

PRINCETON'S MINE HORROR.

**Seven Men Killed and Eight Severely,
Perhaps Totally Injured.**

In Princeton, Saturday, afternoon, a frightful gas explosion occurred in the Maule coal mine. Seven men were instantly killed, and eight severely, some of them fatally, wounded.

The dead are:

Robt. Maule, married.
James Reil, married.
Theodore Fabre, single.
Carl Poneylite, single.
John Holmes, married.
Robt. Poneylite, married.
John Erast, married.

The wounded are Arthur Colgate, James Turner, David Noland, James Cruse (colored), William Booker (colored), William Grill, Frank Turbie, Thomas Trice (colored).

The men were at work making repairs of damages resulting from a similar explosion Sunday Dec. 20. Besides the regular miners and blacksmiths, others were assisting in the work while Robert Maule, a son of President John Maule, and treasurer and mine superintendent of the company, was superintending the work.

The mine had been in operation a short time and the air shaft is not quite completed. The gas was ignited by an open lamp.

Just a year ago Saturday Princeton rejoiced over the finding of a seven-foot vein of coal. When the mine began work the finest machinery was put in and it was the intention of the owners to make it the finest in the state. The air shaft was not started until after the mine had prepared to operate. Work has progressed slowly and there is still about ninety feet to excavate before it is completed. Gas has frequently accumulated in the pockets, and several men have been burned by small explosions.

About two months ago a serious explosion occurred in which one man was killed and Frank Turbie, who was injured in this explosion, was injured. The state mine inspector investigated and work went on with a small force. In spite of all precautionary measures, the gas continued to accumulate, but the miners went to their daily work without realizing the danger they were constantly in.

Saturday evening, December 19, a jet of gas was fired by a blast and burned all night. In the morning the descension of the cages forced the gas to this small jet and a terrific explosion occurred, but fortunately there was no one in the mine.

Saturday, fifteen men were engaged in repairing the damage caused by the explosion when the deadly fire damp again let go with terrible force, this time with deadly effect.

The escape of the eight men from instant death seems almost a miracle when it is considered that the heavy mine cages were blown from the shaft's bottom to the surface, 500 feet above by the force of the explosion. These cages were wrecked so they were useless and an iron bucket was improvised for a rescuing party as soon as possible after the accident.

The mine is 440 feet deep, and the vein of coal is one of the finest in Indiana, but bad luck and disaster have been the rule since the work of sinking the shaft was first commenced. An investigation will probably show that Princeton is underlaid with gas pockets, which are liable to explode at any time. The completion of the air shaft will greatly lessen the danger of explosions.