

they afterwards left the place, and while near six entry, Roder says he said to Mr. Hornickel, "Hère comes the fire." Hornickel repeated to the others what Roder said. The explosion followed immediately, which resulted in the instant death of all except Roder. The latter reached the surface and said they were all dead inside the mine, and that he had fallen over three of the bodies on six entry face. Having been notified of the explosion, I reached the mine about 3.30 a. m., other parties having been in the mine previous to this, and found the body of Superintendent Hornickel in the entrance of five entry face. The other bodies were located about one hour and a half afterwards on six entry face, all lying within fifteen feet of one another, and all badly mangled. Roder is of the opinion that the gas was ignited by sparks given off by the electric pump. While this is possible, I am inclined to the opinion that the explosion occurred from the fire inside of the stoppings. In the recovery of the bodies I was ably assisted by John McVicker, superintendent of Black Diamond, Catsburg and Mongah mines; Patrick Meean, David Brown, mine foremen of Hazel Kirk No. 1, and Patrick Mennon, of Hazel Kirk No. 2, and John Hiscox of Monongahela.

At the inquest held in Monongahela, November 2, on the bodies of John Hornickel, John Lavery, Henry Clayburn, Daniel Griffith, and Joseph Hunter, the jury rendered the following verdict: "We find that John Hornickel came to his death from a gas explosion at Hazel Kirk mine No. 2, October 29, 1905, by not taking proper precaution in opening the stoppings in said mine, which had been fired nineteen days previous."

G. S. YATES,
J. D. HOON,
DANIEL NEELY,
JOSEPH COATESWORTH,
WILLIAM CATLIN,
IRA M. BUTLER,

Members of Jury.

Joseph Stokes, F. H. Newman, George Wagoner, Edward Farragher, John Hoskins, Edward Hastie were instantly killed in **Braznell shaft November 15**, by an explosion of gas. These persons were on a platform in the shaft, 50 feet from the top and 130 feet from the bottom, making a ring to prevent the water from falling down the shaft. This platform nearly closed up the shaft, in such a manner as to prevent the gas from escaping freely that was generated below. They had used safety lamps, but immediately before the explosion asked for torches, which on being sent down ignited the gas, resulting as stated. John McCatie was also killed by this explosion by flying debris outside of the mine.

At the inquest held at Bentleyville, November 16, on the bodies of Joseph Stokes, John McCatie, F. H. Newman, George Wagoner, Edward Farragher, John Hoskins and Edward Hastie, the following verdict was rendered: "We find that Edward Farragher came to his death Wednesday, November 15, 1905, from a gas explosion in Braznell Shaft No. 1, caused by two open torches sent down in the bucket. And we further find that said accident was due to

an error of judgment on the part of Edward Farragher and Edward Hastie."

J. E. RICHARDS,
J. N. PIERSOL,
L. E. ECBERTON,
T. E. WHITE,
C. K. FRYE,
WILLIAM GREENLEE,
Jury.

Michael and John Coska, machine men, employed at the Hazel Kirk mine No. 2, were killed October 10 by inhaling carbonic oxide gas. An account of this accident will be found in the report regarding the explosion of gas at the same mine October 29. The Coroner's jury's verdict was, that they lost their lives by their own negligence.

Premature Blasts

John Lichy, miner, was fatally injured in Hazel Kirk mine No. 2, on August 2, by a blast through rib, the shot having been fired by Martin Shupie, in room 3, 1 Butt. The deceased was on an entry known as the "Crosscut" and while passing, the debris from blast struck him. It was not known that there was so small a pillar of coal between the two places. Not being clear that he gave sufficient warning, as required by rule 63, of the rules general and special, I entered suit against Shupie. The result of the case will be found in another part of the report.

Falling into Shafts

Thomas Ruane, pipeman, was instantly killed by falling down the shaft of Ellsworth No. 1 mine, January 11. He and others were on the cage to be lowered, and on the signal being given, the cage commenced to descend. When within 25 feet of the bottom of shaft, the engines were reversed, and the cage started upward. On reaching the surface landing, and failing to stop, the deceased jumped, striking his head against the frame work of the hoist and then falling into the shaft.

Stephen Capoka, company man, was instantly killed by falling down the Braznell shaft, October 26. He was standing, previous to the accident, on a landing about 15 feet above the surface, and it is supposed that in dumping a bucket, which had been hoisted from the bottom of the shaft, he slipped and fell.

Mules

John Omiele, driver, was fatally injured in Ellsworth No. 1 mine, while driving a string-team of two mules. He was urging them up grade, using his whip, and running along side of the team. He attempted to get on the bumper of the first car, but slipped off under the feet of the mules and was tramped to death.

Michael Bartis, driver, was fatally injured in Hazel Kirk No. 1 mine, June 20, by being kicked by a mule while stopping his trip at a door. He was kicked on the head.