

# THE GREAT CALAMITY.

## The Bodies of One Hundred and Eight Miners Recovered.

This Number Supposed to Embrace all the Lost.

Funerals Succeeding Each Other Throughout the Day.

### DESTITUTION OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES.

A Search for Some Record of the Scenes in the Mine.

#### THE DISASTER.

**The Mine Fully Explored—108 Bodies Found—No More in the Mine—The Funeral at Scranton—A Day of Mourning.**

Special Dispatches to the New-York Times.

SCRANTON, Sept. 9.—The assertion that 202 men were entombed in the mine was quickly demonstrated to be an exaggeration, but no one was prepared for the culmination of the great tragedy to-day, when it was finally discovered that no more than 108 lives had been lost by the disaster. The working complement of men was 156, and it was known that eighteen men were out at the time of the fire attending the funeral of a comrade, which should have left 138 in the mine, nor can any one explain why so many bodies were not found. Despite the thorough explorations which have been made, some believe that more dead will be found, and the general disbelief engenders many rumors that new heaps of bodies have been discovered. There is no reason, however, to suppose that the exact extent of the calamity is not now known, and that 108 was the exact number of lives lost by want of an air hole in Avondale mine.

The fever of excitement through all the mining region has not diminished. This having been funeral day, the suspension of business was general, and trains to and from the scene of the calamity have been densely crowded, especially in the latter part of the day, one of thirty-seven platform cars carrying over 3,000 people. The attendance at the mine has been greater than on any day since Monday, and at one time not less than 10,000 were gathered about the fatal shaft. They came only to have a glimpse of the ruins, and, curiosity gratified, were in as great a hurry to leave as to come. Hence the crowd was constantly changing and departing. Trains were so hastily loaded that hundreds of people barely escaped being crushed under the wheels, but miraculously only one was killed during the day. The scenes at the various funerals were heart-rending to the extreme, when thirty-seven men were borne in one *cortège* by ten hearses, and manly wagons year in the afternoon to the Welch cemetery at Scranton, 1,500 people comprised the escort, bells of all the churches were tolled. One woman, on the arrival at the grave, with shrieks of lamentation threw herself on her husband's coffin, breaking the lid, and could scarcely be removed, while others with difficulty were prevented from throwing themselves into the grave. A father was buried with a son on either side, and a stricken wife and mother stood dumb and tearless by her lost. At 7 P. M. the scenes were repeated on a lesser scale, when a second funeral of eleven bodies and afterward five took place, the interment being made in the same cemetery; other burials also took place at Pittston and Wyoming. Fifty-seven have been interred to-day, leaving fifty-one for sepulture to-morrow.

The mining village of Avondale has been nearly depopulated, the head of nearly every family has been taken to the tomb, and in some cases two or more members have been taken away. Monday last it was a flourishing, happy village; to-night there are only five men left in the hamlet. With rare exceptions, the victims were Welsh, and married men, and were the most excellent and experienced miners in the valley. The bitter feeling in reference to the disaster has not diminished to any extent, and the affair is eagerly discussed in hotels, trains and wherever persons congregate. There is a disposition to give the miners a perfectly fair showing, but also a determination to sift the entire matter thoroughly.

New theories as to the origin of the fire have been advanced, and it is claimed that the furnace was so far removed from the bottom of the shaft that it could not have communicated fire to the wood of the shaft, and that it must have been caused by carelessness in the use of or swinging the grate bottom of shaft to expedite ventilation. This is, however, mere theorizing, nor can it positively be ascertained. The utmost now possible is, to establish possibilities by the testimony of experts, whom it is intended to have examined at the inquest. The question, however, of the necessity of separate air-cells is not considered debatable, but is universally admitted. To-night the fatal shaft is almost deserted. A few watchers only remain where, for the past four days, have been scores of noble toilers and thousands of stricken gazers. The exhibition of sublime courage and devotion is over, and the glare of horror is only memory now. Observers posted beside the mouth of the blackened crater, looking over the lovely Wyoming Valley, stretched out below, can almost see in the dim distance to the left, the monument marking the place of the olden Wyoming massacre. That butchery of barbarous and this of civilized times seem to join hands to go down in history together.

### The Exploration of the Mine Continued—Steady Additions to the Discovered Bodies.

Dispatches to the Associated Press.

SCRANTON, Sept. 9.—At 9:47 P. M. last night seventy-five bodies—all that could be found—had been brought up. At 10:30 a party returned after exploring five breasts and finding nothing. Dr. RICARD, of Plymouth, has arrived, to be ready to resuscitate the men if more foul air be encountered.

11:20 P. M., 8th.—A party just up reports two more bodies found.

Midnight.—Thirteen more bodies have been found.

12:45 A. M., 9th.—Another lot of bodies, not yet counted, have been found. The air is still so bad as to prevent more than a few minutes' stay in the mine.

1:30 P. M., 9th.—Eighty-two bodies are now up. Eight more have been found.

### The Last Body Brought to the Surface—Two Men Thought to be Missing—Whole Number Recovered One Hundred and Eight.

AVONDALE, 2:20 P. M.—Messrs. THOMAS CARSON, of Hampton Mine, and GEORGE MORGAN, of Nanticoke, very experienced and competent miners, with twenty men, have just returned from the mine, and report that they have explored every part of the workings and are satisfied that all the bodies have been recovered. Outside parties say that JOHN DAVIS, of Pittston,

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