

SIXTEEN KILLED.

AWFUL EXPLOSION OF GAS IN A COAL MINE.

A Naked Lamp Comes in Contact With Escaped Gas From a Feeder—Bodies Blown Many Feet Away—The Mine Was Well Ventilated and the Accident Was Unavoidable.

WILLIAMSPORT, Nov. 4.—Officers of the Kettle Creek Coal Mining Co. in this city are in receipt of information that a terrible explosion occurred at their mines, located in Clinton County, last evening. Supt. Miller, upon bearing a heavy report at new No. 2 drift, proceeded to the spot, when he at once saw that a violent explosion had taken place. Necessary arrangements were quickly made to carry air to the face of the work, and men entered the mine to learn the particulars of what had occurred. An appalling state of affairs was found inside. Of the twenty-one men who had been working in the drift only three or four had escaped injury. At the end of an hour's hard work fourteen dead bodies were recovered from the drift. Two of these who were injured subsequently died. One man was missing and his remains were found out in the woods, where they had been blown by the force of the explosion through the air shaft. The total number of killed or fatally injured was found to be seventeen. All but four of them were Hungarians or Italians, whose names are not furnished.

The driver named J. Farrel was entering the drift when the explosion occurred. He was thrown toward the mouth and escaped. His mule was killed. The awful force of the explosion was shown in the fact that the bodies were blown clear out of the mouth of the drift. Everything possible was done for the injured by the mine physicians. The bodies of the dead were taken charge of by an undertaker and prepared for interment. The coroner of the county was notified and will hold an inquest to-morrow.

A dispatch from the superintendent this evening states that there is nothing new in reference to the disaster. Although the accident occurred before dark yesterday, it was not given out by the officials of the company until to-day, they having been advised of it late last night.

It is thought that in making the blast a "gas feeder" was struck, filling the chamber with gas, which coming in contact with the naked lamp produced the explosion. It is generally conceded that there was good ventilation and the mines were well supplied with air appliance.

The superintendent says the accident could not have been foreseen and that no blame attaches to any one.

NAMES OF THE KILLED.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 4.—A special to the Press gives the following names of the killed in the Kettle Creek coal mine disaster:

AUGUST PIERSON.
MIKE CURREN.
P. F. DOULEY.
SAMUEL KILLINGER.
CHARLES ALUMAN.
JOHN CARLSEN.
JOHN ANDERSON.
STEPHEN PLATCO.

The other names are not known.

The Press special also says that among the rumors is one that the explosion was caused by the inexperienced use of dynamite, a hundred sticks of which were purchased by an Italian. He was unable to get a fuse, and it is supposed he tried to set it off in some other way. Wesley Smoke and John and Aaron Anderson are badly injured, but will recover.