

struck Amblim fell off the front of the slate which was still up and about six inches from the post. From the appearance of the room at the time of my examination, the accident was caused by an oversight on the part of Amblim.

Blozey Lipyak, miner, was instantly killed, September 26, in Lovedale mine, by a fall of slate. The cause of this accident was negligence on the part of the deceased and the person who worked with him, as there was no evidence produced to show that the slate had been examined for sometime before it fell.

Michael Lazoski, miner, employed in the Ella mine, was instantly killed October 7, by a fall of slate, under which he was working without it being properly supported. The accident was due to carelessness on the part of the deceased.

Michael Domalski, miner, employed in Lovedale mine, was fatally injured October 12, by a fall of slate, while loading a car. Accident due to failure to take the slate down.

Jacob Thorpe, loader after machine, was so badly injured November 10 by a fall of slate in the Risher mine that death resulted November 12. Thorpe, with Frederick Smith, was loading a car in room 89, left 10th entry and accident was caused by their neglecting to place a post under the slate.

George Critcheron, loader after machines, was instantly killed, December 23, by a fall of slate in the Patterson No. 2 mine, while shoveling coal out of the left side of the room. This accident was caused by negligence, as the slate was very bad and should have been taken down.

Andrew Federeska, loader after machines, was instantly killed in Equitable mine, March 22, by a fall of roof coal. The deceased and his partner, Paul Creston, had cleaned up their room and the latter went to get the machine men to cut the place, Federeska remaining in the room. The roof fell on him before Creston returned.

Joseph Treasure, miner, was fatally injured May 2, by a fall of roof coal in Somers No. 4 mine. He had fired a shot and went back to examine it, when the coal fell on him.

Cars, Inside

Mitchel Taylor, driver, was instantly killed in Somers No. 4 mine, April 18, by being run over by a car that he was moving on the entry. No person was present at the time of the accident, but from the surroundings it seems that he had been on the car and in attempting to move a signal board, fell off.

Explosions of Gas and Dust

John Hornickel, superintendent, Daniel M. Griffith, mine foreman, Joseph Hunter, Henry Clayburn and John Lavery, fire bosses, employed in the Hazel Kirk No. 2 mine, were instantly killed October 29, by an explosion of fire damp. October 10, a blast was fired in an entry known as the Right Main which ignited gas from feeders in such quantities as to cause the coal to be set on fire. This was fought by the entrymen until they were nearly exhausted. They then notified the mine foreman, but by this time it was in such a condition as to preclude the possibility of subduing it by direct

means. While they were working at the fire two machine men, John and Michael Coska, were cutting a room in the next entry. They were warned that the mine was on fire, and advised to go outside. They did so, after some delay, but instead of taking the inlet they entered the return, and shortly afterwards they were missed, and a search being made, their bodies were found on the main entry, having been suffocated by noxious gasses. Adam Seboskie, in his evidence, before the Coroner's jury, said that he was with them when they passed through a door which stood in a break-through between Main and Right Main; that they were a short distance in advance of him, when he saw them fall. He himself fell, but managed to get back to the fresh air, and on sufficiently recovering, left the place.

It was soon seen that the fire was beyond control by direct means. I reached the mine about 5.55 p. m. and on entering I found that it was impossible to get within 500 feet of where the fire had its inception. The gas was plainly visible on the safety lamp within 300 feet of the shaft and extended back to the place where the fire started, as far as we could ascertain from the condition of the mine at this point. It was quite evident that the only method to combat the fire was to isolate it, which was done by building brick stoppings in the entries affected by the fire, for the purpose of excluding the air. Water was thrown behind the stoppings. I made an inspection of the mine on the 15th of October, and among places I visited were two of these stoppings, the others I could not reach for water accumulation, I found the stoppings in fair condition, no leaks being noticed. An air current of 32,000 cubic feet was passing within five feet of the return stopping on left main. The stoppings should have been left alone, but the anxiety to open the fire district, overcame their prudence, and on the night of October 28, John C. Hornickel, Daniel M. Griffith, Joseph Hunter, Henry Clayburn, John Lavery and Andrew Roder, superintendent, mine foremen and fire bosses, respectively, entered the mine, the latter being the machine boss, for the purpose of opening up the stoppings. I was not informed what was going to be done, although I had a conversation with the superintendent on the morning of the 28th, while on the train, in regard to other matters pertaining to the mine. I had previously warned him not to be too anxious, but to let the stoppings alone. It seems, however, that they were determined to have the enclosed part of the mine opened, and with this end in view they entered the mine between seven and eight o'clock of the evening of the 28th. From that time we have no evidence of what occurred except such as was furnished by Andrew Roder, who escaped. In his statement to me, he said that on reaching the stoppings, they made a hole in the inlet stopping about 2 feet by 2 feet which they covered with a piece of brattice cloth. They then went to the stopping on the return side and made a similar hole, from which water ran out for about three quarters of an hour. They then returned to the inlet side and removed the brattice cloth, and this was immediately followed by the air passing through the opening. Sometime afterwards they visited the outlet side, the gas firing in their safety lamps next to the stopping. Before this Roder had told them that the place was dangerous, to let it alone, and come back to-morrow, but they would not. However,

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