

State inspector of coal mines reports

Section 86, Pages 2551 - 2580

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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State inspector of coal mines reports

COAL MINING IN CRAWFORD COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONCLUDED.

Office No.	Number of days worked.	Average tons per miner.	Wages paid.			Casualties.		Number of 25-pound kegs of powder used.	Pounds of dynamite used.	Remarks.
			Mining price per ton.	Under-ground day wage.	Top day wage.	Killed.	Injured.			
1	142	601	\$0.78	\$2.84	\$2.25		10	7,746		
2	141	540	.78	2.84	2.25		5	7,302		
3	118	455	.78	2.84	2.25			1,045		Mine leased to Wilson Bros. Coal. Co.
4	145	698	.78	2.84	2.25		3	3,097		
5	121	357	.78	2.84	2.25	1	6	2,648		
6	115	368	.78	2.84	2.25		14	5,841		
7	103	347	.78	2.84	2.25		12	5,795		
8	104	384	.78	2.84	2.25	2	29	7,484		
9	112	419	.78	2.84	2.25	2	23	5,919		
10	97	339	.78	2.84	2.25		24	6,571		Idle during September quarter.
11	47	157	.78	2.84	2.25		6	2,914		
12	93	368	.78	2.84	2.25		13	5,014		
13	101	400	.78	2.84	2.25		31	6,717		
14	110	439	.78	2.84	2.25		4	2,292		Idle during first quarter.
15	126	451	.78	2.84	2.25		10	2,218		
16	37	129	.78	2.84	2.25			1,137		
17	117	481	.78	2.84	2.25	1	40	8,325		
18	112	519	.78	2.84	2.25		7	2,366		
19	163	422	.78	2.84	2.25		29	6,393		
20	68	138	.78	2.84	2.25	1	10	839		
21	88	284	.78	2.84	2.25		10	3,517		Abandoned.
22	49	185	.78	2.84	2.25	1		395		
23	77	270	.78	2.84	2.25		12	2,829		
24	132	441	.78	2.84	2.25		14	5,843		
25	126	397	.78	2.84	2.25		9	5,089	2,786	
26	119	393	.78	2.84	2.25		7	4,718		
27	124	374	.78	2.84	2.25		3	2,300		
28	117	404	.78	2.84	2.25	1	8	3,870		
29	128	393	.78	2.84	2.25		7	1,555		
30	126	379	.78	2.84	2.25		6	2,664		
31	130	406	.78	2.84	2.20		2	2,556		
32	120	521	.78	2.84	2.25			6,656	5,406	
33	120	502	.78	2.84	2.25		1	4,502	2,596	Idle during half year.
34									4,300	
35	136	671	.78	2.84	2.25		1	5,084	925	
36	131	546	.78	2.84	2.25			889	2,425	
37	135	659	.78	2.84	2.25			6,952		
38	111	374	.78	2.84	2.25			2,481		

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39	109	351	.78	2.84	2.25			3,884	
40	108	417	.78	2.84	2.25			5,393	
41	107	392	.78	2.84	2.25	1		4,463	750
42	63	246	.78	2.84	2.25		2	2,803	
43	22	70	.78	2.84	2.25			563	
44	123	446	.78	2.84	2.25			6,605	6,200
45	101	506	.78	2.84	2.25	1	3	1,019	
46	121	545	.78	2.84	2.25		1	3,530	
47	119	516	.78	2.84	2.25		2	3,385	
48	141	532	.78	2.84	2.25		2	3,812	
49	122	449	.78	2.84	2.25		14	5,399	
50	128	300	.78	2.84	2.25			3,025	
51	117	477	.78	2.84	2.25			1,260	3,200
52	111	590	.78	2.84	2.25			99	50
53	104	180	.78	2.84	2.25			69	400
54	120	510	.78	2.84	2.25			335	
55	74	280	.78	2.84	2.25			60	
56	130	472	.78	2.84	2.25			175	150
57	149	599	.78	2.84	2.25			160	50
58	26	103	.78	2.84	2.25			122	
59	135	626	.78	2.84	2.25			99	1,020
60	45	554	.78	2.84	2.25			153	
61	142	479	.78	2.84	2.25			158	
62	90	212	.78	2.84	2.25			540	1,100
63	70	263	.78	2.84	2.25			78	100
64	40	186	.78	2.84	2.25			40	
Totals						12	383	202,703	31,458
65	100						1	540	
66	89							354	
67	100						3	1,310	
68	109						2	750	
69	100							485	360
70	133						2	515	2,500
71	120						2	335	900
72	123							564	2,090
Totals						10		4,338	3,290
Grand totals						12	393	207,041	34,748

Idle during last quarter.

Report Ending December 31, 1915.



COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

Office No.	NAME OF OPERATOR.	Post-office address.	Name or number of mine.	Name of superintendent.	Location of mine.
1	Central Coal & Coke Co.	Kansas City.	42	W. C. Ernhart.	3 miles south of Scammon.
2	Central Coal & Coke Co.	Kansas City.	43	W. C. Ernhart.	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Turck.
3	Central Coal & Coke Co.	Kansas City.	44	W. C. Ernhart.	3 miles west of Weir.
4	J. R. Crowe Coal & Mining Co.	Weir.	18	R. A. Gray.	3 miles south of Scammon.
5	J. R. Crowe Coal & Mining Co.	Weir.	19	R. A. Gray.	3 miles southwest of Scammon.
6	J. R. Crowe Coal & Mining Co.	Weir.	20	R. A. Gray.	4 miles southwest of Scammon.
7	Fidelity Coal & Mining Co.	Kansas City.	7	Mike Walsh, lessee.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Scammon.
8	Fidelity Coal & Mining Co.	Kansas City.	8	R. Carsini, lessee.	$1\frac{3}{4}$ miles northeast of Mineral.
9	Fidelity Coal & Mining Co.	Kansas City.	9	Francis Ryan, lessee.	Stone City.
10	Fidelity Coal & Mining Co.	Kansas City.	11	Joseph Humble.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Mineral.
11	Mayer Coal Co.	Kansas City.	4	John O'Leary, lessee.	4 miles north of Scammon.
12	Mayer Coal Co.	Kansas City.	5	Joseph Ryan, lessee.	3 miles northwest of Mineral.
13	Mayer Coal Co.	Kansas City.	6	Pete Russell, lessee.	3 miles west of Mineral.
14	Clemens Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	9	Francis Keegan.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Scammon.
15	M. K. & T. Coal Dept.	Parsons.	15	J. H. Hibben.	1 mile northeast of Mineral.
16	M. K. & T. Coal Dept.	Parsons.	16	J. H. Hibben.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of East Mineral.
17	Cherokee Crescent Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	2	Geo. Mack.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Carona.
18	Geo. K. Mackie Fuel Co.	Scammon.	F	J. W. Morton.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Scammon.
19	Columbus Coal Co.	Columbus.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chris Newlands.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Turck.
20	Larson Bros. Coal Co.	Weir.	1.	L. A. Larson.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Weir.
21	Elliott Coal Co.	Scammon.	1.	Chas. Elliott.	Scammon.
22	Atkinson Coal Co.	Scammon.	2.	Thos. Atkinson.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Scammon.
23	Mallens & Halstead Coal Co.	Weir.	1.	John Mallens.	$\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of Weir.
24	Fleming Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	3.	H. C. Jones.	Skidmore.
25	Roy-Millner Coal Co.	Weir.	1.	A. W. Roy.	Sec. 3, twp. 32, range 24.
26	Besse Cockerill Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	1.	C. C. Cockerill.	1 mile south of Weir.
27	Skidmore-Patterson Coal Co.	Scammon.	1.	J. D. Robinson.	1 mile south of Scammon.
28	Skidmore-Patterson Coal Co.	Scammon.	2.	J. D. Robinson.	1 mile south of Scammon.
29	Junior Coal Co.	Weir.	3.	James Reed.	2 miles northeast of Weir.
30	Pittsburg-Scammon Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	1.	H. M. Miller.	Scammon.
31	Pittsburg-Scammon Coal Co.	Pittsburg.	2.	H. M. Miller.	Scammon.
32	J. R. Crowe Coal & Mining Co.	Weir.	4.	James Reed.	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Scammon.

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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONTINUED.

Office No.	Railroad connections.	Kind of opening.	Kind of power.	Tons of coal produced.				Average number of employees.					
				Lump.	Nut and slack.	Mine run.	Total output.	Miners.	Boys.	Under-ground day men.	Total under-ground.	Top men.	Grand total.
1	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	32,132	17,142	604	49,878	87		34	121	20	141
2	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	33,215	16,821	43	50,079	85	4	29	118	19	137
3	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			16,734	16,734	34		10	44	4	48
4	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	29,568	11,092	185	40,845	95		22	117	10	127
5	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	11,026	3,675		14,701	55		22	77	9	86
6	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	65,924	24,829		90,553	159		31	190	13	203
7	Mo. Pacific.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	28,623	11,750	1,851	42,224	119		25	144	9	153
8	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	9,770	3,256	10,003	23,029	60	3	11	74	5	79
9	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			11,145	11,145	108	1	25	134	10	144
10	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			13,290	13,290	28		9	37	6	43
11	Mo. Pacific and Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			29,840	29,840	130	1	21	122	8	130
12	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			27,872	27,872	59	1	9	69	4	73
13	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			43,709	43,709	97		23	120	7	127
14	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	25,188	17,821	3,288	46,297	73	1	18	92	8	100
15	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	7,972	4,163	7,122	19,257	40		12	52	4	56
16	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	9,916	7,299	487	17,702	24		6	30	5	35
17	M. K. & T.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	20,356	24,007	1,531	45,894	117		26	143	11	154
18	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			59,698	59,698	118	2	18	138	11	149
19	Frisco.....	Slope.....	Steam.....			6,379	6,379	9		1	10	2	12
20	Frisco.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			3,865	3,865	15		4	19	5	24
21	Mo. Pacific.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....	1,950	5,870	282	8,102	17		5	22	2	24
22	None.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			1,586	1,586	5		1	6	2	8
23	None.....	Shaft.....	Steam.....			3,263	3,263	7	1	1	9	1	10
Deep mine totals.....				275,640	147,525	242,747	665,912	1,511	14	363	1,888	175	2,063
24	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....	494	7,146	13,590	21,230					43	43
25	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....			34,051	34,051					50	50
26	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....			24,272	24,272					45	45
27	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....			8,884	8,884					22	22
28	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....			4,103	4,103					24	24
29	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....	6,108	12,624	1,848	20,580					30	30
30	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....	10,894	17,473	1,502	29,869					41	41
31	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....	1,166	2,292	10,171	13,629					27	27
32	Frisco.....	Strip pit.....	Steam.....	3,220	12,540	5,835	21,595					35	35
Strip mine totals.....				21,882	52,075	104,256	178,213					317	317
Grand totals.....				297,522	199,600	347,003	844,125	1,511	14	363	1,888	492	2,380

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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONCLUDED.

