

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION

Coal Mine at Port Royal Last Night.

Men Supposed to Have Been Killed and Thirty Miners Are Estimated—Black Damp Renders Work of Rescue Impossible.

West Newton, Pa., June 11.—Time could hardly have been more opportune for the disasterous explosion which occurred late last evening at No. 2 mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company at Port Royal. Three men were rescued and seventeen others imprisoned in the burning mine. At night the mine was reported at the offices of the company here to be free and division Superintendent William McCune and W. F. Allison of this place started for the scene, or entered the mine with fire boss, John Keck, who carried an open lamp. A few moments, the large fan being adequate to counteract the rush of a damp. Many of the miners escaped. Latest reports state that McCune and Allison, with fifteen miners are believed to be in the mine. There were three possibility of rescue the men being caught a mile from the bottom of the shaft.

THE EFFECTS OF THE CHIEF RESCUE PARTY which like previous attempts to discontinue no effort has been made to reach the men and no further attempt will be made until mine inspection. C. Callahan, arrived from Connellsville. The wives and children of the missing are gathered about the mine waiting for some news of their loved ones and frantically appealing for their rescue.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT of the terrible explosion at Port Royal—Believed Seventeen Are Dead.

West Newton, Pa., June 11.—Not a actual miner in this district believes at one of the seventeen men in the Port Royal mine is still alive. There no fire in the mine, no Judge from gasometers at the pit mouth, but the run of the explosion was so great that as of the men, so the miners say, will have survived the shock, and the complete list of the dead is:

WILLIAM MCCUNE, superintendent, married, four children.
DANIEL ALCOY, miner, married.
MICHAEL ROY, fire boss, married.
THOMAS GLASSBORO, fire boss, married.
JOHN HOWELLA, fire boss, married, one child.
ANTHONY STECKLER, married.
FRANK DAVENPORT, miner, married.
TAYLOR GUNSAULLESS, SR., married.
TAYLOR GUNSAULLESS, JR., married.
WILSON STACKLER, miner.
PETER MCANOLE, married.
JOHN BURKE.
GEORGE DALY.

William McCune was superintendent of the Port Royal district, comprising a mine. He was a large stockholder in the Pittsburgh Coal Company and his family lives in a handsome residence in West Newton.

William Allison was a second cousin of President McKinley.

Early this morning thirty persons of two miners, three of a rescue party, that went into the mine to bring in their bodies who were, as supposed, are sent to McKeesport hospital. They had both limbs broken. The other two miners were badly burned.

At 11 a. m. today an inspection party went down into the mine, through the part on the Baltimore & Ohio side of a Youghiogheny river. It is their purpose to penetrate as far as possible to locate the dead bodies, but with hardly hope of finding any one alive.

The fans in both shafts, No. 1 being in the north side of the river, were started up to clear the mine of smoke, damp and the sufferying remaining from the explosion last night. The explosions are supposed to have occurred between shafts 20 and 25, three thousand feet back from the shaft. The distance required at 4 o'clock last evening. An explosion was heard by the men at shaft No. 2, and suddenly a cloud of smoke burst from the mouth of the shaft. It was known that Anthony Wicklick, John Peaslee, George Daly, Frank Davenport and James Setler were in the mine. A searching party composed of Supt. William McCune and mine others went down shaft No. 2. Just before they lowered the bell was rung from the front of the shaft. The mine was already down, and it was brought up with Setler on it. The rescue party then went down. Nothing was heard of them, and in an hour another rescuing force, by James Gullet and William Williams, fire boss, were let down the shaft. They had trepped their way about two hundred feet when two explosions were heard in rapid succession. The shaft lamps were blown fifty feet away and they themselves were thrown violently to the ground. They knew to their feet and called for their comrades, but there was no answer. Both men hurried back to the shaft and were drawn up in the cage. From that moment until 4:45 a. m. no answer and went down the shaft, as it would have meant certain death from the afterdamp.

The party that went in this morning was composed of Mine Inspector Richard Callahan, General Superintendent John Reese, Fire Boss William McKee, Fire Boss Daniel McCullough, Fire Boss McMillan and Fire Boss Robert J. Kinney. All but Callahan were brought from the various mines of the Pittsburgh Coal Company. At 9 a. m. the body of Taylor Gunsaules, was brought to the surface by the party assisted by Inspector Callahan.

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.

Port Royal, Pa., June 11.—By the explosion of gas in shaft No. 2 of the Pittsburgh Coal and Coke Company's mine about 4 o'clock last night twelve men are supposed to have been killed and thirty miners estimated.

