

TWELVE ARE DEAD

Gas Explosion in a Mine Proves Disastrous.

Population Remains All Night at Mouth of Shaft.

OTHERS IN JEOPARDY

Attempts to Rescue May Result in Further Losses.

Cannot Be Flooded Until Bodies Are Recovered.

Port Royal, Pa., June 11.—By the explosion of gas in shaft No. 2 of the Pittsburgh Coal and Coke Co.'s mine about 6 o'clock last night twelve men are known to be missing and are supposed to be dead. They are:

Frank Davenport, aged 25, married, one child.

Amos Stickle, aged 38, married, one child.

John Fickles, aged 45, married, two children.

Jesse H. Bailey, aged 40, single.

Wm. McCune, superintendent of the six mines of the Pittsburgh Coal Co., between West Newton and Euclid.

Wm. Allison, superintendent of several mines below West Newton.

Isaac Wadley, pit boss of Port Royal mine.

Michael Roy, pit boss at Euclid mine.

John Kock, pit boss at Durr mine.

Peter McCune, boss driver at Port Royal mine No. 1.

Bernard Hall, leader at Port Royal No. 2.

An unknown.

The injured brought out are:

Arthur Smith, pit boss at Euclid mine, both eyes destroyed and fatally burned.

Pitts Kruster, miner, both eyes destroyed and fatally burned.

Harry Beveridge, machinist, both arms broken and fatally burned.

Smoke rose from the mouth of the shaft in volumes during the night and great excitement prevailed and the entire population of the town remained all night at the mine eagerly awaiting some news from those thought to be either killed under tons of slate or slowly awaiting either death from the flames or relief from the outside, with small chance favoring the latter.

In the attempt to rescue the men known to be in the mine, other lives were placed in jeopardy and may be lost.

From what could be ascertained last night about 40 o'clock there was a low rumbling sound, followed by a roar which sounded like a cyclone, then three sharp and short reports.

While awaiting the arrival of supplies necessary to entering a burning mine a temporary rescue party entered the shaft and started toward the spot where it was thought some of the exploded men may be found. Lying at the bottom of the shaft were Lawrence Satter and John Stokes. They were rescued and covered with dirt, the men quickly were taken to the top of the mine. They could give no information as to what caused the fire.

About 7 o'clock Wm. McCune of West Newton, general superintendent of this district, Dennis Wadley, pit boss of the mine, Michael Roy, foreman, and several other bosses with about twenty men, went down shaft No. 1, which is just opposite on the Baltimore and Ohio side of the river. About three hours after the rescue party had been in the mine, two more explosions were heard. Meanwhile, the crowd around the opening of the shaft had increased, the crowd including mothers, wives and sisters of many of the men entombed.

At 11 o'clock four men volunteered to go down shafts Nos. 2 and 3 and one man down No. 1.

At 2 o'clock W. A. Sweeney and Frank Stratton came to the surface, bringing Harry Beveridge in an unconscious condition with both arms and a leg broken and badly burned. He can not live. All three men succumbed very shortly after reaching the surface. Sweeney, who was nearly instrumental in saving Beveridge was able to tell that he stumbled over the bodies of at least three men on his way out.

The explosion occurred at the time when the shafts were changing from day to night turn and it is impossible to tell how many were in the mine at the time, but certainly no less than 20 persons are entombed.

Early today all the rescue parties have come out of the mine. They say that the black damp makes work impossible and they give up hope of finding any of the missing alive.

Seven years ago there was another disastrous explosion at Port Royal and the mine caught fire. It was necessary to fill it with water to finally smother the flames. To do this a hose was drilled in the bed of the river. It is now closed with a pipe which was arranged for such an emergency as the present, and is down out the fire all that is necessary is to take out the plug and the water of the Youngs Bayou will rush in. This of course cannot be resorted to until all the men in the mine have been recovered or are known to be beyond rescue.

Pittsburg, June 11.—At 10 o'clock this morning a telegram received at the headquarters of the Pittsburgh Coal Co., owners of the Port Royal mine in which it was stated that there were from fourteen to sixteen entombed in the burning mine. Among the number are Wm. McCune, superintendent of the mine and W. S. Allison, foreman. Another relief force was sent into the mine at 8 o'clock this morning.

