

EXPLODING GAS AGAIN CLAIMS MANY LIVES.

Thirty-Five Miners Thought to
Be Dead in Latest West
Virginia Disaster.

RESCUER PERISHES;
OTHERS ARE OVERCOME.

Fans Stop and Brave Men
Fall Suffocated by Nox-
ious Fumes.

SPECIAL TO THE PITTSBURGH POST.

ELKINS, W. Va., Feb. 4.—An explosion of gas in mine No. 25 of the Davis Coal and Coke Company, at Thomas, 50 miles from here, at 7 o'clock this morning, sent probably 35 men to death. D. R. Jones, a mine boss, was killed later while engaged in the work of rescue.

Eight bodies have been recovered and identified thus far and 25 or 30 miners unaccounted for are believed to be lying at the bottom of the shaft.

Known Dead.

Daniel R. Jones, mine boss.

Joseph Allen, American.

Tony Skyski.

Palino Jarnaldo.

Dominick Graclo.

— Marto.

Peter Jarnaldo.

Rocco Vinerto.

Shower of Rock From Shaft.

The explosion occurred while the night shift was leaving the mine and the day shift was coming on. On this account it is impossible to tell at this time just how many men were in the mine, but the mine officials state the number of fatalities is not more than 30.

Miners for the day shift were crowded about the entrance to the shaft, when there was a terrific report, accompanied by a shower of rocks and timbers from the opening. Some of the waiting men were thrown from their feet.

As soon as the smoke and afterdamp had been cleared by the fan a rescue party entered the mine. Bodies of seven miners were found 100 feet from the entrance, where they had been overtaken by the burning gas.

Rescuer Meets Death.

The first rescue party, organized by General Superintendent Lee Ott, included, besides himself, D. M. Boyd, superintendent of the Henry mine; Mine Boss Jones, Jack Jenkins, Arthur Stewart and William Woods.

The explosion occurred in the fifth heading. The rescuers had penetrated as far as the third heading when the current of pure air, which was being sent through the mine by the fan, suddenly failed. The motor operating the fan had burned out and the entire party was at the mercy of the deadly afterdamp.

Jones, who was 60 years old, was the first to succumb. Seeing him stagger and fall, Boyd, Stewart and Woods rushed to his side, and in doing so nearly forfeited their own lives. Boyd was caught just as he was tottering to the ground. Reinforcements sent from the outside when the fan ceased to work found Woods gasping for breath and Stewart unconscious. Jones was already dead. Woods and Stewart revived under the treatment of physicians after all had been taken out.

Abandon Relief Work.

After the bodies of Jones and several dead miners had been taken out, the work of rescue was abandoned until another motor could be obtained for the fan. Just before the explosion a large party of miners had entered the mine by way of an unused opening at Coalton. When they heard the muffled report they retraced their steps at top speed and thus saved their lives.

The disaster is the first of its kind in the history of the Davis Coal & Coke Company. Mine No. 25 was supposed to be particularly free from gas. The mines were owned for many years by Henry Gassaway Davis, recently candidate for vice president on the Democratic ticket, and are now the property of the Western Maryland railroad.