

ENGINEER'S NEGLECT KILLS TEN MINERS.

Cars Weighing Tons Fall 360 Feet, Crushing Out Life.

Engineer's Carelessness Forced Part of a Train Into the Mouth of a Shaft.

LEHIGH VALLEY CO.'S MINE.

Horrible Accident at the Exeter Col- liery Near West Pittston Early This Morning—All the Injured Will Die.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING NEWS.]

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Nov. 5.—The alleged negligence of an engineer caused the death of seven men and the fatal wounding of three others at the Exeter colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company at West Pittston, near here, this morning. The killed are:

MICHAEL SMITH, 35 years, miner; married, leaves wife and four children.

ANDREW TINCHO, 40 years, miner; married, leaves wife and six children.

MICHAEL PODESABANNY, 25 years, miner; unmarried.

MICHAEL BRAZUKE, 33 years, miner; unmarried.

JOSEPH CULOCK, 27 years; married, leaves wife and one child.

MICHAEL WASLOWSKI, 45 years; unmarried.

JOSEPH ANDREWOSKI, 20 years; unmarried.

The injured are:

William Pukos, miner; internal injuries.

Joseph Winsler, laborer; head and back lacerated.

Paul Lecksuones, laborer, contusion of the spine.

The accident occurred at 6:30 o'clock, as the men were going to work. Engineer Samuel Price, running a small donkey engine, was pushing a train of loaded cars from the new Red Ash shaft to the Exeter breaker. Pushing the train was directly against orders, but it saved time, and Price was late with his work today. He had also evidently neglected to look at the switch leading from the main track to the Exeter shaft. It was open.

It should have been closed. The train of cars dashed into it. The yawning mouth of the shaft was only 30 feet away. Price reversed his engine in vain.

The head blocks protecting the shaft were smashed in a twinkling and three loaded cars weighing about 11 tons, crashed down the 360 feet to the bottom.

A carriage full of miners, 10, had just gone down. The falling cars struck it 20 feet from the bottom. There was a horrible crash and the foot of the shaft was choked with wreckage from the midst of which came the groans of the wounded and dying.

When they were extricated seven were dead and the three still alive were horribly battered and bruised. They were taken to the hospital.

Coroner McKee has been notified and advised the officials of the company to arrest Price, the engineer.

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1898 Exeter Colliery mine cars disaster
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