

HORRORS OF THE PIT.

**The Fire in the Buck Ridge Coal
Mine Causes Loss of Several
Lives.**

**In Boring Through to the Burning
Mine the Men are Overcome by
Black Damp.**

**Attempts to Recover the Bodies—Six Hun-
dred Persons Thrown Out of Work
—Loss \$100,000.**

SHAMOKIN, PA., August 22.—A fire broke out Wednesday in Buck Ridge mine on a slope one thousand five hundred feet from the surface. The company bought the Greenback colliery adjoining, the workings of which are higher than those of the Buck Ridge colliery. The intention was to bore a hole thirty-six feet long from Greenback to Buck Ridge colliery and turn the creek into both collieries, and by flooding them put out the fire. While men were engaged in this work yesterday gas suddenly poured in from the burning mine, and before they could escape several fell victims to the gas. It is impossible to reach their bodies as both mines are full of gas and fire. Eleven mules are also burned. The fire has not abated, although the heavy pumps have been forcing water down the slope all day. Both Buck Ridge and Greenback collieries are full of gas and a number of men on the surface have been overcome by the escaping gas. There is no possibility of the bodies being reached before to-morrow. A Shamokin, special to a Pittsburgh paper says: Seven men are buried in the Greenback Colliery, near this place, the victims of the

1884 Greenback colliery deaths NEWS

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DEADLY BLACK DAMP.

Their names are William Taylor, married; William Carl, married; Patrick Healy, married; William Fox, married; Robert White, single; Frank Wardrop, pumpman, married. Not since the frightful accident at the Henry Clay works years ago has this town been so terribly excited as it was when news of the disaster spread about. The Greenback colliery is located about two miles east of Shamokin. On Wednesday morning the Buck Ridge colliery, on the Renshaw & Johnson tract, was discovered to be on fire, and the mouth of the slope was shut. The Greenback colliery lies to the Buck Ridge, on the Fulton & Brady tract, a line filler of fifteen yards intervening. When the fire broke out S. B. Whiting and other mining experts made a careful examination and decided to drive a hole from Greenback into the workings of Buck Ridge. The men who were engaged in driving the hole worked all night and had made good progress, and everything at daybreak seemed favorable to the plans adopted for extinguishing the fire. By six o'clock, however, the fire had burned through the old workings of the water level and great quantities of gas began to penetrate into the Greenback workings, and seven men, whose names are not given, were overcome before they could get out of reach of the

DEADLY POISON.

Valentine Depney made an effort to recover the bodies and narrowly escaped losing his own life. Everything possible is being done to reach them, but no doubt exists any longer of their fate. Eleven mules are supposed to have been smothered or burned. The fire is burning more fiercely than ever and both collieries are likely to be a total loss. An estimate of the loss to the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, which owned the mines, cannot be made until the exact extent of the fire is ascertained. Greenback and Buck Ridge collieries employ over six hundred men and boys who will be thrown out of employment in consequence of the fire. The fire started in the fan house and the flames ascended so rapidly that all the timbers which supported the roof of the mines have already been burned away. Heavy falls of top coal and rock are constantly occurring.

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OFFICIALS ON HAND.

PHILADELPHIA, August 22.—A special from Shamokin says the Reading officials are on hand and doing all they can to get the dead men out. The excitement in the town is intense. At this time but little headway has been made. Men are slowly moving down the slope, carrying with them a crattice and an air pipe of three inches in diameter. It is not supposed that the bodies of the men in the slope can be recovered before Saturday. The mouth of the Buck Ridge slope was opened last evening. Noxious gas at the face of the Greenback colliery overcomes any one who goes within five feet of it. If an air way can be put down to the water level of the Greenback slope, which is about two hundred feet higher than the Buck Ridge, the men can easily be reached. Nothing will be left undone nor expense spared to recover the bodies. The loss to the coal and iron company will probably reach \$100,000 besides having a long term of idleness forced upon their employes.

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