

IN A COAL MINE.

Seven Men Killed and Four Badly Injured.

Terrible Results of a Coal Dust Explosion.

The Accident Occurs in the Blanche Mine.

An Inexperienced Italian Miner is Blamed.

He Fired an Overcharged Blast Which Ignited the Dust--A Rigid Investigation to Be Made as it is the Second Accident of the Kind in This Mine.

STEUBENVILLE, O., November 20.—By an explosion of coal dust this afternoon in the Blanche coal mines near Colliers, W. Va., seven miles east of Steubenville, on the Panhandle railroad, seven men were killed and four badly injured. Those killed were:

MICHAEL ROONEY.
THOMAS JORDAN.
THOMAS TUCKER.
DAVID ROWLANDS.
JOHN DONNELLY.
ANTONIO SATTIE.
MAZZEL GRISSEDIO.

The injured:

JOSE RIFLE.
RAPHAEL NECKI.
JASPER LAWRENCE.
THOMAS MORRIS.

Tucker, Donnelly and the Italians are married.

The disaster occurred in No. 9 entry, 1,000 yards from the mouth, and was caused by a new Italian hand firing an overcharged blast, which ignited the coal dust. There were 45 men in the mine at the time of the explosion. After the explosion a terrific whirl of wind followed. Donnelly and Rooney were going toward the entrance. The force of the explosion blew them nearly 100 yards out of the mouth of the mine and landed Rooney on the track, killing him, while Donnelly landed in a gully, striking his head against a post, spilling his brains all over it. His wife was the first to find him, and she swooned away and may die of the shock.

Hundreds crowded about the mouth of the mine where some tragic and sorrowful scenes were enacted. A rescue party consisting of George Benbow, Nick Kemis, Arthur Ward, John Muter, John Stewart and William Davis, volunteered and went in after the bodies and brought them out. The sight of the dead men caused several women to swoon away. Prosecuting Attorney Cotton and Coroner Watkinshaw, of Wellburg, arrived shortly after the accident and took charge of the bodies. They will conduct a rigid investigation as this is the second accident of this kind that has occurred at this mine, the other on November 21, 1892, when three were killed and seven burned and injured. The state mine inspector will be there to-morrow and his report will show where the blame is to be attached.

William Davis was in the mine entry, 150 feet from the entrance. When he heard the explosion he laid down near rib of the mine and the whirlwind carrying rocks, fire, air and death passed over him. An empty car in the entrance was blown 225 yards. The mine is owned by W. E. Smith, of Wellsville, and L. O. Smith, of New Cumberland. Rowlands was a former resident of Bridgeport, and Morris is the only colored man in the crowd. The miners blame the accident on the inexperienced Italian miners and declare they will not work with them any more.