**Newspapers** 

by ancestry

ELMIRA, N. Y., June 10 .- An explosion of fire-damp occurred in the Henry Clay colliery, near Shamokin, this afternoon. Eleven persons have been taken out, eight of whom were dead. John Hays, inside foreman, is among the latter. From 15 to 25 persons were still in the mine at last accounts, and energetic efforts are being made to get them

SHAMOKIN, Pa., June 11.—The following are the particulars of the explosion in the Henry Clay colliery here yesterday:

The colliery had not been inspected for sometime, but it was always considered safe. It has capacity for mining 8,000 tons of coal per month, and 65 men are employed in it. Conrad Brumheiser, the inside hoss, went into an old working on the water level, when the explosion immediately followed, caused it is thought, by the fire-damp being fired, which communicated with the air ways from the water level into the slope below where the men worked. The men in this section of the coal region not being accustomed to black damp thought it was blasting powder that had been set on fire, and they remained in the slope until almost overcome with black damp, then starting to come up they met the body of the water damp and fell senseless. The stronger men managed to get out, however, and gave an alarm to guide the others who followed, but on reaching the top of the slope they fell back, being completely overcome. John Hause, the outside boss, on hearing the alarm, immediately went to their rescue. After proceeding about 500 yards he fell face downwards into a pool of water and was drowned. Enoch Magenski was found drowned by his side. Eight men were brought out dead. There was no caving in of the mine, as at first supposed, and there was no fault in the ventilation. The accident resulted from old gas exploding in a disused working. Up to 10 p. m. last night ten dead bodies were taken out. Many men from the surrounding country came to render assistance. The excitement was intense, and wives and children were rushing to the scene of disaster, finding their husbands and brothers either dead or gasping for breath, while others were eagerly watching for the arrival of friends on the slope wagons from below. There were fifty men in the slope at the time of the explosion, 35 of whom are known to have escaped and will recover.

Wm. Brown, a prominent coal operator at this place, fell down the Daniel Webster shaft this afternoon, a distance of 165 feet. His leg was broken and he was otherwise severely injured.

The body of Conrad Drumheiser has not yet been found, but the men are working with a will to get him. His time book was found this morning. Five of the victims will be buried to-morrow. The Coroner's jury adjourned until to-morrow morning, they not coming to a definite conclusion, but the deaths are generally attributed to fire-damp. Drum-heiser's body when found will tell the whole story.

1873 Henry Clay Colliery explosion NEWS1

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