

A Casualty in a Coal Mine.

WHEATLAND, Pa., July 11.

A terrible calamity befell the miners at the Brookfield Coal Company's works, near this place, to-day. The coal is removed from the mine through a tunnel by a locomotive. On account of the smoke interfering with the working of the mine the company ordered anthracite coal used on the locomotive, which order was put into effect this morning.

About eleven o'clock the engine passed into the slope, and 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 a senseless 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.

The dead are John Jones, Superintendent; Miles Davis, Robert Williams, Richard Jones, David Jenkins, John Barton, William Young. Insensible, William Roberts.

1877 Brookfield Mine asphyxiations
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