Office No.	Number of days worked.	Average tons per miner.	Wages paid.			Casualties.		Number of 25-pound kegs of powder used.	Pounds of dynamite used.	Remarks.
			Mining price per ton.	Under-ground day wage.	Top day wage.	Killed.	Injured.			
1	103	573	\$0.78	\$2.84	\$2.25	1	5	3,257		
2	104	589	.78	2.84	2.25		8	2,352		
3	150	492	.78	2.84	2.25		1	1,234		
4	105	429	.78	2.84	2.25			2,844	4,160	Idle first quarter.
5	57	267	.78	2.84	2.25			998	640	
6	113	569	.78	2.84	2.25			6,923	4,552	
7	127	355	.78	2.84	2.25		3	3,696	2,357	
8	135	385	.78	2.84	2.25		1	2,225	400	Idle during last quarter.
9	27	103	.78	2.84	2.25		2	950		
10	133	473	.78	2.84	2.25		3	1,075		
11	125	298	.78	2.84	2.25			1,645		
12	132	473	.78	2.84	2.25		1	1,750	1,195	
13	131	451	.78	2.84	2.25		5	3,539	787	
14	91	634	.78	2.84	2.25		4	2,967	1,593	
15	127	481	.78	2.84	2.25			1,694	1,710	
16	138	738	.78	2.84	2.25			1,621	6	
17	94	395	.78	2.84	2.25	1	2	4,284		
18	107	596	.78	2.84	2.25			2,763		
19	120	708	.78	2.84	2.25		2	280	1,350	
20	73	258	.78	2.84	2.25			301	25	
21	132	477	.78	2.84	2.25			1,042		
22	75	317	.78	2.84	2.25			230	230	
23	140	466	.78	2.84	2.25			205	350	
	2,539					2	39	47,842	19,294	
24	98							355		
25	120							650	2,360	
26	107							225	800	
27	78						2	400	1,150	
28	28						2	140	350	
29	112							502	2,750	
30	111						1	711	2,890	
31	70						1	309	630	
32	108							357	2,045	
	831					2	6	3,594	12,965	
	3,370						45	51,436	32,259	

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State Coal Mine Inspection



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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN OSAGE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

Office No.

Report Ending December 31, 1915.

	NAME OF OPERATOR.	Post-office address.	Name or number of mine.	Name of superintendent.	Location of mine.
1	Jackson-Walker Coal & Mercantile Co.	Wichita	14	John McDivitt	1 mile south of Scranton.
2	Jackson-Walker Coal & Mining Co.	Wichita	30	John McDivitt	Osage City.
3	Standard Coal Co.	Scranton	1	James McKirley	2 miles west of Scranton.
4	Chappel & Goebel Coal Co.	Burlingame	3	Geo. Chappel	2½ miles east of Burlingame.
5	Chappel & Goebel Coal Co.	Burlingame	6	Geo. Chappel	Burlingame.
6	Labor Exchange Coal Association	Scranton	1	Henry Lucas	2 miles southwest of Scranton.
7	Osage City Co-operative Coal & Mining Co.	Osage City	1	Thomas Moore	2 miles north of Osage City.
8	Osage City Labor Exchange	Osage City	4	John Getzinger	1¾ miles north of Osage City.
9	Central Coal & Mining Co.	Burlingame	1	Neal Hotchkiss	1 mile southeast of Burlingame.
10	Central Coal & Mining Co.	Burlingame	3	J. T. Coughlin	Burlingame.
11	Coughlin Coal Co.	Osage City	3	J. T. Coughlin	¼ mile north of Peterton.
12	Black Diamond Fuel Co.	Burlingame	4	John Fors	1 mile west of Osage City.
13	Black Diamond Coal Co.	Osage City	2	L. P. Brown	Burlingame.
14	John A. Johnson Coal Co.	Osage City	1	John A. Johnson	¾ mile north of Osage City.
15	Western Fuel Co.	Osage City	10	Gus Johnson	West of Osage City.
16	A. W. Granstrom Coal Co.	Osage City	5	A. W. Granstrom	1 mile west of Osage City.
17	Wine Coal Co.	Scranton	1	Joe Wise	2 miles south of Scranton.
18	Elliott Coal Co.	Burlingame	3	Geo. Elliott	2 miles east of Burlingame.
19	Strunk Coal Co.	Burlingame	2	G. W. Strunk	¼ mile south of Burlingame.
20	Superior Coal Co.	Osage City	20	Nels Carlson	1½ miles east of Osage City.
21	Seegelquist Coal Co.	Scranton	—	Seegelquist	1½ miles northeast of Scranton.
22	Washington Coal Co.	Burlingame	—	Washington	Burlingame.
23	Midway Coal Co.	Burlingame	1	Matt Dunn	2½ miles east of Burlingame.

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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN OSAGE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONTINUED.

Office No.	Railroad connections.	Kind of opening.	Kind of power.	Tons of coal produced.				Average number of employees.					
				Lump.	Nut and slack.	Mine run.	Total output.	Miners.	Boys.	Under-ground day men.	Total under-ground.	Top men.	Grand total.
1	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.	2,929			2,929	40		3	43	2	45
2	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.	6,994			6,994	40		45	85	3	88
3	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.	3,168			3,168	22		2	24	1	25
4	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,050	2,050	22		1	23	1	24
5	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,452	1,452	34		2	36	2	38
6	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			825	825	27		1	28	1	29
7	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			975	975	14		1	15	1	16
8	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			4,451	4,451	47		17	64	2	66
9	None.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,200	2,200	13		2	15	1	16
10	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,900	2,900	20		7	27	1	28
11	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,565	2,565	14		2	16	1	17
12	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,922	2,922	22		2	24	1	25
13	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,922	2,922	22		2	24	1	25
14	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,250	1,250	6		1	7	1	8
15	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,520	1,520	15		1	16	1	17
16	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			2,230	2,230	17		1	18	1	19
17	None.	Shaft.	Horse.			150	150	3			3		3
18	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Horse.			4,468	4,468	29		2	31	2	33
19	Santa Fe.	Shaft.	Horse.			1,208	1,208	14		1	15	1	16
20	None.	Shaft.	Horse.			766	766	8		1	9	1	10
21	None.	Shaft.	Horse.	225				3		2	5	1	6
22	None.	Shaft.	Horse.			1,200	1,200	13		1	14	1	15
23	None.	Shaft.	Horse.			1,783	1,783	13		1	14	1	15
Totals				13,316		38,137	51,453	458		98	556	27	583

State Coal Mine Inspection



State inspector of coal mines reports

COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN OSAGE COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONCLUDED.

Office No.	Number of days worked.	Average tons per miner.	Wages paid.			Casualties.		Number of 25-pound kegs of powder used.	Pounds of dynamite used.	Remarks.
			Mining price per ton.	Under-ground day wage.	Top day wage.	Killed.	Injured.			
1	60	73	\$1.65	\$2.84	\$2.50					
2	93	174	1.65	2.84	2.50		2		750	
3	80	144	1.71	2.84	2.75					
4	67	93	1.71	2.84	2.75					
5	36	43	1.75	2.84	2.65				50	
6	38	32	1.81	2.84	2.75					
7	56	60	1.76	3.13	2.50					
8	80	95	1.00	3.05	2.75		2			
9	125	169	1.65	3.00	2.50				40	
10	125	145	1.65	3.00	2.50				45	
11	85	205	1.71	3.13	2.50					
12	59	133	1.76	2.84	2.50					
13	59	133	1.76	2.84	2.50		1			
14	85	208	1.80	2.84	2.50					
15	115	101	2.00	3.13	2.50					
16	132	131	1.71	3.13	2.50					
17	75	50	1.71	2.84	2.50					
18	97	151	1.81	2.84	2.00				61	
19	106	86	1.71	2.84	2.25				32	
20	87	96	1.80	2.84	2.50				20	
21	38	75	1.71	2.84	2.25					
22	105	92	1.80	2.84	2.50				120	
23	77	137	1.75	3.00	2.50					
Totals							5		1,118	

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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

Office No.	NAME OF OPERATOR.	Post-office address.	Name or number of mine.	Name of superintendent.	Location of mine.
1	Carr Coal and Mining and Manufacturing Co.	Leavenworth.	Carr mine.	J. J. Glynn.	South of Leavenworth.
2	Home-Riverside Coal Co.	Leavenworth.	1.	C. N. Fish.	South of Leavenworth.
3	Home-Riverside Coal Co.	Leavenworth.	2.	C. N. Fish.	South of Leavenworth.
4	Kansas State Penitentiary mine.	Lansing.	Penitentiary.	Levi L. Day.	Lansing.

COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—Continued.

Office No.	Railroad connections.	Kind of opening.	Kind of power.	Tons of coal produced.				Average number of employees.					
				Lump.	Nut and slack.	Mine run.	Total output.	Miners.	Boys.	Under-ground day men.	Total under-ground.	Top men.	Grand total.
1	Santa Fe	Shaft.	Steam.			38,341	38,341	160		20	180	22	202
2	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			40,350	40,350	192		20	212	16	238
3	Union Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			4,727	25,676	143		88	231	26	257
4	Santa Fe, Mo. Pacific, Union Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.	14,677	6,272								
	Totals			14,677	6,272	83,418	104,367	495		128	623	64	697



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COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONCLUDED.

Office No.	Number of days worked.	Average tons per miner.	Wages paid.			Casualties.		Number of 25-pound kegs of powder used.	Pounds of dynamite used.	Remarks.
			Mining price per ton.	Under-ground day wage.	Top day wage.	Killed.	Injured.			
1	200	234	\$1.05	\$2.84	\$2.25					Estimated.
2	126	263	1.05	2.84	2.25		10		201	Abandoned.
3	153	179½					4			Convict labor.
4										
Totals							14		201	

COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LINN COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

Office No.	NAME OF OPERATOR.	Post-office address.	Name or number of mine.	Name of superintendent.	Location of mine.
1	Thirwell Coal Co.	Pleasanton.	1.	William J. Thirwell.	1½ miles north of Pleasanton.
2	Thirwell Coal Co.	Pleasanton.	2.	William J. Thirwell.	3½ miles east of Pleasanton.
3	Black Diamond Coal Co.	La Cygne.	1.	A. C. King.	½ mile west of La Cygne.
4	Other small mines				

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FATAL ACCIDENTS.

FATAL ACCIDENTS PRIOR TO YEAR 1900.

There are no records available of fatal accidents prior to the year 1884. The records available from 1884 until 1900 do not state the causes of fatal accidents, and there are no records for the years 1886, 1888 and 1892. In 1911 the records were destroyed by fire and the mine inspector was unable to make a report. On November 9, 1888, an explosion occurred at mine No. 2 of the Mt. Carmel Coal Company at Frontenac, and there is no record of the loss of life for that year, but it is known that there were at least forty lives lost in that explosion. For the following years the causes and dates of accidents are not given: 1884, 3 fatal accidents; 1885, 9; 1886, no record; 1887, 7; 1888, no record; 1889, 12; 1890, 8; 1891, 13; 1892, no record; 1893, 15; 1894, 26; 1895, 10; 1896, 12; 1897, 6; 1898, 17; 1899, 16; making a total of 154 fatal accidents recorded during this period. For four years during this time we have no records of fatal accidents at all. The records available show that there were 154 fatal accidents from January 1, 1884, until June 30, 1900, and from June 30, 1900, until June 30, 1915, there were 460 fatal accidents recorded, making a total of 614 fatal accidents in that period, excepting the year for which we have no record; there is also the year 1888, in which the above-mentioned catastrophe occurred at mine No. 2 of the Mt. Carmel Coal Company, in which at least 40 lives were lost.

The average number of tons produced for each fatal accident from 1884 to 1915 follows:

1884	366,666	1901	479,612
1885	160,006	1902	174,347
1886 .....	.....	1903	153,907
1887	224,297	1904	170,781
1888 .....	.....	1905	176,322
1889	176,013	1906	191,820
1890	314,506	1907	126,750
1891	211,824	1908	180,285
1892 .....	.....	1909	150,728
1893	192,128	1910	205,415
1894	138,893	1911 .....	.....
1895	319,084	1912	171,578
1896	265,979	1913	253,235
1897	549,468	1914	211,380
1898	227,095	1915	247,831
1899	256,056	*1915	243,419
1900	213,845		

* Last half of calendar year 1915.

FATAL ACCIDENTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

The following fatal accidents were reported in detail in report for fiscal year ending June 30, 1915:

Ed Leslie, driver, killed by fall of rock at mine No. 15 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, located at Franklin, Kan., January 7, 1915.

Newton Tomlin, miner, killed by fall of rock at mine No. 12 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, located at Carona, Kan., January 8, 1915.

Joseph Makar, miner, killed by fall of rock at mine No. 21 of the Wear Coal Company, located west of Franklin, Kan., February 3, 1915.

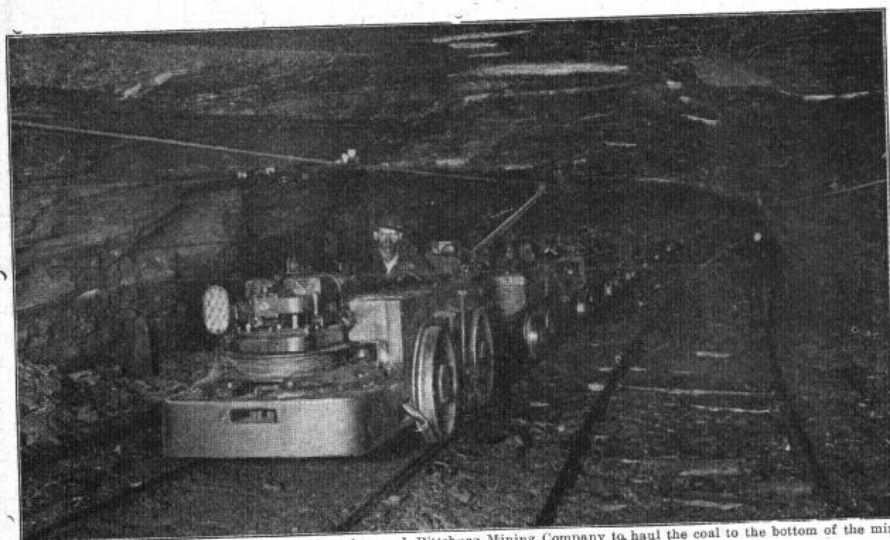


COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LINN COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONTINUED.

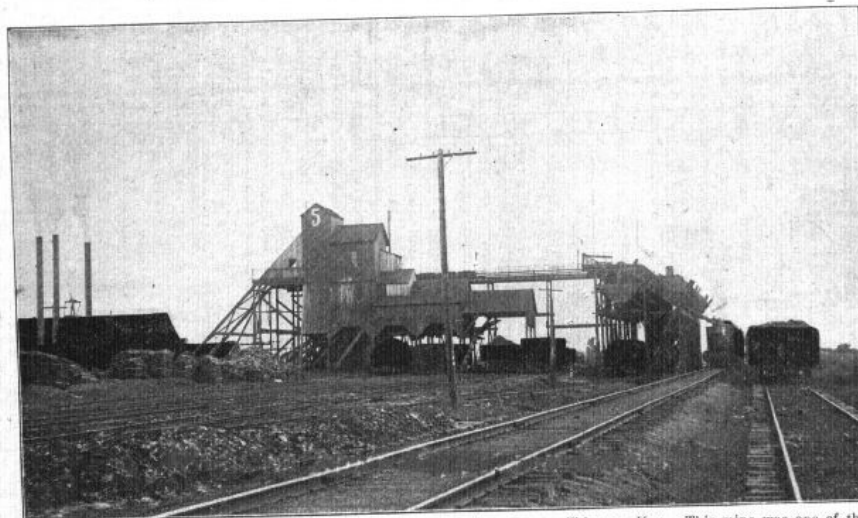
Office No.	Railroad connections.	Kind of opening.	Kind of power.	Tons of coal produced.				Average number of employees.					
				Lump.	Nut and slack.	Mine run.	Total output.	Miners.	Boys.	Under-ground day men.	Total under-ground.	Top men.	Grand total.
1	Frisco.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,863	1,863	9		1	10	2	12
2	Mo. Pacific.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,326	1,326	12		3	15	2	17
3	None.	Shaft.	Steam.			1,290	1,290	4		1	5	1	6
4						2,500	2,500	25			25		25
	Totals					6,889	6,889	50		5	55	5	60

COAL-MINING INDUSTRY IN LINN COUNTY FOR THE LAST HALF OF CALENDAR YEAR 1915—CONCLUDED.

Office No.	Number of days worked.	Average tons per miner.	Wages paid.			Casualties.		Number of 25-pound kegs of powder used.	Pounds of dynamite used.	Remarks.
			Mining price per ton.	Under-ground day wage.	Top day wage.	Killed.	Injured.			
1	126	207	\$1.10	\$2.00	\$1.50					
2	68	111	1.00	2.00	2.00	1	1			
3	125	300	1.10	2.00	2.00		1			
4	80	100	1.10	2.00	2.00					Estimated.
	Totals					1	2			



Electric motor used in mine No. 5 of the Cherokee and Pittsburg Mining Company to haul the coal to the bottom of the mine.



Mine No. 5 of the Cherokee and Pittsburg Mining Company, located near Chicopee, Kan. This mine was one of the best coal-producing mines in the state of Kansas.

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Henry Hecksher, shot firer, injured by an explosion at mine No. 47 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located two miles northeast of Frontenac, Kan., February 12, 1915; died February 13, 1915.

William Titter, shot firer, injured by an explosion at mine No. 47 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located two miles northeast of Frontenac, Kan., February 12, 1915; died February 14, 1915.

