EXPLOSION AT THE ELEANORA SHAFT.

The Eleanora shaft is owned and operated by the Rochester and Pittsburg Coal and Iron Company, and is a comparatively new mine, fully equipped with all modern devices for the mining of coal, haulage and ventilation.

On the evening of April 27, about 9:30, when the night shift men were at work on both the east side and west side of the mine, an explosion took place on the west side, and as a result thirteen persons were killed and one was seriously injured.

The fire-boss on duty that night had finished his rounds of all the workings on the west side, and had gone over on the east side, and had not been there many minutes when he felt the force of the explosion. He at once hurried the men out of the mine from the east side workings, and summoned help. The officials and others living near the mine responded, and by the next afternoon all the bodies had been recovered.

I was not at home at the time, having been called on business with the other Inspectors to Pittsburg, so that it was Saturday morning before Inspectors Knapper, Phillips and myself arrived a the shaft. We found the ventilator and other structures on the surface were all intact, and in working order, not having suffered from the force of the explosion.

Accompanied by the officials of the mine we all went down the escapement shaft, and proceeded into the workings by following the intake current which had been partially restored by means of bratticing, and as we went along we encountered falls of roof, as the timbers had been blown out by the force of the explosion. The overcast and the stoppings had also been destroyed. We traveled up the first north heading, and came down the second north, and then went along the main north-west heading, and tried to get to the face of the rooms that are turned off from this heading, but were not able to get to the face of all of them owing to the falls that had taken place in some of them, and we found gas present in some of these places. We went into the third and fourth north headings, where we found gas. We then made our way to the face of the main north-west heading, and at the face of this heading where a crosscut was just started, a cut had been made by the machine four and a half feet in depth, and a hole three feet in depth had been drilled in the coal near the roof. The shot that had been fired had blown out the front of the hole, pulverizing the coal very fine. It was what we would term a "blown out shot."

The seam of coal in this mine varies from six to nine feet in thickness, with a strong band of bone in the center. This bone makes it difficult to shoot down all the seam with one shot, and many blown out shots had resulted from shooting it down in one bench.

Much difficulty has also been met with in this mine owing to the nature of the roof, which in many places is composed of coal and fire clay and is very hard to keep up. We examined all the workings in the west side of the mine, and also made careful inquiry, and as a result of our examination and inquiry we came to the conclusion

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that a door had been left open between the main north-west heading and the main south-west heading, by some one, and this had cut the ventilating current from passing along the main north-west and main south-west headings, so that when the men at the face of the main north-west heading fired the shot in the crosscut, and it blew out, it ignited whatever gas and fine coal dust there were in the immediate vicinity. This spread through the workings and seemed to gather force as it went along, destroying the lives of those who were in its path.

The door boy whose duty it was to attend to the door on the main north-west heading leading into the south-west heading, after attending to his door would go along and help the motorman. As they were coming up the main north-west heading, the door boy was running ahead to open his door, when he met the full force of the explosion coming out of the heading. He was killed, and the force of the explosion was such as to turn over some of the mine cars and the motor. The overturning of the motor, was what saved the motorman's life, as the force of the blast passed over him as he was pinned under and sheltered by the motor. He was rescued some hours later badly injured. He was the only one on the west side of the mine to escape.

An inquest was held in Punxsutawney by the coroner of the county, and after much evidence had been given the jury returned a verdict exonerating every one of blame in the matter.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

Falls of coal, slate and roof

January 6, Charles Anslone, Italian, machine runner, was killed in Adrian No. 1 mine. He was working with a machine on a pillar and had no sprags under the coal. The coal gave way from a slip and he was caught.

January 11, Frank Morock, Italian, miner, was killed in West Eureka No. 6 mine. He was working with his father and brother on a heading pillar and as they were pushing the loaded car the bone coal suddenly fell and he was caught under it.

January 13, Lew Uborn, Hungarian, miner, was killed in West Eureka No. 6 mine. He was shearing some bone coal and had no props under it. The coal gave way without any warning and caught him.

February 9, Joe Mastanta, Italian, miner, was killed in Yatesboro No. 1 mine. He was working at the face of his room when a "horseback" or pot fell upon him.

March 17, James Girard, Scotch, machine runner was fatally injured in Valier mine. He was undercutting with a machine and was warned by his scraper that the bone coal was loose. He thought it was safe, but it fell upon him shortly afterward, breaking his back. He died about three weeks afterward.

April 12, Mike Poydock, Jr., Slavonian, miner, was killed in Florence No. 1 mine. He was working with his father in a room newly turned, and while cleaning the coal away at the face, a piece of slate fell on him.

April 29, John Urechuck, Slavonian, miner, was killed in Adrian

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