

DEADLY FIRE DAMP.

Seven Men Buried in a Living
Grave at the Greenback
Colliery.

One of the Most Frightful Accidents
in the History of the Anthra-
cite Region.

SHAMOKIN, PA., August 21.—Seven men lie buried in the Greenback colliery, near this place, the victims of deadly black damp. Their names are William Taylor, married; William Carl, married; Patrick Heorly, married; William Shankweiler, married; William Fox, married; Robert White, single; Frank Wardrop Pumpmay, married. Not since the frightful accident at the Henry Clay works a year ago has this town been so terribly excited as it was to-day when the news of the disaster spread about. The Greenback colliery is located about two miles east of Shamokin. On Wednesday morning the Buckridge colliery, on the Renshaw and Johnson tract, was discovered to be on fire and the mouth of the slope was shut up. The Greenback colliery lies next to the Buckridge, on the Fulton and Brady tract, a line filler of fifteen feet intervening. When the fire broke out, S.B. Whiting and other mining experts, after a careful examination, decided to drive a hole from the Greenback into the workings of the Buckridge. 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 6 o'clock, however, the fire had burned through the old workings of the water level, and great quantities of gas began penetrating into the Greenback workings, and the seven men whose names are given were overcome before they could get out of the reach of the deadly poison. Valentine Depuer 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 & Reading Coal & Iron Co., which owned the mines, cannot be made until the exact extent of the fire is ascertained. The Greenback and Buckridge 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 rapidly. All the timbers which supported the roof of the mines have already been burned away, and heavy falls of top coal and rock are constantly occurring.

Later Particulars.

PHILADELPHIA, August 21.—A special to the Press 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 brattice and an air pipe of three inches diameter. It is not supposed that the bodies of the men in the slope will be recovered before Saturday morning. The mouth of the Buck slope was opened this evening. The noxious gas at the face of the greenback colliery overcomes anyone who goes within five feet of it. If an airway can be put down to the water level of the Greenback slope, which is about two hundred feet higher than Buck Ridge, the men can easily be reached. Nothing will be left undone nor any expense spared to recover the bodies. The loss to the Coal and Iron Company will probably reach \$100,000 besides a long term of idleness forced upon the employes.