R. E. Fennimore, topman, fatally injured by clothing being caught in tumbling rod while oiling pump shafting at pit No. 1 of the Pittsburg-Scammon Coal Company, February 12, 1915.

Wm. Metcalf, shot firer, killed by an explosion at mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, February 26, 1915.

Peter Chiro, miner, fatally injured by powder explosion at mine No. 15 of the J. R. Crowe Coal and Mining Company, March 18, 1915.

Tony Weisgerber, miner, killed by fall of rock at mine No. 6 of the Nevius-Coulter Coal Company, April 9, 1915.

James Brennan, miner, fatally injured by fall of rock at mine No. 6 of the Mayer Coal Company, May 12, 1915.

Bert Lyons, killed by cage at mine No. 11 of the Fidelity Coal Mining Company, June 22, 1915.

The following are fatal accidents for the last half of the calendar year of 1915:

Matt Krantz, fire boss, killed by gas explosion at mine No. 7 of the McCormick Coal Company, located near Breezy Hill, Kan., July 17, 1915.

Ignatz Kekel, miner, killed by gas and powder explosion at mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, July 26, 1915.

Walter Wente, miner, fatally injured by gas and powder explosion at mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, July 26, 1915; died on July 27, 1915.

James Morris, shot firer, suffocated at mine No. 45 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, August 2, 1915.

Robert Austin, shot firer, suffocated at mine No. 15 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, August 18, 1915.

L. J. Nuckolls, engineer, killed by fall of rock at mine No. 42 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, August 23, 1915.

Chiri Gaetanio, miner, fatally injured by fall of rock at mine No. 2 of the Cherokee Crescent Coal Company, August 24, 1915.

Sanford Neil, shot firer, killed by premature explosion of a shot at mine No. 5 of the Sheridan Coal Company, September 2, 1915.

John Kurtz, miner, killed by a fall of rock at mine No. 6 of the Nevius Coal Company, September 27, 1915.

John Jerko, shot firer, killed at mine No. 10 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, September 30, 1915.

Claude Hamilton, shot firer, fatally injured by an explosion at mine No. 2 of the Katy Coal Company, November 4, 1915.

Gus Buccari, shot firer, killed by an explosion at mine No. 7 of the Girard Coal Company, November 5, 1915.

Emanuel Pierret, miner, fatally injured by fall of rock at mine No. 49 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, November 16, 1915.

Charles Brown, miner, fatally injured by fall of rock in mine No. 2 of the Muddy Creek Coal Company, operated by W. J. Thirlwell, December 11, 1915.

Henry Klier, shot firer, killed by an explosion at mine No. 15 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, December 30, 1915.

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FATALITIES IN KANSAS COAL MINES, 1900 TO 1915, INCLUSIVE.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	*1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	†1915.	Totals.
Falls of roof or slate.....	11	4	12	19	6	22	16	22	16	14	22		19	13	17	11	5	223
Shot fires killed.....	6	3	6	7	6	11	9	12	8	5	7		10	6	5	7	7	112
Killed by powder explosions.....	2	2	1	1		4		1	2	1	2		2	1	2	1	2	33
Killed by cage accident.....		1	3			1		2	1	2	1		2	1		1		23
Falling down shaft.....			2		2		2		1	1	1					1		12
Killed by mine cars.....			1			1		1						1		1		12
Died in mine, heart disease.....				3			1	1									1	7
Killed by railroad cars.....										2	2			2	1	1	1	3
Killed by explosion of gas.....									1						1			3
Killed by machinery.....								1	1		1							4
Killed by fall of tippie.....			2				1											3
Objects falling down mine, striking employees.....				2									2					2
Drowned in mine.....			1								1			1				2
Suffocated by gas.....																1		2
Killed by mules.....																		3
Electrocuted.....			1	2								3						4
Killed by fight in mine.....																1		4
Killed while acting as rescue party.....													1					1
Killed by dynamite cap explosion.....	1	1		1														4
Unknown cause.....														1				1
Dynamite explosion.....			1															2
Construction work.....																		
Totals for years.....	20	11	30	36	16	41	31	52	31	25	38	3	37	28	34	27	15	475

* Records for this year were destroyed in Kirkwood fire.
 † Last half of calendar year 1915; report changed from fiscal to the calendar year. All other items in this table cover the year ending June 30 of the year shown at head of column.

State Coal Mine Inspection



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On July 19 A. I. Young, J. J. V. Forbes, of the government Bureau of Mines, Deputy Inspector Sherwood and myself returned to the mine. We made a thorough investigation of the mine and I took sworn statements from a number of witnesses, and I found that on account of the casing of the deep well dropping in the well on July 14, the mine was shut down for three days and they could not get enough water to run the boilers, so they did not run the fan on July 15 and 16, but started it on July 17 at about 6:45 a. m. Mat Krantz and Earl Lambertson were working in the mine on and around the bottom on July 15, 16 and 17. When we got to the mine I found that Mr. Roberts, superintendent, Mr. Dray, mine foreman, and Messrs. Buche and Patterson were in the mine hanging curtains that were blown down by the explosion, so they could get the air to travel to the face of the main entries.

From all evidence taken from July 17 to 19 it appears that Mat Krantz and Earl Lambertson were the only two men working in the mine. They were laying track in the first north on the west side and had completed their work in that part of the mine. Mr. Krantz was gas man at this mine, and they proceeded to go on to the other side to work. He went to the bottom of the shaft at noon and notified somebody in the engine-room to start the fan up a little faster, and they sat on some loaded cars for a short time on the bottom and then proceeded toward the east side. Mr. Lambertson stayed at the turn, straight south from the bottom, going east and west, and Mr. Krantz walked in toward the face of the main east entry. Mr. Krantz had a safety lamp in the mine with him, but he left it hanging where he was working before dinner, and walked in with an open light, and must have lit the gas that had accumulated during the two days that the fan was not running. They found him lying about forty feet west of the main east door. Mr. Lambertson states that he saw the fire coming and he jumped into the first crosscut on the east side of the bottom and pulled his cap over his face. Inspector Sherwood found Lambertson's pipe in the crosscut designated by him, between a brushing shot and a pile of props.

We found six stoppings blown out between the first set of cross-entries on the east side and the turn straight south from the bottom. The main east door was in fairly good condition; the curtains were down in the back east and straight east entries. A car was turned over in the second north on the east side, and the first south on the east side looked to be in very bad condition. The safety lamp of Mat Krantz was hanging on the right-hand side going into the first north on the west side. That is the place where Mr. Krantz and Lambertson were working before the accident happened. They had two cars of dirt loaded and their dinner buckets were on the cars. The door on the main west was blown through the frame and the frame was moved four or five inches. It certainly is a miracle that Mr. Lambertson got out of the mine uninjured.

I have stated all of the facts that I could find, and I call your attention to the fact that if Mr. Krantz had used an electric lamp when he was in the mine it would have prevented the accident. I recommend that a law be enacted that there be more precautions used in mines when idle. Nobody should be allowed to enter a mine for any purpose when the fan is not running unless he uses an electric lamp and a breathing apparatus.

2 and 3. Mine explosion. Investigated by John Pellegrino, July 27, 1915. An explosion occurred at mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company at Franklin, Kan., on July 26, 1915, at 2:25 p. m., and was the cause of the death of two men who were employed in that shaft as miners in the second east off first south on the west side. Ignatz Kekel died in the mine, and Walter Wentz died on July 27, about eleven hours after the explosion occurred.

We were notified at about 2:30 p. m. that an accident had occurred at mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, and A. I.



. CLASSIFIED LIST OF FATAL ACCIDENTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1915.

SHOT FIRERS KILLED (10):

Henry Hecksher, mine No. 47, Central Coal and Coke Co.....	Feb. 12, 1915.
William Titter, mine No. 47, Central Coal and Coke Co.....	Feb. 12, 1915.
Wm. Metcalf, mine No. 18, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Feb. 26, 1915.
James Morris, mine No. 45, Central Coal and Coke Co.....	Aug. 2, 1915.
Robert Austin, mine No. 15, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Aug. 18, 1915.
Sanford Neil, mine No. 5, Sheridan Coal Co.....	Sept. 2, 1915.
John Jerko, mine No. 10, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Sept. 30, 1915.
Claude Hamilton, mine No. 2, Katy Coal Company.....	Nov. 4, 1915.
Gus Buccari, mine No. 7, Girard Coal Company.....	Nov. 5, 1915.
Henry Klier, mine No. 15, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Dec. 30, 1915.

FALL OF ROCK (10):

Ed. Leslie, mine No. 15, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Jan. 7, 1915.
Newton Tomlin, mine No. 12, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	Jan. 8, 1915.
Joseph Makar, mine No. 21, Wear Coal Co.....	Feb. 3, 1915.
Tony Weisgerber, mine No. 6, Nevius-Coulter Coal Co.....	April 9, 1915.
James Brennan, mine No. 6, Mayer Coal Co.....	May 12, 1915.
L. J. Nuckolls, mine No. 42, Central Coal and Coke Co.....	Aug. 23, 1915.
Chiri Gaetono, mine No. 2, Cherokee Crescent Coal Co.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
John Kurtz, mine No. 6, Nevius-Coulter Coal Co.....	Sept. 27, 1915.
Emanuel Pierret, mine No. 49, Central Coal and Coke Co.....	Nov. 16, 1915.
Charles Brown, mine No. 2, Muddy Creek Coal Co.....	Dec. 11, 1915.

