.*



RECORD OF MAPS AND PLANS.

The following maps and plans of mines were received at this office during the year 1893:

- No. 1. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 4, Scammon, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, June, 1893; does not show direction of air current.
- No. 2. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 7, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, June, 1893; entries not numbered; air course not shown.
- No. 3. Superior Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 4, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1889; extended, June, 1893.
- No. 4. Superior Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1886; extended, June, 1893.
- No. 5. Wayland & Ryan's drift, Osage county; survey and plat made, September 1, 1891; extended, June 8, 1893.
- No. 6. John Hershey's, Osage county; survey and plat made, December, 1889; extended, June 6, 1893.
- No. 7. C. C. L. & O. Co., Osage county; survey and plat made, July, 1890; extended, June 7, 1893.
- No. 8. Mathew Waddell, Osage county; survey and plat made, December, 1889; extended, June, 1893.
- No. 9. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 6, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 10. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 8, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 11. Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 2, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 12. Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 3, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 13. Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 14. Western Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 5, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 15. Wear Coal Company's Mine No. 2, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 16. Central Coal and Coke Company's mine No. 5, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, July, 1893; does not show number of entry or course of air.
- No. 17. Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 4, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 18. Cherokee & Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company's mine No. 1, Crawford county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 19. Minard & Co., now known as No. 5, Wear Coal Company, Crawford county; date of survey not marked.
- No. 20. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 20, Crawford county; survey and plat made, May, 1893.
- No. 21. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 22, Crawford county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.



- No. 22. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 37, Crawford county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.
- No. 23. Arnott & Lanyon Coal Company, Crawford county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.
- No. 24. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 34, Leavenworth county; survey and plat made, July, 1893.
- No. 25. Leavenworth Coal Company, Leavenworth county; survey and plat made, August, 1893.
- No. 26. Home Mining Company, Leavenworth county; survey and plat made, April 8, 1893.
- No. 27. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 18, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 28. Kansas & Texas Coal Company's mine No. 23, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 29. Henry Isaacs, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 30. Thomas Chappel, Osage county; survey and plat made, May, 1893.
- No. 31. William Thomas, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 32. Industrial Coal and Mining Company, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 33. Central Coal and Mining Company, Osage county; survey and plat made, June, 1893.
- No. 34. Ryan & McCoy, Osage county; survey and plat made, May, 1893.
- No. 35. Western Fuel Company's mine No. 1, Osage county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.
- No. 36. Western Fuel Company's mine No. 2, Osage county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.
- No. 37. Western Fuel Company's mine No. 3, Osage county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.
- No. 38. Ingham Coal Company, Osage county; survey and plat made, May, 1893.
- No. 39. Henry Isaacs' No. 5, Osage county; survey and plat made, May, 1893.
- No. 40. State mine, Leavenworth county; survey and plat made, September, 1893.
- No. 41. Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company, Crawford county; survey and plat made, September, 1893.
- No. 42. Mine Creek Coal Company, Linn county; does not show when survey was made.
- No. 43. Wear Bros.' No. 2, Cherokee county; does not show date of survey.
- No. 44. Central Coal Company, operated by J. Dennis, receiver, Cherokee county; does not show date of survey; have reason to believe it is not accurate.
- No. 45. Weir City Coal Company's No. 5, Cherokee county; does not show date of survey.
- No. 46. Durkee Coal Company's mine No. 2, Crawford county; survey and plat made, December, 1893.
- No. 47. Carbon Coal Company's No. 22, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.
- No. 48. Carbon Coal Company's No. 25, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.
- No. 49. Carbon Coal Company's mines Nos. 9, 19, 20, and 24, Osage county; surveys and plats made, November, 1893.
- No. 50. Scandinavian Coal and Mining Company, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.
- No. 51. Osage Carbon Company, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.



No. 52. Hamilton & Braidwood, Cherokee county; survey and plat made, August, 1893.

No. 53. Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 23, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.

No. 54. Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 26, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.

No. 55. Carbon Coal Company's mine No. 10, Osage county; survey and plat made, November, 1893.

No. 56. Home Mining Company, Leavenworth county; survey and plat made, April, 1893.



STRIKES.

In dealing with the subject of strikes, I aim to give the details in as short, clear and concise a manner as possible. A volume of itself could be written on this subject, if dates, meetings, conferences, etc., were given. Therefore, the limitation of means by which this office is governed will not permit me to treat the subject as elaborately as it should be, in all its details. A thorough review of the subject is, therefore, obviated, only giving a general explanation of the cause, duration, effect and final adjustment of the strike or suspension.

