

AN EXPLOSION INSTANTLY KILLED SEVEN MEN IN THE MT. LOOKOUT COLLIERY AT WYOMING

Mine of the Temple Coal and Iron Company in Historic Town Scene
of an Awful Disaster Yesterday.

AT LEAST TEN INJURED

Miner Left Small "Gas Feeder" Burn
in Gangway All of Monday Night.
Timbers Caught Fire—Men Fought
Flames All Day—First Explosion In-
jured Several Men—Second Ex-
plosion Terrific.

WILKES-BARRE, May 12.—The historic town of Wyoming was thrown into a state of excitement late this afternoon when word came from the Mt. Lookout colliery, operated by the Temple Coal and Iron Co., that an explosion of gas had occurred at 5 o'clock and that many miners and laborers had been killed. Thousands of people flocked to the mine and the state constabulary, who have their barracks near there, had all they could do to keep the crowd away from the mouth of the shaft.

From what could be learned at the mine during the excitement, was that a miner named John Kosmith, left a small "gas feeder" burn in the extreme end of a gangway, 1800 feet away from the shaft and 600 feet under the ground, all of last night, which, during the night or the early morning, set fire to the timbers and the coal. This morning, when the fire boss started into the mine to make his rounds, he discovered a fire. He at once reported it, and with three men he tried to subdue the flames, but they met with gas while trying to do so. Shortly after a slight explosion took place, burning the four men but not seriously injuring them. They then came out of the mine and the inside foreman summoned a gang of men together and went into the mine to put out the fire. They worked all day around the flames in order to shut them off and stop them from spreading. They then let air from another gangway to allow the gas to escape, and, while doing so, a second explosion took place. This was about 5 o'clock this evening and seven men, all miners and laborers were instantly killed and ten others burned. The dead are:

PASCAL SMITH, of Wyoming, aged 27 years; married man with family.

FRANK SMITH, of Exeter, aged 25 years; single.

MICHAEL McNULTY, of Archbald, aged 25 years, single.

OSCAR SMALLCOMB, of West Pittston, aged 47 years; married with family.

GEORGE METCALF, of Exeter, aged 40 years, married with family.

LEWIS PATASKAY, of Wyoming, aged 28, married.

JOSEPH YANCANDEN, of Wyoming, aged 30 years, married.

The injured:
JOHN WELSH.
WILLIAM COFSTOLO.
HENRY LEARCH.
JOHN PATASKAY.
CHARLES BARCOCK.

All the injured live in the neighborhood of the colliery. All were burned on the face and hands.

Five others were burned in the same way, but their names could not be obtained, having been sent home during the excitement in ambulances.

A rescue party was formed and they were at once sent into the mine to get the men out. They worked until 8:30 o'clock to-night before they were able to bring them all to the surface.

The dead men were all identified by the foreman at the mine.

Several of the rescue party were overcome by gas and had to be taken from the mine in a semi-conscious condition.

The work done by the state constabulary is to be commended. Mine Inspector Boyle is on the ground to-night making a full investigation.

INSURGENTS CLAIM THEY WILL DEFEAT BILL.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Under whip and spur the Republican leaders in the house expect to put through the Vreeland currency bill on Thursday of this week. They expect to do it in the face of a solid Democratic opposition and despite the Republican insurgency whose leaders are Representatives Fowler, of New Jersey, chairman of the banking and currency committee; Prince, of Illinois, and Hayes, of California.

Presuming that every member of the house will be in his seat and that all of the Democrats will be against it, twenty-nine contrary Republican votes will defeat the bill. So the situation as it now is, falls within these lines: Mr. Watson, of Indiana, as whip of his party, has pledged every Republican to be in his seat next Thursday. The insurgent leaders claim their total strength at today's close was 36—the requisite twenty-nine and seven to spare, and that the prospects are bright for holding these three dozen firmly together.

An informal cloak room conference, called by Minority Leader Williams this afternoon, developed an apparently solid Democratic front against the bill.

