

KILLED IN A MINE.

SEVEN LIVES LOST BY INHALING GAS

Terrible Accident at Wheatland—Suffocated in the Slope of the Brookfield Mine—Brave Volunteers Losing Their Lives Trying to Save Others.

Special Dispatch to THE TIMES.

SHARON, Pa., July 11.

About eleven o'clock this morning a terrible casualty occurred at the mine of the Brookfield Coal Company, about two miles southwest of this place, by which seven miners lost their lives and thirty were nearly suffocated. The Brookfield Coal Company have to haul their coal from the mines through a tunnel about one mile in length. The tunnel was completed about two weeks ago, at a cost of about \$75,000. Soft coal and coke have been successively used on the locomotive, but without success. To-day anthracite coal was tried. Three trips had been made. On the fourth the tunnel, which had been gradually filling with sulphuric gas, became so charged with the foul air that the brakeman and a number of miners were suffocated. The engineer managed to get his engine out of the bank and gave the alarm, after which he sank into insensibility. About twenty men rushed into the bank to render assistance, but all were overcome. Three men were taken out dead and about twenty-six in various stages of suffocation.

BRAVE VOLUNTEERS.

The scenes around the mouth of the tunnel as the dead and dying miners were brought out were too terrible to be lightly described. Wives wept and wrung their hands over dead husbands, mothers wept bitterly over their sons, sweethearts over lovers and sisters over brothers. Physicians were on the ground and rendered valuable assistance. After thirty bodies had been taken out eight men from the Cleveland shaft and Wood's Bank, adjoining, hearing that others were still in the tunnel, entered and were overcome one by one, but they faced death bravely and kept on until smitten to the earth by the foul air. Of these eight men three were subsequently taken out dead and the other five insensible.

The names of the dead, as reported up to eleven o'clock, are:

John Jones, the mine boss; Robert Williams, Miles Davis, David Jenkins, Richard Jones, John Barter and John Youngs.

The names of those that remained unconscious up to a late hour are:

John Davis, William Bowen, John Evans, James Onions, Albert Lindes, Reice Davis, William H. Williams, David Owens, Daniel S. Davis, John E. Thomas, John Williams, David R. Williams, John S. Evans, Alfred Rinstaff, Henry Lewis, William R. Roberts, John Beddie, William Refers, Thomas G. Williams, H. G. Lewis, William W. Jenkins and Evan Hopkins.

It is expected that the majority of these will recover. Every possible attention is given to the poor sufferers. Mr. F. H. Buhl, the manager of the mine, is unceasing in his efforts to relieve the unfortunates. This blow falls heavy on the families of the poor sufferers, who had only their husbands' and fathers' strong arms to support them.

Another Account of the Disaster.

ERIE, July 11.—Between 1 and 2 o'clock this afternoon a curious accident occurred in the mines of the Brookfield Coal Company, near Wheatland, Pa., on the Erie and Pittsburg Railroad, between Sharon and New Castle, by which six persons were killed: Robert Williams, Miles Davis, John Jones, David Jenkins, Richard Jones and John Barter. Twenty-seven more men were nearly suffocated. The coal from the Brookfield mine is hauled out by a locomotive engine. This morning the managers of the mine ordered anthracite coal burned in the engine furnace instead of soft coal, which has been heretofore used. About eleven o'clock the engine passed into the slope. After being in a short time the men in charge of the engine became suddenly affected by the gas from the hard coal, causing them to fall to the ground in an insensible condition. The engineer managed to make his way back to the mouth of the bank and gave the alarm, at which a large number of men rushed into the bank to rescue their comrades. One after another they passed in, but were almost immediately overcome by the gas and they too fell insensible. After several had thus fallen a gang was organized to rescue those who went in last, and squads of four or five passed in until they came to a fallen comrade, when they would take him in their arms and carry him out to the open air. In this way thirty-six men were brought out, six of whom were either dead before reaching the mouth of the bank or died immediately after. Wheatland is a small town, on the Erie and Pittsburg Railway, two miles east of Sharon.