

CAR CRUSHED THEM

Seven Killed, Three Injured In a Colliery Shaft.

AN ENGINEER DISOBEYED ORDERS.

Caused Three Loaded Cars to Fall Down
Shaft at Exeter Colliery—They Crashed
Upon Carriage Carrying Men Going to
Their Work—Those Injured Will Die.
List of the Victims.

Wilkesbarre Pa., Nov. 6.—Seven men
were killed and three fatally injured at
the Exeter colliery of the Lehigh Valley
coal company, at West Pittston, near
here, Saturday morning. The accident
was due to the alleged carelessness of
Engineer David Price, who, acting in
disobedience of positive orders, caused
three cars to run into the top of the
shaft. These cars, loaded and weigh-
ing 11 tons, fell down the 360-foot shaft
and crashed with frightful force upon
the carriage carrying 10 men. Seven
were almost instantly killed. They were:

Michael Smith, 35 years, miner, mar-
ried; leaves widow and four children.
Andrew Tincko, 40 years, miner; mar-
ried; leaves widow and six children.
Michael Podesbanny, 25 years, miner,
unmarried.
Michael Brazuke, 33 years, miner, un-
married.
Joseph Cullock, 27 years, married,
leaves widow and one child.
Michael Waslowski, 45 years, unmar-
ried.
Joseph Andrewoski, 30 years, unmar-
ried.

The injured are:
William Pukos, miner; internal in-
juries.
Joseph Winsler, laborer; head and
back lacerated.
Paul Lecksnones, laborer; contusion
of the spine.

1898 Exeter Colliery mine cars disaster
NEWS2

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The accident occurred at 6.30 o'clock as the men were going to work, and being sent down the Exeter shaft in parties of 10. At the same time Engineer Price, in charge of a little donkey engine, was shifting loaded cars from the new Red Ash shaft, several hundred yards away, to the Exeter breaker.

This track approached the head of the Exeter shaft and at a distance of 30 feet from it curved gently to the right and around the shaft to the breaker. At the point where this track commenced to curve was a switch, and the 30 feet of track leading to the head of the shaft was used for storing crippled cars. Close to the head of the shaft it was closed by a head block. Price's orders were to approach the breaker with the engine at the head of the train. A few days ago he was caught pushing cars and was threatened with discharge for disobeying orders. Today he did the same thing. The train was going at good speed, when, instead of curving around the shaft, the cars dashed into the switch, which was open. Price reversed the engine, but it was too late. The cars struck the head block, smashed it and three of them toppled down the shaft. About 200 feet from the bottom they struck the carriage with awful force, completely wrecking it. The mass of wreckage fell to the foot of the shaft, choking it, and when after hard work the men were extricated seven were dead and three fatally hurt. The injured were taken to the hospital.