

LOCOMOTIVE FUMES KILLED TEN MEN

Singular Accident in a Tunnel in a Lykens Valley Coal Mine.

ASPHYXIATED BY THE SULPHUR

By "The Courier's" Own Wire.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., May 26.—The fumes of a small locomotive in a mine tunnel of the Susquehanna Coal Company in the Lyken region caused the death of ten men yesterday as follows:

Wm. Golden, assistant superintendent.
Geo. Radell, master mechanic.
John Kurney.
Joseph Hunch.
Enoch Morgan.
Albert Navey.
Fred. James.
Adam Scoppenheimer.
John Fredench.
Samuel Fredench.

Several others who were overcome by the fumes have recovered.

The Williamstown mine is one of the largest in the Lyken Valley region, and employs several hundred men. The accident is considered the worst which has ever occurred in the region.

Colonel C. B. Dougherty, one of the executive officers of the Susquehanna Coal Company, whose main office is in this city, stated to-day that the accident in their mine at Williamstown, which resulted in the death of ten men, was caused by the sulphur fumes of a small locomotive, and not by an explosion of gas. The accident occurred in a tunnel one mile long which connects Bear Valley with Williams Valley. This tunnel is independent of the mine, which is owned and operated by the Summit Branch Mining Company, one of the subsidiary companies of the Susquehanna Coal Company. This tunnel has been in use for forty years, and there has never been any gas in it. It is used as a "short cut" from one valley to the other, going through instead of over the mountain. Colonel Dougherty says the train was a long one, and a man was overcome with the sulphur fumes from the locomotive which was proceeding slowly. Before the train had reached the end of the tunnel a telephone message was sent for aid for the man, and not thinking the locomotive fumes were responsible for the trouble, the engine was sent in again with a rescue party of men and all were overcome and asphyxiated. Officers of the company here left for the scene this morning. They regret the accident greatly, and say the men who lost their lives were among the most experienced and valued in their employ. State Mine Inspector Roderick will make an investigation.

1904 Williamstown Mine Asphyxiations
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