

Outside.

Outside foremen,	56
Blacksmiths and carpenters,	234
Engineers and firemen,	542
Slate pickers,	2,204
All other company men,	2,166
Superintendents, book-keepers and clerks, ..	78
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Total outside in 1897,	5,280
Total outside in 1896,	5,282
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Decrease outside in 1897,	2
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The examination of candidates for certificates as mine foremen and assistant mine foremen for the Eighth Anthracite District was held at Pottsville, in June, 1897.

The examining board was composed of Thomas Doyle, superintendent; David Lucker and Thomas Holihan, miners, and John Maguire, Mine Inspector.

The following were recommended to the Secretary of Internal Affairs for certificates of qualification:

- Henry Oscar Rowe, Tower City, as mine foreman.
- George Maley, Branchdale, as mine foreman.
- John Doolin, Glen Carbon, as mine foreman.
- Andrew Rogan, Coaldale, as mine foreman.
- George Minnichback, Pottsville, as assistant mine foreman.
- Joseph Soshe, St. Clair, as assistant mine foreman.
- John S. Foley, Joliett, as assistant mine foreman.
- William Bevan, St. Clair, as assistant mine foreman.
- Thomas Hobin, Glen Carbon, as assistant mine foreman.
- Joseph Steinmetz, Tuscarora, as assistant mine foreman.
- John F. Ryan, Pottsville, as assistant mine foreman.
- Fred. Sheidiger, Tamaqua, as assistant mine foreman.
- Mich. E. Crowe, Minersville, as assistant mine foreman.
- Geo. H. Beddow, Minersville, as assistant mine foreman.

Description of Fatal Accidents.

A sad accident occurred at the **New Wadesville shaft** about 7 o'clock on the morning of **January 13**, while the men engaged in sinking the shaft were changing shifts. Four of the day shift men had gone down, and four of the night shift had been hoisted to the surface. After they had gotten off the bucket, William Leonard Taylor, charge-man of the day shift, with Henry Flynn, John Taylor and Peter Linko, laborers, got on to go down, taking with them Matthew Reddington,

the pump boy. The weather was very cold and during the time the bucket had been standing at the landing, the cross head had been frozen to the guides above the surface landing, and, unnoticed by the top man or those in the bucket, did not follow the bucket down. The bucket was stopped at the pump station, 200 feet below the surface, and Matthew Reddington got off and relieved Theodore Frankenstein, the night pump boy, who got on the bucket to go to the bottom to be hoisted with the next load of men. The bucket was again lowered, and when about 100 feet below the pump station, the cross head became loose by the jarring of the rope through it, and went down, striking the bucket with fearful force, breaking the cross head and one of the three chains, by which the bucket was suspended, knocked the four men off, causing them to fall to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of three hundred feet, killing them instantly. Theodore Frankenstein was inside of the bucket, but had been struck by part of the broken cross head, and was fatally injured, but had been left in the bucket, which was hanging sideways, being held by only two chains. The engineer, when he felt the jar, stopped the engine, and, not knowing anything of the condition of the bucket or cross head, was afraid to move either way, when David Jones, one of the men employed at the shaft, who had just arrived on the scene, quickly took in the situation and the need of prompt action, sprung on to the rope and slid down, at great risk to himself, as he did not know whether the bucket had been left on the rope or whether the rope had been broken between the surface and the bucket. He, however, succeeded in getting down safely and found Theodore Frankenstein as above described, and, after disengaging the bucket from the wreck of the cross head, guided him to the top, when he was sent to the Pottsville Hospital, but the poor boy died shortly after reaching there. The writer was at the shaft shortly after the accident, and made an examination as to the cause, and found the guides in the shaft in very good condition, and free from ice or anything that would prevent the cross head from following the bucket down. The steam pipe in the shaft kept the temperature much above the freezing point. There was a thin coating of ice on one of the guides, about ten feet above the surface landing, at the place where the cross head was when the bucket was at the landing, and I think that as the bucket had stood longer than usual on this trip, that the cross head froze and stuck there unnoticed by the top man or those on the bucket.

Elias Shell, a miner, was fatally injured at West Brookside colliery, January 14. He had fired a shot, which knocked out a prop; while dressing the loose stuff off, the slate fell on him, fracturing his spine. He died on January 28.

Michael Fay, a miner, was killed by a fall of coal at Silver Creek colliery, February 3.