Summary Sixth Anthracite District, 1900.

Total production of coal, in tons,	7,020,571.05
Used for steam and heat,	870,188.05
Sold to local trade and employes,	96,747.06
Shipped by railroad,	6,053,635.14
Number of tons produced from washeries, which is included in total production,	192,273
Average number days worked,	166+
Number of persons employed,	20,278
Number fatal accidents,	65
Number non-fatal accidents,	130
Number fatal accidents, inside,	52
Number of non-fatal accidents, inside,	107
Number of fatal accidents, outside,	13
Number of non-fatal accidents, outside,	23
Number of wives left widows,	43
Number of children left fatherless,	91
Number of kegs of powder used,	141,682
Number of pounds of dynamite used,	499,060
Number of horses and mules,	2,009
Number of cylindrical steam boilers,	550
Number of tubular steam boilers,	281
Total horse power of boilers,	57,074
Number of pumps,	140
Capacity in gallons per minute,	59,847
Number of steam engines of all classes,	515
Total horse power,	34,570
Number of electric dynamos,	2
Number of air compressors,	28

Report of Explosion of Fire Damp at Buck Mountain Colliery, Operated by the Mill Creek Coal Company.

About eight o'clock on the morning of the 9th of November, an explosion of gas occurred in the west fourth lift Buck Mountain gangway, killing James Griffiths and fatally injuring six others. Eight were more or less burned or bruised, but have since recovered. Being unable to investigate the cause of the explosion personally, because of indisposition, I had Messrs. Brennan and Maguire investigate it, who reported that the volume of air traveling in the fourth lift gangway was sufficient for all purposes.

The intake air current was from the crop falls, coming down through the first, second and third lifts, and coming down to No. 100 breast, connecting with the third and fourth lifts, crossing the fourth lift gangway to Dog Hole, by means of an over-cast, and west to last cross-hole connecting with gangway, returning through the breasts as shown by the arrows on accompanying tracing. A door was in position between breasts 106 and 107 to force the air current up in the breasts; another between No. 85 and No. 86 breasts, and between Nos. 72 and 73 breasts, which, if kept closed, would keep the air current circulating through all the breasts from Nos. 72 to 110. A few weeks before the accident occurred, John Stevens, the assistant foreman, changed the course of the air current, making a split in No. 100 breast, part passing over the over-cast to Dog Hole and west to face of gangway, returning through breasts coming down No. 101 breast to gangway, and east under over-cast, part going east through regulator put in place at reservation pillar, forming the position of No. 98 breast, passing up No. 97 breast and through the breasts to No. 88. This change, Stevens claimed, was only temporary until a tubing was built across No. 100 breast, connecting with the stump heading on either side of breast.

The gas was ignited in No. 97 breast by Edward Gallagher, a repairman, going up for a plank to block up the road-bed. William Moses, the fire boss, swore that he made an examination of all the living breasts on the morning of the 9th November; found no gas and reported to the men that all was clear. He also made his weekly examination of the abandoned breasts on the 3d of November and found no gas, a record of which he made in a book kept at the colliery for that purpose, according to law. If we are to believe Moses, the gas must have accumulated in No. 97 and neighboring abandoned breasts, between the dates of the 3d and 9th of November, and must have accumulated there by reason of the gangway doors being kept open. This colliery is ventilated by a 16-foot exhaust fan; speed, 90 revolutions, producing 65,000 cubic feet of air per minute; water gauge, 1 3-10 inches. About 240 men and boys are employed inside at this colliery, and all but 40 or 50 of that number are supplied with ample natural ventilation, which gives the remainder of the men more than 300 cubic feet of air each, which is produced by the fan. I made four visits to this colliery during the year; the last was in July, and always found the volume of air circulating very satisfactorily. Gas was seldom found in any of the workings, unless when the fire boss failed to keep the brattice close enough to the working face, when he would find a little gas in making his morning examination. I have always regarded Buck Mountain colliery as one of the best kept and safest in

the anthracite coal fields, and will bear inspection by the best expert miners in the country. The law prescribes that all accessible abandoned workings shall be kept free from standing gas, but through the neglect of those attending to keeping gangway doors shut, thereby shutting off the air current from circulating through both the living and abandoned workings, causes gas to accumulate, and in the meantime, if a man enters an abandoned breast with a naked lamp and ignites a body of gas, as Edward Gallagher did, no system of inspection can prevent accidents occurring from such causes unless the workmen themselves regard the law.

The explosion was caused by John Stevens making a change in the air current, together with doors being kept open, and Edward Gallagher going up No. 97 abandoned breast, although forbidden to do so by the foreman, Benjamin Evans, unless in company with a fire boss.

That the accumulation of gas in No. 97 breast was caused by Stevens making the change in the return air current is true beyond a question of doubt, and the fact of his making the temporary change instead of permanently constructing the return across No. 100 breast, shows a lack of knowledge of how to ventilate a colliery. If he had built a return under-cast across the bottom of No. 100 breast, it would have cost less and would have kept the current of air up in the abandoned breasts, thus preventing gas from accumulating. Had this been done, there would have been seven fewer fatal accidents to report.

Mine Fire.

On the night of the 17th August, a fire was discovered in the diagonal subterranean slope, Buck Mountain seam, Primrose colliery, causing loss of the lives of William Plomkus, Enoch Plomkus and Charles Gostitus, who were smothered by smoke. These three men were working a double shift, robbing pillars in west counter gangway, east and south 5,400 feet from bottom of slope. After quitting work, they traveled out west to tunnel driven south from bottom of the slope, where they encountered the smoke from the fire, and attempted to travel through this tunnel, but succumbed to the effects of the smoke. The circle with the cross inside on tracing shows where their bodies were found.

No intelligent miner would have attempted to travel through the smoke, but would have retreated to the outlet to surface, which was only 2,500 feet from where they worked to the outcrop, as shown by the red arrow on tracing.