

as possible. It only requires the fraction of a second to find out if more than one bell is to be given, and the small loss of time to the company should not be considered when put in the balance with a human life.

*Needed Legislation.*—There should be a law to govern mines generating fire-damp where the use of safety lamps are necessary for the safety of the employés. Most of the accidents due to explosions in this district could have been prevented if we had laws in this State such as are in force in Pennsylvania or in England. I therefore recommend the passage of such a law.

*Prosecutions.*—Benjamin Roberts, mine boss at Spring Hill, was arrested for persisting in acting as mine boss without a certificate of competency. Also John Roberts, one of the owners of the mine, who informed me that they intended to fight the law, but upon the former resigning the case was dropped.

Nelson Plumb, of the Pekin mine, was indicted before the grand jury at Ottawa for refusing to allow Wm. LaCost to act as check-weighman at his shaft, after being duly elected by the men to that office. The case is still pending.

The Gardner-Wilmington Company was prosecuted and fined fifty dollars and costs for not having the mine examined in the morning before the men went to work, resulting in two men getting burned. This was the fault of Ludwig Swansburg (the mine boss) who had been instructed by myself and by the superintendent of the company to have a special examination for accumulation of gas, as the mine was somewhat out of order just after the strike.

The Big Four Company was prosecuted and fined fifty dollars and costs for not having a sump carefully planked over as required by law. A man was found dead in the same, but how he came there is a mystery.

*Fatal Accidents.*—August 23, 1894, John Andrews, miner, aged 45 years, in the C. C. C. No. 1 mine at Oglesby, met his death by a fall of rock at the face of his room. He was wedging down some coal in front of his road when the stone, which was relieved by a slip in the roof, fell on him causing his death. At the inquest it was shown that his place was insufficiently propped, although he had plenty of props at hand. He leaves a widow and seven children living at LaSalle, all of them dependents.

September 8, 1894, at Oglesby mine, John Vetona, miner, aged 23 years and single, was instantly killed by a fall of rock at the face of his room. The accident was caused by a slip in the rock running parallel with the face of the coal and close up to it, and sloping upwards and back to a break about two feet from the face, thus relieving the stone, which to all appearance was safe. The rock fell on him just as he had entered his room to begin work in the morning. His place seemed to be well secured and propped, and the accident seems to have been unavoidable.

September 22, at the Star Coal Company No. 2 mine, Kangley, John Kroker, miner, aged about 45 years and married, was fatally injured by a shot firing on him, and died in about an hour afterward. He and his partner had charged two holes with powder, one in the entry and the other in the crosscut, and lit them both at once; the one in the crosscut went off first, and he, supposing that the other had missed, and without giving it sufficient time, went back to the entry with another squib.