For the last 12 years that I know of, miners of Cherokee and Crawford counties have been agitating, advocating and demanding of the legislators of Kansas a law by which the coal should be weighed before being screened. Every representative elected to the legislature from the coal-mining districts in Cherokee, Crawford and Leavenworth counties has been instructed and implored to advocate and champion a measure which 95 per cent. of the miners in said counties claimed they wanted, viz., the weighing of coal before screening, and the enactment of a weekly-pay law.

Organized bodies of miners, and particularly those belonging to the Knights of Labor, contributed their mite and support of such measures. Meetings, both public and private, were held, discussing its merits and the advisability of immediate action to that end, as the miners believed the operators were making encroachments, by applying means and methods by which the miners' output of coal seemed to decrease and lessen in value, through and by the continuation of changing screens, deducting a larger per cent., through the various means of screening and dumping. The miners believed that no other remedy could be applied by which this much-talked-of and long-looked-for measure could be secured except through legislative enactment. They selected lobbyists, and paid them, to attend the sessions of the legislature in advocacy of the anti-screen and weekly-pay laws.

The candidates for representative, in the past years, who were elected from the coal-mining districts renewed their promises in behalf of the aforesaid measures, but when they went to Topeka they ignored their promises and the demands made by the miners of Cherokee, Crawford, and Leavenworth counties. The miners did not relinquish their battle in despair, but renewed their action, by concentrating their forces together through the ballot, electing representatives from among their ranks—changing the complexion of the government—through which they received the considerations due them. These considerations they had long and earnestly re-



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quested and demanded from those in power in the past, but their requests and demands were all in vain until a government of reform granted a redress, and gave to the miners two of the most essential and important laws in which they were interested, viz., the weekly-pay law, and a law regulating the screening of coal, commonly called the anti-screen law, which reads as follows:

AN ACT to regulate the weighing of coal at the mine.

[Session Laws of 1893, ch. 183, p. 271.]

SECTION.

1. Screen.
2. Weighman.
3. Miners can employ check weighman.

SECTION.

4. Scales.
5. Annulment of this act void.
6. Shall apply to all workers.

Screen. SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any mine owner, lessee or operator of coal mines in this state, employing miners at bushel or ton rates, or other quantity, to pass the output of coal mines by said miners over any screen or other device which shall take any part from the value thereof before the same shall have been weighed and duly credited to the employés and accounted for at the legal rate of weights as fixed by the laws of Kansas.

Weighman. SEC. 2. The weighman employed at any mine shall subscribe an oath or affirmation, before a justice of the peace or other officer authorized to administer oaths, to do justice between employer and employé, and to weigh the output of coal from mines in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act. Said oath or affirmation shall be kept conspicuously posted in the weigh office, and any weigher of coal, or persons so employed, who shall knowingly violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100 for each offense, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Miners can Employ Check Weighman. SEC. 3. The miners employed by or engaged in working for any mine owner, operator or lessee in this state shall have the privilege, if they so desire, of employing at their own expense a check weighman, who shall have like rights and privileges in the weighing of coal as the regular weighman, and be subject to the same oath and penalties as the regular weighman.

Scales. SEC. 4. Any person or persons having or using any scale or scales for the purpose of weighing the output of coal at mines, so arranged or constructed that fraudulent weighing may be done thereby, or who shall knowingly resort to or employ any means whatever, by reason of which such coal is not correctly weighed and reported in accordance with the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction, for each offense be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Annulment of this Act Void. SEC. 5. Any provisions, contract or agreement between mine owners or operators thereof and the miners employed therein, whereby the provisions of section 1 of this act are waived, modified, or annulled, shall be void and of no effect; and the coal sent to the surface shall be accepted or rejected, and if accepted shall be weighed in accordance with the provisions of this act; and right of action shall not be invalidated by reason of any contract or agreement.

Shall Apply to all Workers. SEC. 6. The provisions of this act shall also apply to the class of workers in mines known as loaders, engaged in mines wherein mining is done by machinery. Whenever the workmen are under contract to load coal by the bushel, ton, or any quantity the settlement of which is had by weight, the output shall be weighed in accordance with the provisions of this act.