Smoke rose from the mouth of the shaft in volume during the night. Great excitement prevailed and the entire population of the town remained all night at the mine aspect, waiting some news from those thought to be

either buried under tons of slate or slowly awaiting their death from the flames or killed from the outside, with small chance favoring the latter. All the rescuing parties came out of the mine this morning. They say that black damp makes every impossible and they gave up hope of finding any of the missing alive. Twelve men are known to be missing and are supposed to be dead. They are:

FRANK DAVENPORT, aged 25, married, one child.
ANTHONY STECKLER, aged 25, married, one child.
JOHN FRIEDLER, aged 40, married, two children.
JEEREMIAH DALY, aged 40, single.
WILLIAM MCCUNE, superintendent of the No. 2 mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company between West Newton and Burdick.
WILLIAM ALLISON, superintendent of the several mines below West Newton.
DENNIS WARDLEY, pit boss of Port Royal mine.
Michael Roy, pit boss of Kinchair mine.
JOHN KECK, pit boss of Darr mine.
PETER MCANOLE, boss driver at Port Royal mine No. 4.
BERNARD BALL, loader at Port Royal No. 2.

AN UNKNOWN. The latest brought out are: Arthur Smith, pit boss at Smithton mines, both eyes destroyed, and fatally burned.
Pitt Kreiter, miner, both eyes destroyed and fatally burned.
Harry Deveridge, machinist, both arms broken and fatally burned.

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 quench the flames. To do this a hole was drilled in the side of the river. This is now closed only with a plug, which was arranged for such an emergency as the present, and to draw out the fire all that is necessary is to take out the plug and the water of the Youghiogheny will rush in. This, of course, cannot be resorted to until the men in the mine have been recovered or are known to be beyond rescue.

From what could be ascertained here last night about 6 o'clock there was a low rumbling sound, followed by a roar which sounded like a cyclone, then three sharp and short reports. Immediately the mine catastrophe of seven years ago, still fresh in the minds of those made fishermen, was recollected, and simultaneously a rush was made for the mouth of the mine.

When the first excitement had subsided a little, it was decided to try to rescue at least a part of those known to be entombed. As quickly as possible a messenger was dispatched on horseback to West Newton, five miles away, and while awaiting the arrival of appliances necessary to enter a burning mine a temporary rescue party composed of the men who had knocked off earlier in the day was formed.

About 7 o'clock William McCune of West Newton, general superintendent of the district, Dennis Wardley, pit boss of the mine, and several other of the bosses with about twenty men went down shaft No. 1 and there are probably lost at about seven hours after the rescue party had been in the mine two hours exploring the mine.

The explosion occurred at the time when the mine was being pumped day to night four and it is impossible to say whether it was before or after the time, but certainly no less than thirty persons were here.

The Port Royal mine are situated in Youghiogheny, about thirty-seven miles from Pittsburgh. They are owned by the Pittsburgh Coal Company. District Superintendent McCune who is reported killed at the head of a brave band of volunteers, was one of the most experienced and best known miners in western Pennsylvania. The Port Royal mine are located in the thick vein of coal belt and are for that reason extremely rich and dangerous. The state mining officials have made their management the object of repeated caution.

Pittsburg June 11.—At 10 o'clock this morning a telegram was 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 persons in the burning mine. Among the number are William McCune, superintendent of the mine, and W. F. Allison, foreman. Another relief force was sent into the mine at 9 o'clock this morning.

PRISONER ON A COAT.

Condition of Former Gasterville School Official is Frightful.

Memphis, Tenn., June 11.—W. W. Kidd, former superintendent of schools and a leading citizen of Gasterville, Ala., who is charged with embezzling \$4,000 of school funds five years ago, passed through Memphis yesterday morning on route from Newport, Ark., where he was captured and brought back to Memphis. Kidd was on a coat hovering between life and death. The prison may never be able to reach his destination. Three weeks ago, Kidd's brother-in-law, attorney the sheriff at Gasterville, of Kidd's whereabouts. Deputy Wright, armed with a revolver, was sent after Kidd and he requested Sheriff Henry at Newport to arrest him. He refused, but instead paid farmer John Pile to take the man. He went to Kidd's home and ordered him to surrender. The latter refused, whereupon Farmer Pile opened fire, mortally wounding Kidd, who was learned.

JUDGE CAMPBELL IN THE RACE.

Greenville, Tenn., June 11.—It has been reported that Judge H. T. Campbell would not be a candidate for reelection in the position of circuit judge for the First judicial circuit. Already two or three candidates have been announced for the position. Judge Campbell has made no public announcement on the subject, but from conversation with his friends, it is now believed that he will consent to be a candidate for reelection. It will be remembered that he made an unsuccessful attempt to secure the republican nomination for congress. He is one of the best judges in the state and this is generally recognized. In case of his candidacy he will receive the support of many of Mr. Brownlow's friends, and his recent opposition to Mr. Brownlow will weigh but little against him as a candidate for judge.

DEATH AT GRIFFIN, ALABAMA.

Griffin, Ala., June 11.—Special Mrs. Ellen Brown died Sunday evening at her residence three miles west of Griffin. She was 82 years old. She was a life-long member of the Methodist church, and in every respect a most excellent lady. She leaves a large family connection, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to mourn her untimely loss.

COMMANDANT VAN RENSSELAER SURVIVED.

London, June 11.—Lord Kitchener's return to his duties as commander-in-chief of the British forces in the Sudan.

London, June 11.—As follows: The command have surrendered at Pretoria. The command have surrendered at Pretoria. The command have surrendered at Pretoria.