MACHINERY (1):

R. E. Fennimore, pit No. 1, Pittsburg-Scammon Coal Co.....	Feb. 12, 1915.
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POWDER EXPLOSION (1):

Peter Chiro, mine No. 15, J. R. Crowe Coal and Mining Co.....	Mar. 18, 1915.
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GAS AND POWDER EXPLOSION (2):

Ignatz Kekel, mine No. 18, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	July 26, 1915.
Walter Wente, mine No. 18, Western Coal and Mining Co.....	July 26, 1915.

GAS EXPLOSION (1):

Matt Krantz, mine No. 7, McCormick Coal Co.....	July 17, 1915.
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BY CAGE (1):

Bert Lyons, mine No. 11, Fidelity Coal and Mining Co.....	June 22, 1915.
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FATAL ACCIDENTS IN DETAIL.

1. Gas explosion. Investigated by Pellegrino, Sherwood and Kotzman. I was notified by A. I. Young, foreman of mine-rescue station located at Pittsburg, Kan., on July 17, 1915, at about one o'clock p. m., that an explosion had occurred at mine No. 7 of the McCormick Coal Company, located at Breezy Hill, Kan. I notified Deputy Inspector Sherwood, and we at once got our lung motor and safety lamps ready to go into the mine. By this time Mr. A. I. Young came to the office and we hired an auto and drove to the rescue station to get some rescue apparatus. We left Pittsburg at 1:20 p. m., and while going through Frontenac picked up Deputy Inspector, Kotzman, and arrived at the mine at 1:50 p. m. As soon as we arrived at the mine we were notified that Mat Krantz was dead and that Earl Lambertson was at home slightly burned. We did not use the lung motor, for the doctor had pronounced Mat Krantz dead before we got there.

The mine foreman then notified me that there was a fire in the mine. Mr. Young and myself at once put on a mine-rescue apparatus and proceeded down the mine to locate it. Deputy Mine Inspector Sherwood stayed at the mouth of the shaft and refused to let anybody go in the mine until we came out. We found the top of the mine in bad condition on account of the roof sweating before the explosion. The force of the explosion pulled a lot of rock down and left loose rock hanging overhead all over the mine. We found the main east door open, and we proceeded inside of the first north on the east side. We then concluded that it was too dangerous to go any further on account of the condition of the roof, for rock was falling around us. We stayed in the mine about twenty minutes, but could not locate the fire on account of the bad condition of the roof. When we came out of the mine I instructed the mine foreman to let nobody go into the mine under any circumstances with an open light.

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State Coal Mine Inspection

Young of the government Bureau of Mines, Deputy Mine Inspector James Sherwood and myself hastened to the mine with lung motors and rescue apparatus. Upon arriving at the mine at about three o'clock we were notified that one man, Ignatz Kekel, was dead and that there were some men burned and in bad condition in the washhouse. We proceeded to the washhouse, but did not use the lung motors. Mr. Young and myself busied ourselves in giving Baltazar Pechini and John Sprooch first-aid treatment. I was notified that there were some more men in the mine, and Mr. Sherwood, deputy inspector, and L. Regard, shot firer at mine No. 18, put on rescue apparatus and proceeded down the mine, but they only got off the bottom when the men came out of the first south and notified them that everybody was out, so they came back on top. By that time the injured men had their wounds dressed, and we placed Pechini and Wenty in an ambulance and had them sent to the Mt. Carmel Hospital, by instructions of Phil Roeser, superintendent. Mr. Sprooch and Mr. Logan were sent home in Mr. Roeser's auto.

On July 27, 1915, J. J. V. Forbes of the government Bureau of Mines, Deputy Inspector James Sherwood and myself made a thorough investigation of the mine, and were accompanied by the following: Phil Roeser, superintendent; Wm. Martin, mine foreman; Ed Pennick and Frank Martinache, gas men; Joe Jingello, Sherman Meade and Hughie Craig, members of the pit committee; and Leonard Regard and Sam Smith, shot firers. We proceeded to the entry where the accident occurred, the second stub east off first south on the west side of the mine, and took the following notes of conditions:

We found one tool box on the switch of the second east off first south; two tool boxes were sitting in the left-hand corner going into the entry. There are three rooms in that entry; the first one is in about 60 feet, the next one about 40 feet, and the third or last room to face of entry is just turned. Buck Earley worked in the first room on the entry; Ignatz Kekel worked in the second room, and Walter Wentz turned the last room. The entry was in about 170 feet off second east off first south. There were two holes drilled in the entry; the one on the left side was drilled about 6½ feet in the horseback; the one on the right side was drilled about 6 feet deep, 4 feet in horseback and 2 feet in coal beyond the horseback. No powder was in the holes. The first room had three holes drilled and dummies were laid against the holes. There were two holes tamped in Kekel's room. In the first room, or Buck Earley's, there was a post set up ready for drilling. The last crosscut to face of entry was very small, being only about 3 feet wide. The second crosscut was partly closed up with dirt. A tool box was on entry with over half a keg of powder, and one with just a small amount; a box on the main entry, locked. We found a coat, shoes and bucket setting at the corner of the second stub going east. Dust and powder cans all along the entry and very little coking on props. Buck Earley was found lying about 25 feet inside of first stub off south entry. Walter Wentz and Baltazar Pechini were found about 150 feet inside of first stub south entry. Sprooch worked in the back entry in the second room and had his leg broken by the force of the explosion pushing a car on his ankle.

When a calamity of this kind occurs the question naturally arises as to the cause or causes which led to it. To begin with, I will state that this mine was in a very good condition before the accident occurred. Deputy Mine Inspector Kotzman visited the mine on July 19, 1915, and found the general condition of the mine good, and the affidavits of the parties that were in the mine when the accident occurred show that James Logan struck a gas feeder in the drill hole he was preparing on the right side of the face of the place, which had enough strength to blow the dust out of the hole. The evidence also shows that Walter Wentz had three shots made up, and it appears that Kekel and Wentz were sitting on or near the tool boxes at the mouth of the entry, about 170 feet back from the face, with the three cartridges of powder stand-

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ing or setting behind them. When the gas was ignited by James Logan in the face of his place it set the powder off, for the coal and timbers are charred where the powder was standing, and there was no trace of Mr. Wente's cartridges in his place. I suppose that he and Kekel were sitting on or near the tool boxes when the powder that was leaning against the rib went off and caused the death of both Ignatz Kekel and Walter Wente. County Coroner Collelmo stated that Mr. Kekel died from inhaling carbonic gas poison, for he would have lived longer if he had not breathed the carbonic gas fumes. Wente died from burns caused by the powder exploding.

Walter Wente stated to R. V. Higgins that nothing would have happened to him if he had been in his room, and that shows that he was sitting out on the entry at that time. Quite frequently a miner accidentally lights the gas, and it was unfortunate that the powder was in the way of the fire when the gas was lit, for the evidence shows that Kekel and Wente died from the explosion of the powder. I will state that if the mine had not been in a good condition it would have caused a more dreadful catastrophe.

On July 29 Deputy Inspectors Sherwood and Paisley notified every entry man in mine No. 18 of the Western Coal and Mining Company that as soon as they strike a gas feeder to get every man out of that entry who is using an open light, and to notify the gas man and mine foreman to come in and examine the feeder to see how much gas has accumulated in the place, and not to work it any more with an open light until notified by the mine foreman that the conditions in the entry are such as to make it safe to work with an open light.

4. Mine explosion. Investigated by Pellegrino. I was notified on the night of August 2 at about 10:55 o'clock, by J. L. Dunn, mine foreman of mine No. 45 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, that a fatal accident had happened at their mine that night. I started toward the office to get ready to go to the mine, and when I got to the office I was notified that the injured man, James Morris, was dead, that they had him out of the mine, that Doctor Swartz had pronounced his death caused by suffocation or asphyxia, and they were taking him to his home. After I got this information I did not think there was any need to go to the mine that night, as I could not see how we could do anything.

On account of W. R. Fairley being in Pittsburg holding an investigation in regard to the mining situation of the state of Kansas, I sent Deputy Inspectors James Sherwood and Martin Kotzman to the mine to investigate the cause of the explosion. Mr. Fairley and myself left the office later on to go to the mine, and when we arrived Deputy Inspectors Sherwood and Kotzman were on top and had completed their investigation. The evidence shows that the death of James Morris was caused by a local explosion in the northeast angle of the east side, for he was found in room 16 about sixteen feet from the switch, and matches were found strewn around in the room, which shows that he was trying to find his way out and the afterdamp caused by the explosion had suffocated him. The evidence also shows that a coal shot was drilled on the left rib of the entry 6 feet 8 inches deep and had only about 2-foot chance, and was shot with black powder. A shot on the right rib was drilled 6 feet and was a fair shot. From all of the evidence taken Mr. Morris was an experienced shot firer and had fired shots over sixteen years in this field. He had been firing shots in the above mine for over a year. The mine foreman and his fellow workers placed very high confidence in his ability as a shot firer and miner.

The following statement was made by Deputy Inspectors Sherwood and Kotzman:

Inspector Pellegrino notified us on August 3, 1915, at about 7 o'clock a. m. that an explosion had happened at mine No. 45 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, located at Ringo, on the evening of August 2. We

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came to Pittsburg to the office and got our safety lamps and went to mine No. 45 in company with A. I. Young and J. J. V. Forbes of the Federal Bureau of Mines, and arrived there at about 8:30 a.m. We met Dave Dunn, superintendent; John Dunn, foreman; Alex. McAllister and John Fleming, jr., pit committee; and James Kent and Albert Stuss, fire bosses.

