MINE CATASTROPHES
TO BE INVESTIGATED

Experiment To Determine Conditions Leading To An Explosion

Some interesting experiments to determine the conditions necessary for explosions in coal mines are soon to be commenced in the Mining Laboratories by Mr. J. A. Grant, a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Grant expects to obtain sufficient data to make something definite about dust explosions. The work will be started at once, and has been under way for the past two years.

In spite of the frequency with which disastrous explosions occur in coal mines, very little is known in regard to actual conditions leading up to such catastrophes. Mr. Grant has been forcibly impressed by the absurdity of some knowledge, and feels that a year or so can be very profitably spent in investigating this subject. He will attempt to ascertain what the conditions are which prevent or cause the explosion of coal dust after foreign labor employed in the mines has, with much ado, to do with causing explosive conditions, but the preventive measures necessary come down to conditions which can be understood by all.

The first step taken by Mr. Grant will be the analysis of numerous samples of dust from different mines. The samples will be taken from (1) the actual working faces of the mines, where the coal is now being extracted, and where the blasting and cutting are done; (2) the trackways, where more or less accumulation of dust may occur; (3) the grinding out of larger pieces of coal; (4) the main airways, which must contain certain gases, and the five-foot bench, which will contain a mixture of flammable and non-flammable gases. It is necessary to see the variety of mixtures which may be expected.

This much accomplished, Mr. Grant expects to proceed to the matter of been abandoned. The analysis will be served at moderate prices. Throughout the evening an orchestra and refreshments will be furnished. The admission fee will be only 15 cents.

The entertainment for the evening will be furnished by Mr. H. S. Marks of the firm of H. S. Woehling, secretary, reported that the previous meeting the reports of the committee showed a large amount of interest.

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