West Newton, Pa., June 11.—Time only adds horror to the disastrous mine explosion which occurred late last eve-

ning at No. 2 mine of the Pittsburgh coal company at Port Royal. Three men were rescued and seventeen others are imprisoned in the burning mine. Last night the mine was reported at the offices of the company here to be on fire, and division superintendent Wm. McCune and W. S. Allison of this place started for the scene. They entered the mine with firehose John Kock who carried an open lamp. Three fatalities followed at intervals of a few moments, the large fan being inadequate to counteract the rush of fire damp. Many of the miners escaped but latest reports state that McCune and Allison with fifteen miners are beyond reach of rescue. Even was there a bare possibility of rescue, the men are located over a mile from the bottom of the pit. Since the efforts of the third rescue party, which like previous attempts, was disastrous, no effort has been made to reach the men and no further attempts will be made until Mine Inspectors or Callaghan arrives from Cincinnati. The surviving wives and children of the missing men are gathered about the mine shaft awaiting about regularly some news of their loved ones and financially appealing for their rescue.

West Newton, Pa., June 11.—Not a practical miner in this district believes that one of the 17 men entombed in the Port Royal mine by the explosion last night is still alive. There is no fire in the mine by judges from appearances at the pit mouth, but the force of the explosion was so great that none of the men, so the miners say could have survived the shock.

William Allison, one of the lost miners is a cousin of President McKinley.

Early this morning, Harry Beveridge and two miners, three of a rescue party that went into the mine to bring out their mates who were entombed, were sent to the McKeesport hospital. Beveridge had both hands broken and the other two miners were badly burned.

At 8:24 a. m. today, an inspection party entered the mine through the shaft on the Baltimore & Ohio side of the Youngs Bayou river. It is their purpose to penetrate as far as possible to locate the dead bodies with hardly a hope of finding anyone alive. The task is no easy one. No. 1 being on the north side of the river, were started up to clear the mine of smoke, and fire damp, remaining from the explosion last night.

The explosion are supposed to have been between entries 28 and 29, three thousand feet back from the shaft. The disaster occurred about six o'clock last evening. An explosion was heard by men at shaft No. 2 and suddenly a cloud of smoke burst from the mouth of the shaft. It was known that Anthony Stickle, John Fickles, George Daily, Frank Davenport and James Seely were in the mine. A searching party composed of superintendent William McCune and nine others went down shaft No. 2. Just before they were lowered the shaft was rung from the foot of the shaft. The cage was already down and it was brought up with Seely on it. The rescue party then went down. Nothing was heard of them, and in another hour another rescue force, led by James Bailey and William Williams, five less, were let down the shaft. They had groped their way about two hundred feet where two explosions were heard in rapid succession. The shaft braced by the hands of Bailey and Williams were blown fifty feet away and they themselves were thrown violently to the ground. There was no response to their calls for their comrades and both men hurried back to the shaft and were taken up in the cage. From then until 8:24 a. m. no object went down the shaft as it would have meant certain death from the after damp. The party that went in this morning was composed of Mine Inspector, Edward Callahan, General Superintendent John Treese, Fireless William Miller, Fireless Daniel McCulloch, Fireless Peter Melick and Fireless Robert McKinney. All but Callahan were brought from the various mines of the Pittsburgh Coal company. At 10 a. m., the body of Taylor Gumbert, 35, was brought to the surface by the party headed by Inspector Callahan. A fire crowd surrounded the mouth of the shaft where the corpse was brought out and the scene was pitiful in the extreme. Many women were there looking for their husbands, fathers, and sons and brothers and their wildly appealing for the rescuers to save their loved ones.

The Port Royal mine has always been considered dangerous. There was a similar explosion in the mine seven years ago by which one man was killed. The use of safety lamps has been made especially imperative in these mines by the district inspector of mines owing to the great danger from gas that was known to exist, but careless miners sometimes use open lights because they can see better to mine by them and this helps them to make a bigger day's work. This is what probably caused yesterday's explosion, but the inquiry which will follow may develop a different cause.

POPE'S HEALTH

Warm Season Brings Many Rumors From Rome.

Rome, June 11.—The statement circulated in America shows that the annual reports of the pontiff's illness, official condition and failing fits have already commenced and as the summer comes, he, no doubt as usual will be reported at deathly door. The truth is, his holiness at present is in exceptionally good health, is enjoying his daily drive and walk and the heavy carriage of state seems to bear lightly on his old age. Mounting to a higher point of the scaffold than usual, the other day the Pope stood gazing at the yellow strip of earth Mediterranean and turned with a sigh to his nephew, the pontiff used for the first time since his "impotence" a phrase which might have been construed as impatient at his "weakness."

"Ah," he said, "now I wish I could go to the sea again. It would really renew my youth. The last time I really stayed at sea was about 25 years ago, when I was marooned at Brindisi. I then went near Antwerp on the advice of a physician and can vividly remember even now how cool the water was, its vigorizing, and what pleasure I took in swimming. I regard the cure most beneficial."

1901 Port Royal No 2 Mine explosion NEWS1

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