

SIX MINERS DROWNED

An Awful Accident at the Kaska-William Colliery.

WATER BREAKS INTO THE MINE.

Four Men Believed to be Dead and Only Slight Hopes Entertained For the Others. Who Were Engaged in Tapping the Chamber Holding the Water.

Special to EVENING HERALD.

Pottsville, May 27.—An appalling accident happened at the Kaska-William colliery near Middleport, yesterday afternoon.

Six men are believed to have lost their lives by drowning, through the breaking in of a large body of water from an abandoned part of the mine.

The men supposed to be dead are: William Morgan, loader boss; William Derr, pump engineer; Peter Derk, laborer; Vendeo Povitsko, laborer; Martin Mollochis, laborer; and Paul Voskoski, laborer.

The last named four men are Slavonians and were at work in a tunnel close to the place where the water broke through.

The colliery was idle at the time, or many more lives would probably have been sacrificed in the disaster.

The officials of the colliery still entertain a slight hope for the safety of Morgan and Derr, who may have heard the rush of water and escaped to the upper levels.

The water broke through into what is known as the shaft level. It had been confined for many years.

The exact amount of water that had accumulated in the abandoned workings can only be surmised.

The officials of the colliery had feared just such a calamity as that which happened and had prepared to tap the large body of water. In fact their plans had been put in operation, and the four Slavonians who are believed to have been drowned were engaged in removing rock that had been loosened by a blast in pursuance of work on the plans to make the tapping.

The scene around the mouth of the slope of the colliery when the disaster became known beggars description. Men, women and children flocked to the colliery and eagerly sought tidings of those who were known to be at work in the mine when the accident happened.

Quite a number of men were at work in the upper levels of the mine when the water broke in and there was much rejoicing when they were safely hoisted to the surface.

Searching parties have been organized and the officials of the colliery are making strenuous efforts to pump the water from the mine. The number of engineers and pumpmen has been doubled to push the work.

It is feared that it will take almost two weeks to get the mine sufficiently pumped out to enable the employes to reach the bodies.

All the men missing are residents of Middleport. Loader Boss Morgan leaves a wife and three children. Derr was only 17 years of age. The four Slavonians were married men, but Mollochis was the only one whose family is in this country.

The Kaska-William colliery is operated by the Dodson Coal Company and the Superintendent is E. L. Bullock, of Audenried, who is also superintendent for the same company at Morea.