

## THE MINE'S VICTIMS

### Darkest Day in the History of the Coke Region.

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DEAD.**

**Many of the Corpses Are Mangled Beyond Recognition.**

**The Ill-Fated Pit Gives Up 110 Bodies.  
Pathetic Scenes at the Shaft's Mouth  
When the Dead Were Brought Up—  
Accounting for the Fearful Explosion.  
Names of the Identified Victims.**

MOUNT PLEASANT, Pa., Jan. 29.—A village of sorrow aptly describes this place to-day. Hourly since the terrible explosion in Frick's Mammoth No. 1 mine the agony has been piled up.

"Forty," "sixty," "eighty," "one hundred and ten"—these were the respective estimates of the miners killed. Now the owner of the coke works, Mr. H. C. Frick, supported by an influx of widows and orphans, adds to the terrifying list. He has been notified that 110 bodies were discovered up to 12 o'clock, and that there were in all 160 men working in the mine at the time of the accident. Nine of these escaped with their lives; some of them badly injured, the rest, or 151 men, were either killed outright or suffocated by the terrible afterdamp.

Agonizing indeed was it to watch the efforts of the bereaved in their endeavors to identify their beloved husbands, sons and fathers.

#### **List of Identified Dead.**

Following is the list of identified dead:

Married—Joe Swetz, Michael Corack, Gert Hillson, Coza Wallert, Martin Brennan, Wm. Hunter, Daniel Gordon, Fritz Newis, John Koshers, George Seganoc, Joseph Stanick, Steve Swetzer, Billy Birchall, Joseph Depta, Joseph Durr, William Smith, Valentine Sillera, Mike Gustik, C. S. Cole, John Eaton, jr., Joe Hornick, John Kuhns.

Unmarried—Mike Tribuls, Jacob Myers, Steve Connor, Mike Stanick, Steve Moran, Martin Adam, Steve Schwartz, Billy Bowman, Mike Corcora, Frank Cerue, Lewis Lewis and William Lewis.

Boys—James Rylie, Pat Tumblety, Matt Kesky, August Lunk, James Murphy.

#### **Bringing Up the Bodies.**

Heartrending scenes were witnessed by the spectators about the mouth of the shaft. Dead bodies were brought up every few minutes, and the crowd simply fell back to allow the men carrying stretchers room to pass. Every corpse was covered, and no one even ventured to inquire which body it was, for they knew every one in that part of the mine at the time of the explosion was dead.

**A Weird Scene.**

A young foreign-born woman came and gazed in the face of each body as it lay on the porch. She finally stopped, and, with a heartrending wail, began shaking the face and body of a fine-looking young man, who was her husband. She patted his face and smoothed his hair, all the time speaking in her own language, and her tears streaming down on his face.

It was a weird scene, all the dead lying there, a crowd surrounding them, all under the flickering light of an oil lamp. An old man came along and said: "That is my boy, my poor boy; let me take him home to his mother," and he helped to place the body in a coffin.

**WAS THE MINE UNSAFE?****A Thorough Examination to be Made of the Cause of the Disaster.**

MT. PLEASANT, Pa., Jan. 29.—While the recovery of the dead and the distress of the living engrossed nearly all thought for the past 24 hours, steps have been taken for a thorough examination of the cause of the disaster. The coroner empanelled a jury, and a preliminary examination of the mine is being made. Not one of the witnesses of the explosion survives, and in this respect the disaster is one of the most remarkable in history.

The questions now uppermost are, was the explosion the result of carelessness, or was the mine unsafe? The officials of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, the owners of the mine, profess to be positive that the mine was safe, and do not charge carelessness upon any of the men who are dead.

The workmen around here seem to feel that the explosion was an unavoidable accident, and attach no blame to the company. Supt. Keighley could not offer any explanation of the explosion. He said it was caused by fire damp, but where it originated or how it accumulated he could not understand. The Mammoth mine had always been free from gas, he said. It was remarkable in that respect. The mine is not injured to any extent. The damage is limited to a terrible and irreparable loss of life.

**The Legislature Will Investigate.**

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 29.—A concurrent resolution was adopted by both branches of the Legislature authorizing the appointment of three members of the House and two Senators versed in mining to proceed at once to the scene of the mine explosion at Mammoth, investigate it, and report to the Legislature in what respect the present law is defective, and wherein it may be improved. The committee is also instructed to report as to what action the Legislature should take to give relief to such as are injured or in need.