We got ready and went down the mine at about 9 o'clock a.m. and proceeded to the angle north back entry on the east side and found coking on the timbers and not very much evidence of violence on the first east off angle north back entry. As we proceeded we found more evidence of disturbance, as the entry was strewn with powder kegs and dust, and we found a fall of rock on the angle north back entry. We proceeded on up the entry past the second east off angle north to room 13 and found coking on props. At room 14 we found a loaded car on the entry just outside of the room neck, and one in room neck, and a tool box broken up and three sticks of dynamite in the box. We found that it had been blown about eight feet from where it had originally set. There we found a half keg of powder, a roll of fuse and four sticks of dynamite undisturbed. At a crosscut between rooms 15 and 16 we found a keg of powder and roll of fuse, and timbers showed signs of coking. The body of James Morris was found by the rescue party about sixteen feet from the frog of the switch of room 16. On examining the room we found matches strewn around, and indications showed that he had been trying to find his way out. We also found that the two shots in the face of the room had not been fired, and had been tamped with drill dust. It is a distance of 173 feet from face of the entry to the frog of the switch of room 16. About 20 feet inside of room 16 we found a tool box on the right rib of the entry, which was locked and undisturbed, and about 50 feet from face of back entry we found a box locked and undisturbed. We then proceeded to the face of the entry and found a small trace of methane mixed with carbon monoxide. We found there had been four shots fired. One was a brushing shot; one a cutting shot in a horseback five feet on the solid, and indications showed that it had been shot with dynamite; a shot fired on the right rib of the crosscut at the face had apparently done its work, and it showed that it had too much powder; one on the left rib of the crosscut for a cutting shot, and as near as we could ascertain had been drilled 6 feet 8 inches deep, and 4 feet 8 inches of it on the solid, and indications showed that it was fired with black powder. This is the shot that evidently caused the disturbance in this entry. We found that there had been two shots in the face of the main entry which had done their work. The explosion evidently started from the crosscut at the face of the entry, and gained force as it went out, and showed signs of greatest force from room 15 out past the second east, where it expended itself. We returned to the top and statements were taken from all witnesses.

5. Fatal accident. Investigated by Paisley. Accident to Robert Austin, shot firer, at mine No. 15 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, on August 18, 1915.

I was notified on the evening of August 18, 1915, at about 9:20 o'clock, by Phil Roeser, superintendent of the Western Coal and Mining Company, that an accident had occurred at mine No. 15, in which Robert Austin, a shot firer, had been killed, and was already taken out of the mine and to Pittsburg in an ambulance. A little later in the evening I met Mr. Pellegrino and informed him of the accident. As he was obliged to be away for a few days, he instructed me to make an investigation as to the cause of the accident.

I came to the office on the morning of the 19th, at 7:30 o'clock, and called Mr. A. I. Young of the government Bureau of Mines, and he, in company with J. J. V. Forbes, another government official, came to the office, and we went to Franklin on the 8:30 car and arrived at the mine



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at about 9:10 a. m. A. I. Young, J. J. V. Forbes of the government Bureau of Mines; Phil Roeser, superintendent; Frank Price, mine foreman; Dan Armstrong, miner; Lem Shop, boss driver; Frank Banks, boss driver; J. A. Whisler, miner; Andrew McGee, shot firer; O. Powers, motorman; Wm. Wilkinson, Joe Cascaletto and Pete Giovando, members of the pit committee, and myself, formed an investigating party and went into the second east off second north on west side of the mine to the place where Robert Austin was found. From the evidence taken, Austin was found just inside of room 3, about 40 feet from the face of the entry. We found that the shots in the entry and rooms 2 and 3 had been fired, and two shots in room 1 not fired; also found some matches in room 1 about 25 feet from the face, and some near the switch of this room. The evidence shows that he undoubtedly got lost in the dark and was suffocated, as there was no indication that an explosion had occurred.

6. Fatal accident. Investigated by Pellegrino. Occurred to Mr. L. J. Nuckolls on August 23, 1915, at mine No. 42 of the Central Coal and Coke Company.

On August 23, 1915, at about nine o'clock p. m., I was notified by the bookkeeper of the Central Coal and Coke Company that an accident had occurred at mine No. 42, located three and a half miles south of Scammon, and that L. J. Nuckolls, engineer at that mine, was killed at about 8:30 o'clock by a fall of rock in the pump house at the bottom of the mine while fixing the pump. It was too late that night to go out to the mine, so I proceeded to the mine on August 24 to make a thorough investigation of the accident. We could not go down in the mine on account of it being flooded with water, and we did not know how long it would take to get the water out, so I took all of the evidence that I could get on the surface, and left Mr. Green, deputy mine inspector, to complete the investigation as soon as he could get into the mine. From all of the evidence taken, L. J. Nuckolls was killed by a fall of rock while fixing the pump at the bottom of the mine. The pump house was newly timbered on August 20, 1915, and it is a mystery to me how an accident could occur at that place if the timbering of the pump house was done in a practical manner.

Statement by Deputy Inspector Green:

I went to mine No. 42 of the Central Coal and Coke Company on August 24, 1915, in company with John Pellegrino, state mine inspector, to investigate the accident to L. J. Nuckolls, and on account of the pump being broken down it was necessary for us to wait two or three hours until the water was taken out of the mine. Mr. Pellegrino having other work to attend to, left me to finish the investigation in the mine. As soon as the water was taken out I went into the mine and examined the condition of the pump house where L. J. Nuckolls was killed. I found that all of the timbers used to timber the pump house had fallen down, and I could not find any broken timbers. The timber used to timber the pump house and put it in safe condition was a good grade of timber. In my opinion three or four ordinary pit cars of rock fell, but it is hard to tell whether it was the rock or timbers that fell and killed L. J. Nuckolls.

7. Fatal accident. Investigated by Pellegrino. I was notified by phone on August 24, 1915, at about two o'clock p. m., that an accident had occurred at mine No. 2 of the Cherokee Crescent Coal Company. It was too late that day to make an investigation of the accident, and on account of having arrangements made for August 25 to go to Breezy Hill to take samples of air in mine No. 7 of the McCormick Coal Company, I notified Fred Green, deputy mine inspector, to go to the mine and make a thorough investigation of the accident. I also notified George Knoll, stenographer, to go to the mine and assist Mr. Green in conducting the investigation. From the evidence received, Chiri Gaetonio was fatally injured by a fall of rock on August 24, in room 9 in the first south back

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entry off the third west on the east side of mine No. 2 of the Cherokee Crescent Coal Company, commonly called the Star mine, located about one-half mile north of Roseland, at about 12:45 o'clock, in a room adjoining his own, while helping or showing his brother-in-law, who worked in the room where the accident occurred, how to do his work.

Statement by Deputy Inspector Green:

Chiri Gaetonio, miner, was fatally injured by a fall of rock on August 24, 1915, in room 9 in the first south back entry off third west on east side of mine No. 2 of the Cherokee Crescent Coal Company, at about 12:45 o'clock. The rock fell right up at the face of the room and measured 12 feet 6 inches long, 4 feet 9 inches wide on one end, 3 feet 4 inches wide through center, and 1 foot 10 inches wide on the other end, and averaged about 6 inches thick. The room is driven in a distance of 64 feet and is 26 feet wide at the face. We found nine props lying at the face and around the rock, which were gotten about half way up the room and used to pry the rock off Gaetonio; also seven props set up within twelve feet of the face of the room, two props in room neck, and a loaded car at the face of the room. From the evidence submitted to me on August 25, 1915, Chiri Gaetonio and Adolfo Varale were brothers-in-law, and Varale not being an experienced miner, they worked in rooms adjoining each other and Gaetonio looked after him and helped him with his work. Gaetonio came into Varale's room on this date and was helping him with his work when he was instantly killed by the fall of rock.

8. Fatal accident. Investigated by Pellegrino. Occurred at mine No. 5 of the Sheridan Coal Co., on September 2, 1915, to Sanford Neil, extra shot firer.

On September 2, 1915, I was notified by Charles Paisley, deputy mine inspector, at about 7:25 p. m., that the ambulance was going north, and he asked if I knew whether an accident had happened. I did not hear anything of an accident, and I called up W. R. Kershaw, office manager of the Sheridan Coal Company, over the phone at about 7:30 and asked him if he heard of an accident out north. He told me that Sanford Neil was killed while firing shots at mine No. 5 of the Sheridan Coal Company, located about one and one-half miles south of Mulberry. From the evidence taken on September 3, the body of Neil was taken out of the mine at 4:35, and we did not get a report from the Sheridan Coal Company until I called them up over the phone at 7:30. These companies should be forced to call the inspection department at once and let us know. It was too late that day to go to the mine, and I proceeded to the mine the next day and made thorough investigation.

The following accompanied me into the mine to the place where the accident occurred: W. R. Schooley, mine foreman; Ed Schooley, shot firer; Melvin Lacey, shot firer; P. Pinamonti and J. O. Nelson, mine committee.

The accident happened in the first working room in the third west off straight west on the south side of the mine. The body was found 35 feet from the switch of the room, on the right side and at the end of the track. It was 21 feet from the body to the first shot on the left-hand side; this was a good shot; and 24 feet from the body on the left-hand side of the working face was another shot, and it was blown all over the room. It was 14 feet from where the body was found to the crosscut, and 20 feet from the crosscut to the switch. His cap, lamp and open knife were found on the right side of the room about 5½ feet from where the body was found. One piece of burned fuse about 3 feet 8 inches long was found, also other small pieces of fuse scattered over the room. All the shots were fired in that entry. His match box with fifteen unburned matches was found just inside of the room switch, and I presume it was lost out of his pocket while the rescue party pulled him out of the room.

