

TWENTY DEAD BY EXPLOSION

Premature Blast of Dynamite
in a Stone Quarry.

SOUTH BETHLEHEM, N. Y.,
THE SCENE OF DISASTER

One Thousand Pounds of the Deadly
Agent Was Set Off, the Bodies of the
Victims Being Mutilated Beyond Rec-
ognition—Wagon Load of Fragments.

ALBANY, N. Y., May 12.—At least twenty men were killed today by a premature blast of dynamite in a stone quarry operated by the Callahan Road Improvement Company near South Bethlehem, eleven miles southwest of Albany. Among the dead are John Hoyt Callahan, Vice President and general manager of the company; Chas. D. Callahan, a brother of the manager, and Lacey McMillan, assistant superintendent.

HORRIBLY MUTILATED.

One thousand pounds of dynamite exploded and the bodies of the victims were hurled hundreds of feet and so badly mutilated as to be almost beyond recognition. As darkness was falling a wagon drew up to the engine house loaded with fragments of bodies that had been picked up back of the quarry hill.

ENORMOUS BLAST.

The Callahan Road Improvement Company furnishes crushed stone for road building. The preparations for today's blast had been going on for six weeks. Thirteen holes, seventy-five feet deep, had been drilled at points about twenty feet back of the face of the big quarry and the explosion of the dynamite with which they were to be loaded was expected to displace 40,000 tons of rock.

PERCUSSION CAP DID IT.

Over 8,000 pounds of dynamite were to have been used. The workmen had placed 500 charges in six of the holes and were working on the seventh when a percussion cap was prematurely discharged. A terrific explosion which occurred hurled tons of rock into the air and scattered the bodies of the victims in all directions. The officers were standing near by at the time directing the work.

1909 Callahan Stone Quarry explosion
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