

BLACKENED CORPSES.

Fourteen of Them Recovered from the Ill-Fated Youngstown Mine.

Ten Others Wounded—List of the Dead Men—Effects of the Explosion—Speculation and Scrutiny as to the Cause.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Oct. 29.—The explosion in the mine of the Youngstown Coke company, Monday afternoon, has proved almost as fatal as the terrible West Loesening explosion last spring. After making a careful investigation, it was found that there were in the mine at the time of the explosion twenty-six men, two more than was at first supposed. The news of the explosion soon spread over the entire coke region, and superintendents, mine bosses, and fire bosses from nearly all the works hastened to the Youngstown mine to assist in getting out the men and aid in whatever way they could. It was about 3:15 a. m. when the last body was taken out. The killed number fourteen, injured ten, and two escaped uninjured. As soon as the last man was found the dead bodies were washed and dressed, the clothing being furnished by the company out of the company's store at the works. They were then laid side by side in a small frame building and covered over with white cloths, ready to be viewed by the coroner and his jury, which was done in the morning, but inquest will not be held until Thursday morning at 7 o'clock.

The names of the dead are as follows:
Joseph Zebble, pumper, aged 18.
Jack Lape, rope-rider, aged 30; leaves a wife and two children.

William Minard Hawler, aged 36, smothered; leaves a wife and four children.

James Price, a Scotchman, aged 45, smothered and partly burned; leaves a wife and several children.

James Price, Jr., son of the above, aged 18, badly burned.

Thomas Cole, aged 45, terribly burned and mangled; leaves a sick wife and nine small children. Mrs. Cole is dangerously ill and will hardly recover.

Jesse Miller, a German, aged 53, smothered; leaves a wife and family. He had only been working in this mine two weeks.

George Miller, son of Jesse, aged 15; smothered.

Albert Taylor, aged 27, smothered; leaves a wife, who in a few days will become a mother.

Abraam Wilson, aged 35, roadman; horribly burned; leaves a wife and four children.

Frank Nicklow, aged 40, smothered; leaves a wife and four children.

William Nicklow, son of Frank, aged 17; smothered.

George Cunningham, aged 30, burned; leaves a wife and one child.

Solomon Vansickle, aged 25, badly burned; leaves a wife and one child.

After the bodies were viewed by the jury they were taken to their late homes. The company is bearing all the expenses and doing everything possible for the comfort of the afflicted families. Scenes such as are witnessed at the homes now robbed of husbands, fathers, sons and brothers cannot be pictured with the pen. Some of the widows and orphans have friends to assist them, and others have not, and as yet it is not known whether any of the men buried had any insurance, but it is thought that some of them had.

Tuesday morning August Steiner, mine inspector for this district, and several expert mine and fire bosses from the best works in the region, made a careful inspection of the mine, if possible to ascertain where the explosion happened, and how the gas was ignited. The theory of the experts is that the hauler, Minard, failed to keep the door closed that shut off the air from the sixth flat, where the gas was known to exist, and that it got down on the seventh flat, and was there ignited by his naked light.

The mine was found to be in a much worse condition than was thought, and the force of the explosion was terrific. Men were killed that were working 1,300 feet from where the explosion took place, and the bratticing all through the mine was blown to pieces. Cars were demolished, and the tin buckets that contained the men's suppers torn into atoms. There was not so much falling of roof as was at first expected, and no deaths resulted from that cause. Some of the men were found several hundred feet away from their places of working, and from their mangled condition they evidently were blown thither by the explosion. Some, when found, were holding to each other so tightly that their grasp could hardly be loosened. There was considerable gas in the mine Tuesday, but it will be expelled in a day or two, when the bratticing and doors are put up and the air currents are turned in their proper courses.

An old miner said: "These accidents are bound to happen so long as men are allowed to enter the mines with naked lights. Most miners are very careless, and some, while working with a safety lamp, may be seen picking away with lighted pipes in their mouths. The pipe is as dangerous as the naked lamp. The law of England must be adopted here, and that is that every man employed in mines must use a safety lamp, and that he shall not be permitted to have a match on his person while in the mine. Until such a law is enforced here, these horrible mine explosions will continue to happen."