From all of the evidence that I could get Sanford Neil was killed by a shot or shots going off while he was in the room after he lighted the

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fuse on those shots, and that he failed to get out of the way of flying coal. The supposition is that he must have got in the dark or lost his way, or that it was faulty fuse that caused his death. He was not employed as regular shot firer. This was his third shift as extra shot firer in that mine for ten months.

9. Fatal accident. Investigated by Pellegrino. On September 27, 1915, I was notified at 1:30 p. m., by F. C. Nichols, cashier of the Nevius-Coulter Coal Company, that John Kurtz, a miner at their mine No. 6, was fatally injured by a fall of rock. I proceeded to the mine at once, accompanied by George Knoll, stenographer. John Kurtz, miner, 72 years of age, was killed by a fall of rock in his own working place, room No. 1 in the back east on the south side of mine No. 6 of the Nevius-Coulter Coal Company, located about one mile south of Radley, between 10:30 a. m. and 12:20 p. m. Mr. Kurtz was one of the pioneer miners of this field, having worked here almost thirty years.

James Monahan, superintendent; F. C. Nichols, cashier; Blaine Dunlap, foreman; Alex. Coffey, boss driver; Frank Steenhant, Adolph Deloney and John Kenyon, members of the mine committee, accompanied me into the mine to the place where the accident occurred. The roof or top of his room was in a very bad condition, and if his room had been propped up in a practical manner this accident would not have happened. The room was driven in a distance of 108 feet. There was a horseback 85 feet from the switch, and the face of the room was about 28 feet inside of the horseback. The widest place inside of the horseback was 22 feet 8 inches. It is 19 feet from the horseback to the rock that killed John Kurtz. The rock fell about 2 feet from the face of the coal and measured 8 feet 1 inch long, 6 feet 2 inches wide on one end, 5 feet 3 inches wide on other end, and was 7½ inches thick on one end, 7 inches in center and 6 inches on other end and tapered out to a feather edge.

There was not a prop set up inside of the horseback, but there were thirteen props 3 feet long, two ties and some cap pieces laying in one pile inside of the horseback. Just inside of the switch there was another pile of fourteen 3-foot props and some cap pieces. The room was propped up in a fairly good manner from the switch to the horseback. Mr. Kurtz was hard of hearing and undoubtedly thought the top was solid. To prevent accidents of this kind there should be a law passed not to allow a man who is hard of hearing to work in a mine, or that the mine foreman be compelled to visit his place at least once a day and see that the place is kept secure from all danger.

It appears from the position that Mr. Kurtz was found in that he was mining off a shot at the face of the room when the accident occurred, as his pick was found lying right in front of him and the shot was partly mined. It appears that he had mined on the shot only a short time. Nobody heard the rock fall, and therefore it was some time before they knew of the accident. The driver, Walter Smith, gave him a car at 10:30, and at 12:30 he went to pull his car out and found it loaded and pushed outside of the horseback. He then went up to the face and found Kurtz lying under the rock.

10. Fatal accident. Investigated by Pellegrino. On September 30, 1915, I was notified by Charles Paisley, deputy mine inspector, that an accident had occurred at mine No. 10 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, in which John Jerko, shot firer, was fatally injured by a blow-through shot. I proceeded to the mine on October 1, accompanied by George Knoll, stenographer, and made a thorough investigation of the same.

The following persons formed the investigating party that accompanied me into the mine: Phil Roeser, superintendent; Robert Haig, foreman; John Patterson and Charles Gerhard, members of the mine committee; and Arthur McNally, miner.

The evidence taken shows that the accident occurred in the first working room in the back entry off the first stub off sixth west on the south

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side of mine, and that John Jerko was killed by a blow-through shot that was put in by John Kozlever in the second room in the sixth west on the south side. This room is going north and is in about 150 feet, and the two shots that were put in on this date blew through into the first working room off first stub off sixth west on south side; room is in about 90 feet and is going west. John Jerko was found in this room about 7½ feet from the face of the room. It was 23 feet from one shot that blew through to the place where he was lying, and 17 feet from the other shot. His lamp and cap were found about 20 feet from the first shot, blown up against the working face. It is 74 feet from the switch to where he was found. Jim McCarey had three shots in his place, the second room in the sixth west, two in the center and one on the right side of the track. The shot right in front of the track had the fuse split, and it appears that John Jerko was trying to light that shot when the shots in room 1 off first stub off sixth west went off and blew through and fatally injured him with flying coal.

From the evidence taken John Jerko was warned by both men working in these rooms, on account of the danger of a blow-through shot, as the pillar was too thin, and they had expected the shots to blow through for several days.

11. Mine explosion. Investigated by Pellegrino and Paisley. On November 4, 1915, at about seven o'clock p. m., I was notified that an explosion had occurred at mine No. 2 of the Katy Coal Company at about six o'clock that evening. This is a new mine, and is located about two miles southeast of Radley on a switch off the Santa Fe, and is 168 feet deep and has about a 3-foot seam of coal.

Deputy Inspector Paisley and myself immediately proceeded to the mine with an auto, and when we arrived we were notified that one of the shot firers, Claude Hamilton, was killed by the force of the explosion, and that his buddy, L. T. Williams, had been able to get out on his own accord. As it was too late that night to make an investigation of the mine I instructed the mine foreman not to disturb anything in the mine, as I would return the next day and make an investigation.

On November 5, 1915, Deputy Inspector Charles Paisley, George Knoll, stenographer, and myself again proceeded to the mine, and, in company with Joe Gladys, mine foreman; John Wright, Ben Zackery and Bob Dewberry, members of the mine committee; Thomas McLaughlin, gas man; Henry Pierce, engineer; Chris Abbott and George Griffith, electricians; Tony Allasia, Wm. Roy and Harry Pollock, miners, made a thorough examination of the mine.

We went into the first east straight entry on the north side of the mine, where Claude Hamilton was found, and the evidence taken shows that he was found 18 feet east of room 15 on the right-hand side of the entry. The gas man, Thomas McLaughlin, stated that he found some gas in the entry and a small amount of gas in one of the rooms inside of a horseback on November 4, 1915, the morning before the explosion occurred. We did not find as much evidence of violence in the first east entry, where the body of Hamilton was found, as we found in the main north entry. The props and ribs in the first east entry were charred a little and some timbers and dirt was strewn along the entry. In the main north entry we found six or seven powder kegs that had the appearance of having been ignited and exploded by the fire of the explosion; also a few places were charred considerably. Some of the tool boxes were bursted open and others were blown along the entry. The appearance of those powder kegs shows that they had been opened unlawfully, and they evidently were not corked up airtight.

It is reasonable to assume that the powder going off in the north entry was a great factor in the explosion, but the evidence taken shows that all of that entry was fired before the shot firers commenced firing in the east entry. This shows that the primary cause was in the first east, and

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the evidence shows that some one occasionally overcharged their shots in that entry. If there were some shots overcharged that night, this, with the dust that had accumulated in that entry, were the primary causes of the explosion.

Section 2 of the Kansas mining laws defines the manner in which a package of powder shall be opened, as follows: "It shall be unlawful for any miner, mine laborer or other person in any mine or mines to open any original package of powder in any manner other than unsealing the seal thereof." Every miner in the state should abide by that law, as it will lessen the dangers in a mine considerably. Furthermore, these packages of powder or explosives should be kept in a good, substantial tight box, and kept in a safe distance from any shots, so that in case of an explosion the fire can not get to the explosives and set them off, causing additional danger to the lives of shot firers, and damaging the mine more or less.

The miners should refrain from overcharging their shots, as a great percentage of these explosions are caused by it. The evidence shows that the entry where the accident occurred was dusty, and that Claude Hamilton was afraid of an accident, as he told his buddy, L. T. Williams, that he had five places to light and that on account of the entry being dusty for him to get in the clear, as he was going to do the same.

The best and only way to prevent these accidents is to install an apparatus to fire the shots from the surface at a time when there is no one in the mine.

12. Mine explosion. Investigated by Pellegrino and Paisley. On November 5, 1915, at about 6:40 p. m., I was notified by George Mack, superintendent of the Girard Coal Company, that an accident had occurred at their mine No. 7, located at Radley. This mine is 185 feet deep and is a good coal producer.

Mr. Mack said we had better get all of the safety appliances we would need, as he expected some trouble in getting the men out of the mine. I got some flashlights, the lung motor, Dreager apparatus and safety lamps from my office, and then drove down to the mine-rescue station and got two Westphalia apparatus to take along.

On account of an immense crowd being around the mine a rope was procured and about 20 feet around the landing was roped, and the crowd was held behind the ropes. We went down the mine, and when we got to the bottom we found August Dorchy, who was overcome by smoke. I offered to help him, but he refused any help, stating that he could get along, but that there were about twelve men down in the smoke in the fourth north that needed some help at once.

We went in, and at the door we found three men overcome by smoke and Dr. D. C. Smith taking care of them. I started to go into the entry where the accident occurred, when I heard the cars rumbling. I waited for the cars to get by me, and when they passed I was notified that they had found the shot firer, Gus Buccari, and that he was dead. They had him in an empty car bringing him out. There were eight men overcome by smoke, and I had them placed in empty cars and hauled out to the parting in the fourth east. I worked on the men to bring them back to consciousness, and as soon as they were in condition to be brought out of the mine I let them go, and at about 9:45 we had everybody on the surface.

George Mack asked me if he and a party could go in the mine to see if everybody was out. We agreed that they must be out at 10:30, and if not a rescue party would go in and get them. They were out at the agreed time and stated that everybody was out of the mine. During the time that they were in the mine I saw to it that every man that was overcome was taken home and taken care of. We could not do any more, so

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went home and advised the men and company that I would return on November 7, 1915, and make an examination of the mine.

