

FIVE MET DEATH

Horrible Accident in Button-
wood Colliery of Parrish
Coal Co., Wilkes-Barre.

SIX SERIOUSLY INJURED

Fifteen Others Slightly Hurt--Search-
ing Party Walked Into a
Quantity of Gas.

WILKES-BARRE, Oct. 25.—Five men were killed, six seriously injured and 15 slightly, by an explosion of gas in the No. 4 plane of the Buttonwood colliery of the Parrish Coal company this afternoon. The mine is situated just below this city. The dead are:

GOMER WILLIAMS, Wilkes-Barre, assistant mine foreman.

THOMAS GUEST, Wilkes-Barre, track-layer.

WM. PHILLIPS, Wilkes-Barre, a carpenter.

THOMAS PRICE, Plymouth, a company hand.

Daniel Lewis, the inside foreman, is fatally burned and will die, and William Fry, Evan Evans, John Salinsky, Mike Potaski are seriously burned and bruised. A number of others sustained slight burns and were able to walk home.

There were two explosions, the first caused by Otto Sweiss, a miner, who lifting his lamp from the ground too high above his head, exploded a small body of gas. He was not hurt. Gomer and Ebenezer Williams, the assistant foreman, and the three company hands were sent into the mine to see if gas was gathering and must have walked into a large quantity of it and caused the second explosion.

It was 8 o'clock tonight before it was known that the dead numbered only five, it being thought that there were 15 to 30 men shut in by the fire damp. The rescuers were headed by President H. H. Ashley of the company, and General Superintendent Thomas R. Evans, and they fought their way through the fire damp with brattices and coats swinging the deadly fumes along and distributing them in the fresh air which the brattices directed into the workings. It was 6 o'clock before they had the five bodies out and then the search was continued until every part of the effected workings was examined and the officials convinced that no others were inside. The fear that more was killed was caused by the prolonged absence of several men who had to take a very circuitous route to get out of the mine. The damage was great and the gangway where the explosion occurred was badly shattered.