

EXPLOSION IN THE PRINCETON COAL MINE KILLS SIX MINERS

Four More are Injured and Two are Not Expected to
Recover—The Direct Cause of the Explosion
Has Not Yet Been Learned

The Dead

Hudson Weatherly, aged 30, married.
Edward Geiser, aged 23, single.
Albert Geiser, aged 21, single.
Harry Taggart, aged 46, single.
William Biggs, aged 38, married.
George Dill, aged 46, married.

The Injured

John Dill, son of George Dill, aged 20, single; badly burned about the face and body; death expected before morning.

William Jones, aged 58, married; seriously burned on the body and will probably die.

Joseph Ward, aged 47, married; will recover.

General Cole, aged 37, married; will recover.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

PRINCETON, Ind., March 22.—Six dead and four injured, two perhaps fatally, is the story of the explosion that took place this afternoon in the mine of the Princeton Coal and Mining company, one quarter of a mile northwest of the city. Had the explosion taken place a half hour earlier all of the 250 diggers employed in the mine would have probably perished. All but ten of the men left the mine a short time before the explosion took place.

The direct cause of the explosion at this time is not known. The accident probably resulted from a premature explosion of an overshot.

The men who were taken from the mine alive have not been able to talk about the disaster and the cause will not be known until the arrival of State Mine Inspector Epperson Thursday morning.

Go to Their Doom

About 3 o'clock this afternoon the miners finished their day's work and all but ten after preparing their shots came out of the mine and prepared to go to their homes. The ten who remained in the mine were preparing their shots and were getting ready to leave their rooms for the day. The miners always arrange their shots just before leaving the mine in the afternoon.

About 3:30 o'clock the earth in the vicinity of the mine was felt to shake. The trembling sensation was felt by the people for several blocks away. Several of the rooms in the mine were badly wrecked by the explosion and slate and timbers flew in all directions.

The people living in the neighborhood of the mine about 4 o'clock saw the hoisting rope in the shaft turning and this was a signal that there was something wrong. People began rushing to the mine and in a short time there were several hundred people crowded around. Women with their little children were bunched together about the shaft anxious to hear tidings from their loved ones. Owing to the great amount of smoke and gas in the mine it was impossible to start the work of

rescue for nearly two hours after the accident had happened.

Rescuers Enter Mine

The bodies were found heaped together. The rescuers entered the mine by going down the stage and when once in the mine it did not take long to bring the bodies to the surface. All the bodies were out of the mine at 6 o'clock and by this hour the crowd at the shaft had grown to tremendous size, almost every person in the town having heard of the accident and rushed to the scene of the disaster. The dead bodies were removed to Smith's morgue in South Main street and Lowe's morgue in East Broadway street and are being prepared for burial tonight. The injured were removed to their homes and three physicians have been in constant attendance upon them. John Dill, one of the injured, is sinking rapidly and it is expected his death will occur before morning.

Sees Husband's Body

Mrs. George Dill, whose husband was brought up out of the mine dead, was at the shaft while the work of rescue was going on. When she saw the lifeless body of her husband she fainted and was removed to her home. By the death of her husband, five little children are left fatherless. William Biggs, another of the victims, is also survived by a wife and several children.

Unable to Tell Cause

The Courier representative was at the scene of the explosion early and assisted in the work of rescue. The four men who were brought out of the mine alive have not yet been able to tell the cause of the disaster. Fate is cruel to the Geiser family, two of whose members were killed in the mine accident. Four months ago Albert Geiser while playing with a gun accidentally shot and killed his brother Edgar. Coroner Hollingsworth tonight began the examination of witnesses and will be ready to announce his verdict in a few days.

The Princeton mine is the largest in Gibson county and during the busy season works over 250 men. The owners are Hubbard & Vogel of Indianapolis and William Jackson is superintendent, having taken the place of L. J. Oswald over a year ago, who retired from the position. Nine years ago there was an explosion in the mine and nine miners lost their lives. The accident then was the result of a premature explosion. Since the accident nine years ago the mine has been greatly improved.

The six men who were killed in the explosion today were members of the United Mine Workers' union and that organization will have charge of the funerals. The date of the funerals have not been fixed.

The mine horror has caused a pall to settle down over the quiet little city of Princeton and tonight business is practically suspended and there is but one theme on every lip.