The anti-screen bill was approved by the governor March 13, 1893, and was to take effect September 1, of the same year. The operators of Cherokee and Crawford counties, seemingly in their appreciation and willingness of such a measure, substituted an amendment, by which the law would be effective three months prior to the time prescribed by the act, viz., September 1, 1893; and, in their pretended eagerness to comply, posted notices at their various mines about the beginning of May, 1893, stating that the price for mining unscreened coal would be 47 cents per ton in summer months, and 53 cents per ton in winter months. This, the miners claimed, was not equivalent to the old ratio of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per bushel in summer, and 4 cents per bushel in winter, for screened coal. Local meetings were held at almost every mine in the district, resulting in a delegate convention, held in Pittsburg, May —, 1893, at which it was unanimously agreed to suspend operation until a conference of mine operators, or their agents, and representatives of the miners would meet, in hopes that the impending trouble could be adjusted.

In response to this agreement, representatives of both the miners and operators met in Pittsburg, —, 1893. A settlement was not effected, however, as the miners claimed that 57 cents per ton in summer and 70 cents per ton in winter, for unscreened coal, was justly due them; or, in other words, they wanted the Missouri price, formerly paid for unscreened coal in parts of Kansas. This the operators positively declined to give, claiming that 47 and 53 cents per ton for unscreened coal was equivalent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 cents per bushel for screened coal. Several meetings were called, and the matter thoroughly discussed, all of which proved of no avail to assist them in their efforts.

The miners of Cherokee and Crawford counties directed M. L. Walters to go to Osage and Leavenworth counties and present their claims to the miners. This he agreed to, proceeding to Leavenworth, at which place a meeting of the Leavenworth miners was held in the courthouse on May 29, 1893. The situation of the Cherokee and Crawford county miners was the subject of discussion, and the miners of Leavenworth unanimously agreed, by vote, to suspend operation, in sympathy, giving, as a reason, that their brother miners in Cherokee and Crawford counties could not accomplish their desired object as long as the Leavenworth miners assisted in supplying the coal markets of Kansas.

The suspension did not cease at this point, as the miners of Osage county claimed to be as sympathetic as the Leavenworth miners, and, to encourage their brother miners of Cherokee and Crawford counties in their undertaking, suspended mining from June 7 to August 21, 1893. The suspension of the Osage county miners is more fully explained on another page.

The gloomy aspect of the strike or suspension seemed to prevail in many departments not directly connected with the mining industry, and was considered the general topic of discussion by many who had no relation to the



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subject. The suspension became more general in all mining districts in the state, although several mines were resuming operation with but a few men. Both operators and miners were determined in the accomplishment of their desired objects.

The miners selected committees from among their ranks, who labored unceasingly, in the farming districts, to secure contributions and supplies, such as flour, meat, etc., which was distributed among the most needy of their craft, in proportion to their families and circumstances. Financial aid, from many departments, were forwarded to the miners' headquarters at Pittsburg, and sympathetic business men contributed freely to the miners' needs, one of whom gave \$100. The venerable, hoary-headed form of this benevolent contributor is discernible in Pittsburg, in the person of "Uncle" Halliday.

Some of the coal companies of Cherokee, Crawford and Leavenworth counties, realizing the enormous loss sustained by the prolonged and seemingly inevitable suspension, offered the miners of Cherokee and Crawford counties 50 cents per ton, which was refused. Following soon after was another offer of 54 cents per ton for unscreened coal, which was also repudiated by the miners.

The Kansas & Texas, Central Coal and Coke, and Durkee Coal companies, in their desire to operate their mines, imported the colored brethren from many parts of the country, but particularly from Alabama, placed them securely inside of stockades, and supplied them with arms and ammunition, in addition to their bodyguards, some of whom were notorious characters, and foreign to Kansas.

Dissatisfaction prevailed all over the district. Miners became impatient when notified by some of the companies to vacate the houses in which they lived, as the negroes were supposed to permanently inhabit them in the future. A crisis was evidently approaching, and there seemed to be no available redress, when a proposition by C. J. Devlin, manager of the coal property of the "Santa Fé," was submitted, in appreciation of which a convention was called, to either accept or reject the proposition. Following are the proceedings of the convention:

PITTSBURG, KAS., August 15, 1893.

Convention called to order by President Walters. The first business of the convention was the appointing of the several committees, but at 1:30 the real business of the convention commenced, and the motion passed that all miners who were not delegates be allowed a seat but not a vote. The different committees were then appointed by President Walters, as follows:

Committee on credentials—Robt. Abbott, of Weir City; George Bousfield, of Midway; Hugh Forsyth, of Frontenac.

Committee on resolutions and order of business—Patrick Welsh, of Cornell; Robt. Gilmore, of Scammon; Thos. Gorman, of Fleming.

Committee on permanent organization—James White, of Weir City; John Grant, of Scammon; A. K. Stevenson, of Chicopee; John Wykle, of Litchfield; E. B. Edwards, of Yale.