

COUDERSPORT, Penn., Nov. 21.—The Austin dam disaster of Sept. 30 "was due to gross negligence on the part of George C. Bayless, President, and Fred N. Hamlin, Superintendent, of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company," was the unanimous verdict to-day of the Coroner's Jury after three hours' deliberation. The inquest concluded to-day with the testimony of T. C. Hatton of Wilmington, Del., who designed and constructed the dam.

Hatton said the Austin dam was the biggest work he had done. His reason for the disaster was that water got under the dam and the stone slid. Hatton said he considered it gross negligence to allow water to run over the spillway after the dam moved in 1910, and that he regarded its moving sufficient notice of its dangerous condition.

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