

Crimes and Casualties.

Thirty Men Shut up in a Mine by a Gas Explosion.

GAS EXPLOSION.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., May 9.—A great explosion of gas occurred this morning in the Wadesville mines near St. Clair. A number of men are imprisoned and it seems impossible to rescue them.

SECOND DISPATCH.

It is reported from St. Clair that 80 men are imprisoned in the Wadesville mine. Their cries for assistance can be plainly heard. Six bodies have already been discovered.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

ST. CLAIR, Pa., May 9.—The terrible explosion of gas which occurred in Wadesville mines this morning resulted in killing and wounding nine men and imprisoning five others. Wadesville shaft 800 feet deep is between Pottsville and St. Clair, and operated by Philadelphia & Reading Coal Co. The warning of the accident was a sudden alarm sent up to the bosses for aid. Descending immediately they recovered the bodies of Jno. Durken and W. Kirk, killed, and hoisted them to the surface. Seven more were then reached, all seriously burned, and it is thought three cannot possibly recover. Three men were imprisoned and behind 200 tons of coal displaced by the explosion. A large force of miners are removing this mass of coal. Some think the imprisoned men can be reached by night, while others think it will be impossible to liberate them before morning, as the gang way which they are confined runs under the surface for over a mile, and getting at them is a slow and laborious task. The scene at the mouth of the shaft is heart rendering. A large number of men, women and children are gathered there anxiously waiting the result of their friends and relatives. Before the men can be rescued it is feared it will be too late to save their lives. They have been in since 10 o'clock and at 1 P. M., their chance of escape is gloomy.

Daily Nevada State Journal
May 10, 1877

Terrible Explosion.

POTTSVILLE, Penn., May 9.—An explosion of gas occurred this morning in the Wadesville mine near St. Clair. It is reported that thirty men are imprisoned in the mine. Their cries for assistance can be plainly heard. Six bodies are already recovered.

Morning Oregonian
Portland, Oregon
May 11, 1877

Body Recovered

Pottsville, Pa. May 10 - The last of the victims of the Wadesville disaster, Benjamin Moseby, was found at midnight. His body was neither burned nor scarred, and it is supposed he was smothered by choke damp.

Wellsboro, Pa.
Tuesday Morning, May 15, 1877

A terrible explosion of gas occurred in the Wadesville mines last Wednesday morning, killing and wounding nine men and imprisoning five. Wadesville shaft, 800 feet deep, is situated between Pottsville and St. Clair; and operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Company. The first warning was a sudden alarm sent up to the bosses for aid. Descending, they recovered the bodies of John Durken and William Kirk, killed outright. Seven more men were then reached. Three cannot recover. Five men were buried behind twenty tons of coal, which was displaced by the force of the explosion.

STATE NEWS.

Explosion of Fire Damp—Seven Men Killed and Six Seriously Injured.

ST. CLAIR, May 9.

A terrible explosion of gas occurred in the Wadesville mines, near St. Clair, at about 10 o'clock this morning, killing and wounding nine men and imprisoning five others. The Wadesville shaft is 800 feet deep, is between Pottsville and St. Clair and operated by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal Company. The first warning of the accident was a sudden alarm sent up to the bosses for aid. Descending immediately they recovered the bodies of John Dunkin and William Kirk, killed outright, and hoisted them to the surface. Seven more men were then reached, all seriously burned, and it is thought three cannot possibly recover. The five men imprisoned are behind 200 tons of coal displaced by the explosion. A large force of miners are removing this mass of coal. Some think the imprisoned men can be reached by night, while others think it will be impossible to liberate them before morning, as the gangway in which they are confined runs under the surface for over a mile, and getting at them is a slow and laborious task. The scene at the mouth of the shaft is heartrending. A large number of men, women and children are gathered there anxiously awaiting the rescue of their friends and relatives. The names of four of the five men imprisoned are Benjamin Mosley, Herbert Moore, Thomas Connors and Joseph Milwood. Before the men can be rescued it is feared it will be too late to save their lives. They have been in since 10 o'clock, and at 1 p. m. their chance of escape is gloomy.

Thomas Connors, among the last of the men brought out, had his head and both legs blown off. Herbert Moore, another of the victims, presented a frightful appearance, his face and body being dreadfully burned and disfigured. John Dunkin was thrown with great violence against the props and walls and instantly killed. Edward Weaklin, who escaped, describes the gas after igniting as flying through the mine with lightning rapidity, destroying everything in its path. Weaklin hearing the first report, quickly laid down and the gas passed over him.

It soon became necessary to fan fresh air into the mine, so foul had the gas become that those sent to rescue men could only work at short intervals. James Sady was badly burned, and it is doubtful if he can recover.

Two miners have just come up and report that a large quantity of coal has fallen on Benjamin Mosely and it will be impossible to get at him for some time. No hopes are entertained for his recovery alive. The latest information indicates that seven men have been killed and six seriously injured by the explosion.