

DIDN'T HEAR NOISE
BUT SOARED HIGH

HENRY SAWDEY, CLEVELAND-
ER INJURED AT ZEIGLER MINE.
TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES.

WENT UP UNTIL CAUGHT ON LATTICE WORK

Hung There in Midale Until Taken
Down—Companion, Jeremiah
Wood, Hadn't Whole Bone
Left in His Body.

With many ugly cuts about his head, his body a mass of bruises, and his nervous system badly affected, Henry Sawdey, No. 403 Sibley street, the man who was blown through the iron work supporting the house on top of the shaft of the mine at Zeigler, Ill., in which the terrific explosion Monday morning killed probably fifty men, returned home yesterday afternoon with several of his companions who were working with him on the inside iron-work of the mine for the Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Engineering Company, of this city.

The men came in by the Big Four Railroad at the Union station yesterday at 2:30 o'clock, after twenty-four hours' travel on the train. They acted as escort to the body of Jeremiah Wood, a fellow workman, who was killed outright in the explosion. The men who returned besides Sawdey are Robert Bell, of No. 1819 East Madison avenue, hurt slightly; John Anderson, star avenue; Edward Allen, Taylor street; Alexander Irwin, No. 21 West Trenton street; and Henry Baumert, Francis street. Three other Cleveland men remained behind, the foreman, Robert McKeown, Joe Nagle and Walter Bloss, all slightly injured.

Funeral of Victim To-day.

The funeral of Wood takes place today from his late home, No. 3531 Euclid avenue, East Cleveland.

"That explosion was black damp, all right," said Sawdey when asked as to the truth of the report that it was an attempt on the part of union men to wreck the mine. "I know the difference between damp and powder. That mine is 424 feet deep, and the engine that furnished power for the fans was out of order ever since last Friday. We couldn't go down more than sixty feet Saturday because of the gas. There was no ventilation to take away the gas, and it collected all day Friday, Saturday, Sunday until it exploded Monday morning when the first miner struck his pick into the vein.

Was Not Powder Explosion.

"All this talk about powder explosion is rot. The union men offered assistance in every conceivable way, and when we were coming away yesterday afternoon I saw a train load of 150 union men accepted by Mr. Leiter, the owner of the mine, going in to help. And they were needed, too. No more than half the bodies have been taken out yet, I believe.

"The explosion was awful. Nagle and the rest of us were at the top of the mine waiting for a chisel. That was all that saved us from going sky high, and we didn't miss it very far, either. We were putting in angle irons sixty feet down one of the main coal shafts. The irons were used for the ways on which the counter-weights for one of the main shafts were to run. We were standing over the top of the shaft about a half hour after the whistle had blown, and men had been going down for the last fifteen minutes, when all of a sudden, without any noise that I could hear, although they say they heard it eighteen miles away, I soared—yes, that's it—soared right up through all those iron supports of the shaft house. Up through the air I went, probably thirty feet, until a section of the iron lattice work caught me, and there I hung until helped down. Wood hadn't a whole bone in his body when they picked him up, dead, and the others were pretty badly used up, too. They'll be all right shortly though. I'm mighty glad the boy with the chisel was slow that morning. He saved my life."

No Trouble at Mine.

The mine, Sawdey said, was one of the best equipped in the United States, possessing all the safety appliances known. There had been no trouble, he said, with the union men since he had been there, early in the winter. He is not a union man, yet had been often in the union camp, and was treated with marked consideration after the accident. It was reported Sunday that there was two feet of gas on the roof of the levels. As an example of the force of the explosion, he said that pieces of wood twelve feet long and two inches square were blown out of the car shafts, and two thirty-foot rails were blown one hundred feet and broke a fence into match wood. The mine had taken fire when he left yesterday afternoon, and he predicts that none of the bodies now in the mine will be recovered. It is understood that preparations for fifty burials have been made at Zeigler.

Sawdey is recovering rapidly, and is happy in the information of his doctor to the effect that few scars will remain to remind him of his terrible experience.