CURRENCY BILL TO COME UP THURSDAY

WASHINGTON, May 12.—After a debate lasting practically the entire session the house to-day by a vote of 136 to 124, agreed to the conference report on the naval appropriation bill. The insertion of a new provision relating to increase in pay for officers and men of the marine corps and navy, drew forth a good deal of criticism of the conferees who were charged with having taken liberties and with having violated the trust reposed in them by the house. As the conferees reached a complete agreement the bill now goes to the president.

Considerable interest was manifested on the floor in the announcement that the currency bill would be considered and disposed of on Thursday next.

TO SEE FIRE ENGINE FACTORY.

Fire Commissioners and Fire Chief Going Away Today.

The entire fire committee of city councils, accompanied by Fire Chief John V. Hufford will leave this morning for Boston and Manchester, N. H., in order to make comparative studies of fire-engines with reference to the purchase by the city of a new fire-engine.

The Allentown officials will go to New York City and thence by Fall River line to Boston, where the Boston department will be inspected. A visit will be made to the fire ruins at Chelsea and then the party will go to Manchester, N. H., to see the plant of the Amoskeag Fire Engine Co., one of the bidders for the city's contract.

The party will return to this city by about Sunday night.

SAY THEY FLAGGED TRAINS.

And Broke Windows, Besides Doing Other Mischief.

Detective Andrew Grey, of the Jersey Central Railroad, yesterday arrested a young man named Bower and another named Krefa, at Catasauqua, on charges of malicious mischief. Both were given hearings before a justice of the peace at Allentown and taken to the Northampton county jail for further disposition of the charges.

It appears that the young men are

HUGHES' CANDIDATE FOR SENATOR WINS

Wallace Will Vote to Abolish
Race Track Betting.

LOCKPORT, N. Y., May 12.—William P. Wallace (Rep.) was to-day elected senator from the forty-seventh district, receiving a plurality of 248 votes over Henry A. McMahon, the Democratic candidate. The total vote was: Wallace 7,501; McMahon 7,373. This is about two-thirds of the normal vote in the district.

The forty-seventh senatorial district is made up of Niagara and Orleans counties and to-day's was a special election to fill the vacancy created by the death of S. P. Franchot.

An unusual feature of the brief but active campaign that preceded the election was the obliteration of party lines, the real issue being the anti-sampling attitude assumed by Governor Hughes. The newly elected senator will have a seat in the present extra session of the legislature and he is expected to act with the friends of the governor when another attempt is made to pass the racing bills which would prohibit betting at the race tracks of the state. These bills failed of passage at the regular session by a tie vote. This vote was taken some time after the death of Senator Franchot.

POTATOES VS. CEMENT.

Commission Agent Complains to Inter-State Commerce Commission.

William Anthony, the produce dealer of this city, has filed a complaint against the Philadelphia and Reading with the Inter-State Commerce Commission alleging that excessive rates are charged on freight shipments of food products, and that the farmers of Eastern Pennsylvania are discriminated against.

The complaint says that the railroad charges \$3.40 per ton for shipping potatoes from Allentown to New England pints, while the rate for cement is \$1.55 per ton. Both commodities must be carried in box cars. The rate from Eastern Pennsylvania to New York is \$2.40 for potatoes and \$1 for cement.

It is not contended by Mr. Anthony that the cement rate is too low, but that the rate on potatoes is too high. In the complaint filed with the commission Mr. Anthony says the railroad company violated the law by refusing in writing, to name a rate on potatoes via the Poughkeepsie Bridge route, which, in the opinion of the complainant, was a cheaper and more direct route.

Mr. Anthony's petition recites that he is a wholesale dealer in grain, hay and potatoes and that his place of business is in the Second National Bank Building Allentown.

That the rate of 17 cents per hundred charged by the defendants for transporting potatoes from Kempton, Pa., and other points, taking the same rates on the Schuylkill and Lehigh Division of the Philadelphia Railroad to Port Chester, N. Y.; Bridgeport, Conn. and other points taking the same rates are unjust, unreasonable and a flagrant violation of law.

That the defendants are unjustly discriminating against the agricultural interests of Pennsylvania by extorting exorbitant charges between the above-named points on potatoes, and named low rates on manufactured products, thereby building up one industry at the expense of another.

That the defendants are particularly discriminating against the agricultural interests along the Schuylkill and Lehigh Division of the Philadelphia and

