Podium Presentation

The Cherry Coal Mine Disaster of 1909: A Disastrous Event that Would Spark Change in Illinois

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Mine disasters have been around just as long as mining has been in operation. The Cherry Coal Mine disaster of 1909 took the lives of 259 men. It is indeed a disastrous event but it brought about change to not only Illinois but the rest of the United States. Research that has been done on the Cherry Coal Mine seems to only look at the disaster itself and not the consequences. The purpose of this research project was to look at the consequences that occurred after the disaster. By looking at various sources on the subject such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics report on the incident, there were many findings as to what occurred after the disaster. One major consequence came in the way of relief and aid to the families who lost someone in the mine. Various programs were created by the federal government in response to workmen’s compensation and safety in the mining industry. These programs included the Employers Liability Commission and the Industrial Board. Major conclusions on the effects of the Cherry Coal Mine disaster revolve around the creation of a statewide workmen’s compensation, creation of the Federal Bureau of Mines, stronger safety regulations, the construction of mine rescue stations and a push for child labor laws to be enforced.