On November 7, 1915, Deputy Inspector Charles Paisley, George Knoll, stenographer, and myself proceeded to the mine, and in company with George Mack, superintendent; Bill Hudson, foreman; Candy Ropele, gas man; Jim Newton, Wesley Bennington and Jim Evans, members of the mine committee; James Brain, air man; Andrew Quato, miner, and Jim Richards, boss driver, made a thorough examination of the mine.

The evidence taken shows that at the time the accident occurred Buccari was in the fourth north back entry off the fourth east on the north side of the mine, but was found in the fourth north straight entry off the fourth east on the north side, leaning up against a car without a lamp and cap. His lamp and cap were found in the back entry, and all of the evidence shows that he was getting ready to prepare those shots in the last room in the back entry when a windy shot or his open light ignited the gas and caused a small explosion, setting off two kegs of powder in the back entry and burning him. He left his oil lamp where it was found and tried to get out in the dark, and he evidently lost his way at the back entry switch, for instead of going out he went back up in the straight entry, as we found twenty matches unburned and two broken ones where he tried to get a light, and 147½ feet north of the bunch of matches we found four more in a bunch. About 262 feet north of the frog of the back-entry switch we found a whole keg of powder in the middle of the road, not damaged, and a tool box turned over in the mouth of the room, and fuse lying out on entry. He was found leaning on an empty car, which was off the track about 359 feet from the frog of the back-entry switch. There were six rooms in the straight entry, and all the shots were fired. There was not much evidence of fire in the entry, for in the first working room going in the entry there was a loaded car on the switch with a paper check No. 28 attached to it, and no indication of fire at all. Between the second and third rooms, going in the back entry, we found two powder kegs showing evidence of having been exploded, and about six feet from the bursted kegs was a tool box with two-thirds of a keg of powder which had not been ignited, and the tool box was not charred.

The evidence shows that the fan was stopped during the time that the shot firers were in the mine. It stands to reason that an explosion will result in a mine where fire damp is generated and open lights are permitted to be used, unless there is a sufficient volume of air supplied to carry off and render harmless all noxious and explosive gases generated therein. If the fan is shut down any length of time the gas will accumulate, and the theory is that Gus Buccari, the shot firer, was trying to prepare the shots in the last room of the back entry off the fourth north off the fourth east when his open light or a windy shot ignited the gas in that room. His open light was found near the right-hand rail of the entry, and if those two kegs of powder had not exploded the explosion would not have been so terrific. All the evidence shows that Gus Buccari was alive after the explosion and was trying to find his way out, but got lost. We found two bunches of matches at different places in the fourth north straight entry, and this shows that he was confused and went the wrong way. The shots seemed to be in fair condition in that entry, and at the time the examination was made we could not find any evidence of a dust explosion.

In conclusion I will make the following recommendations: Shot firers should carry safety lamps with which to test for gas before lighting shots, and should never go into a mine without a flashlight. The extremely dangerous practice of placing powder, powder cans and tool boxes in unprotected places, especially on haulage entries, should be prohibited. All powder cans should be opened according to law instead of being opened with a pick and corked with a wad of paper. Further, the ex-



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tremely dangerous practice, followed in this case and heretofore, of men rushing in a mine without any protection whatever to find victims of such accidents as these should be discontinued, and proper means provided and sufficient training given to enable the rescue party to use breathing apparatus and to give intelligent first-aid treatment.

13. Fatal accident. Investigated by Sherwood. Emanuel Pierret, miner, was fatally injured by a fall of rock in mine No. 49 of the Central Coal and Coke Company, on November 16, 1915, at about three o'clock p. m. I examined the place where the accident occurred on November 17, and found that the accident occurred in the first north off west in an entry turning east to meet the first west back entry off the north. The rock measured 8 feet long on one end, 6½ feet on the other end, 3 feet 8 inches wide on the end where it broke off a horseback on the right rib of the place, 3 feet wide through the center, and tapered to a point on the other end. The rock averaged 16 inches in thickness and was estimated to weigh about two tons. It was 9 feet 4 inches from the center of the track to the face of the entry, 41 feet from the center of the rock to the face of first north off west. The entry was 13 feet 7 inches wide where it turned off first north. We found a number of props ranging from 3 feet 4 inches to 3 feet 6 inches lying on the entry near where the rock fell. From all indications Mr. Pierret was drilling a hole when the rock fell, as his post was set up and his file and the crank to the machine were lying at the end of the threadbare and he was found in a stooping position under the rock next to the machine. The coal vein at the face was 3 feet 4 inches high. From the face of the cutting to the middle of the track was 13 feet. We found several ties lying around the rock, which probably were used to take the rock off Pierret.

14. Fatal accident. Investigated by Paisley. I visited mine No. 2 of the Muddy Creek Coal Company, operated by W. J. Thirwell, on December 11, 1915, and investigated the accident which occurred to Charles Brown on December 10. I found that Brown was fatally injured by a fall of rock in his working place, which was a room in first north off main west. The room was driven in a distance of 125 feet from the entry. The room was 33 feet wide at the point where the rock fell on the north side of his room. It was 6 feet from the outside end of the rock to the center of the track. The rock measured 8 feet long, 2½ feet wide and would average about 12 inches in thickness. There were five props set up within eight feet of the rock. The coal vein is about 30 inches in height and has a very uneven top. There were two 3-foot props and two cap pieces at the face of the room, and from all appearances and the testimony taken Mr. Brown was a careful workman. The rock was cut off by several slips in the roof.

15. Mine explosion. Investigated by Pellegrino. On December 30, 1915, I was notified at about 8:10 p. m., by the Western Coal and Mining Company, that an accident had occurred at their mine No. 15. One of their shot firers, Henry Klier, had failed to report on the pit top. They stated that they did not notice any explosion and that the mine foreman, Frank Price, went into the mine with a rescue party to get Klier and they would let me know later if they would have to use any rescue apparatus. I called Charles Paisley, deputy mine inspector, over the phone and requested him to come to the office and get our apparatus ready to go out to mine No. 15, Western, as it appeared that an accident had occurred to one of the shot firers at that mine. I got an auto and drove down to the rescue station and got five of the two-hour service apparatus, and Mr. Boardman, foreman of the rescue station, accompanied me to the office to get the lung motor and safety lamps to go to the mine. On arriving at the office we were notified by Paisley that the shot firer had been found by the rescue party and that he was dead and that they were bringing

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him to Pittsburg in an ambulance. There being no need of us going to the mine, we returned the apparatus to the mine-rescue station.

On December 31, 1915, James Sherwood and Charles Paisley, deputy mine inspectors; George Knoll, stenographer, and myself proceeded to mine No. 15 of the Western Coal and Mining Company to investigate the accident which occurred to Henry Klier (married), shot firer at that mine. The following were members of the investigating party and proceeded into the mine: Phil Roeser, superintendent; Frank Price, foreman; Frank Banks and Lem Shoup, boss drivers; William Wilkinson, pit committee; Chas. Paisley and James Sherwood, deputy mine inspectors, George Knoll and myself.

As we were going into the mine the engineer informed me that there were some men in the mine bratticing, as the force of the explosion had demolished some of the doors in the mine. On arriving at the bottom of the mine we could not find any disturbance, and everything seemed to be normal until we got near the sixth north on the east side of the mine. That door was broken to pieces by the force of the explosion and was canvas nailed over the frame to force the air to circulate in its proper course. The sixth south door was not damaged at all. We kept on going in towards the face and found that the door of the seventh south had burned down, and Frank Price, mine foreman, informed me that the door was on fire the night before and that he thought that he had put it out, but must have left some sparks of fire, as the door was completely burned down the next morning. The seventh north door was broken in two there was quite a lot of evidence of violence at the seventh north, but not much signs of fire. The door at the eighth south was blown through the frame, door broken, but still hanging on the frame. The door of the eighth north was broken and blown through the frame. We found coke all of the way in from the sixth south up into the ninth north entry. We also found some coke on legs for crossbars at the mouth of the sixth south, on the south side of the legs and from the sixth south going east towards the face the coking was on the west side on all places where any was found. The curtain on the ninth south and ninth north was scorched but not burned. A little coking was found on the ninth north back entry. There were some powder kegs mashed by the force of the explosion and quite a bit of rock strewn along the entry. There was a strong smell of fire still in the mine. There were also props and empty powder kegs thrown on the entry by the force of the explosion; some tool boxes were thrown along the entry and at other places tool boxes were still intact. In the second working room there were two empty cars undisturbed, some coking on the cars, and the shot mark hanging on the mouth of the room was burned to a crisp.

The place where Henry Klier was found was 15 feet inside of the eighth north frog of the switch, and 3 feet 4 inches west of where he was found we found a cluster of coke on the west side of a crossbar that was placed 5 feet 8 inches from the rail. From all of the evidence that we could get Henry Klier was firing shots in the ninth north back entry, as all of the shots were ignited in the ninth north straight entry, and it appears that he was lighting some shots in the last room at the face. He had one shot lighted in that place and apparently had not touched the other shot, as the fuse had not been split. It appears that something happened to him while he was in that place and he tried to get away, but only got to the place where he was found. The evidence shows that in the ninth north straight entry there were some bad shots in the second and third rooms. In the third room was a shot which apparently had an undercharge of powder, and in the second room one that had an overcharge of powder, and it appears that one of these shots was the primary cause of the dust exploding, and that Henry Klier was apparently suffocated by the afterdamp of the explosion.



Mine No. 14 of the Western Coal and Mining Company, located near Fleming, Kan.