

EIGHT KILLED; 28 INJURED

Frightful Accident In the Mt. Lookout Colliery of the Temple Iron Company---Gas Feeder Started a Fire Which Led To Disaster.

THREE MORE VICTIMS WILL PROBABLY DIE

Following a series of slight explosions in the Mt. Lookout colliery of the Temple Coal and Iron company, at Wyoming yesterday afternoon shortly after 5 o'clock eight men lost their lives, seven being killed almost instantly and one dying at his home in Wyoming this morning, three more will die, two have a fighting chance for life and six others, all at the Pittston hospital, have favorable chances for recovery. In addition a large number of more or less seriously injured men are at their homes suffering from burns.

The accident was chronicled in a 6 o'clock extra of The Truth last evening, but proved to be even more horrifying than at first reported and as details come to light is proving one of the worst mine accidents that has occurred in the anthracite regions in some years.

Those killed instantly by the explosion are:

GEORGE METCALF, aged 48 years, fire boss; survived by wife and two children. Was school director of Exeter borough.

FRANK SMITH, aged 27 years, single, Exeter.

PATRICK McNULTY, aged 35 years, single, Archbald; boarded at Wyoming.

LEWIS PETROSKEFSKY, aged 38 years, married, Wyoming.

PASCAL BURT, aged 25 years, married, Exeter borough.

ARTHUR SMALLCOMB, aged 27 years, married, West Pittston.

JOSEPH YONCAVAGE, married, Wyoming.

NICHOLAS NICOLA, aged 25 years, single, Wyoming, died at his home this morning.

The injured taken to the Pittston hospital follow:

Peter Olanski, Exeter borough, injured internally and will die.

Joe Yesirero, Exeter, badly burned about the face and body and internally injured; will die.

Joe Bosta, Wyoming, internally injured, will die.

William Dombroski, Exeter borough, injured by falling rock, some chance of recovery.

Frank Komer, Wyoming, seriously burned and injured by inhaling flames, in serious condition but may recover.

Patrick O'Boyle, Wyoming, blown through a door, suffering severe contusions, chances of recovery favorable.

Joe Goodresky, Sturmerville, internal injuries, chances favorable.

Alex. Yetkoshaski, Exeter, burned and injured internally, chances favorable.

Charles Keronze, Wyoming; lacerated scalp and burned; condition favorable.

Joe Ushus, Exeter; burned and cut, condition favorable.

Alex Hopkins, Exeter; burned about face and body; condition favorable.

The following were injured and were removed to their homes, all having a chance for recovery:

John Walsh, Exeter; badly burned about the face and body and internally.

William Costello, burned about face and body and internally.

Harry Tark, West Pittston; burned about face, hands and head.

Charles Babcock, Wyoming; badly burned about head and body.

John Polasky, Wyoming; burned about head and body.

Others taken to their homes were: John Kromer, Exeter; William Sombraski, Exeter; Joe Bartol, Exeter;

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zens and the nation and states in their several spheres, to the highest pitch of excellence in private, state and national life, and to do this because it is the first of all the duties of true patriotism, then and not till then the future of this nation, in quality and in time, will be assured."

EIGHT KILLED; TWENTY-EIGHT ARE INJURED

(Continued From First Page.)

Charles Berneski, Wyoming; John Dyorski, Joe Connist, Sturmerville; Frank Carroll, Exeter; Charles Parkus, Wyoming; Joe Justice, Exeter; John Brome, Exeter; Toney Mimic, Exeter; Fred Jacobs, Exeter.

INVESTIGATION STARTED.

This morning the officials of the company and Mine Inspector Boyle were on the scene investigating the accident. A party in charge of the general superintendent of the company, Frank Hemeibright, made up of Inspector Boyle, several foremen and fire bosses entered the mine at about 10 o'clock and began a most thorough investigation of the head where the accident occurred and the workings in the vicinity.

Vice-president A. F. Law, of the company, who was one of the officials who entered the mine yesterday after the explosion, stated to a Truth reporter this morning that as far as could be learned there was no fire in the mine following the explosion. The damage was slight to the workings, he said, only the head in the which the explosion occurred being damaged to any extent.

There is still some gas in the mine but not a great amount. No one except the officials making up the investigating party and a few other men whose presence in the mine was necessary were permitted to descend this morning.

OFFICIALS AWAIT REPORT.

"There are really no developments this morning", said Mr. Law. The company will be unable to make any statement until after the investigation now in progress has been completed.

I cannot say how soon the party will come out of the mine but as soon as it does we will be in possession of at least some facts bearing on the accident and any information we have will gladly be given out."

Mr. Law spent the morning at the colliery.

A denial was made at the local offices of the company of reports printed this morning to the effect that women who called at the colliery yesterday following the first explosions and begged that their husbands be taken from the mine, were sent away from the colliery gates without being given any satisfaction. The report was branded as "absurd."

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT.

From what could be learned as to the cause of the disaster a miner named John Kosmith left a small "gas feeder" burning over night in the extreme end of a gangway, 1,800 feet away from the shaft. During the night it set fire to the timbers and the coal.

Yesterday morning when the fire boss started into the mine to make his rounds he discovered a fire. With three men he subdued 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.

In the forenoon a gang of thirty-five men was sent into a gangway which runs parallel to the one in which the explosion occurred. Upon reaching a point opposite the place where the first explosion occurred, they drove a tunnel in hopes of driving air into the affected section and by this expedient it was hoped to drive off the body of gas which was rapidly accumulating.

When the men finally broke through nothing of incident happened though the men were cognizant of the fact that considerable gas was working its way into the gangway in which they were stationed. The men worked energetically for a couple of hours, each provided with a safety lamp.

FLASH ENVELOPES MEN.

About 5 o'clock a sudden flash came and an almost instantaneous envelopment of the men in a roaring, seething flame, leaving death and agony behind.

Singularly, no concussion such as ordinarily follows disasters of this kind followed the ignition of the gas and carrying with them threats of succeeding explosions. No great amount of brattice was blown down, nor timbers knocked out and there was no fall of roof. It was succeeded, however, by the deadly afterdamp,

and it was this poisonous gas which the survivors had to fear.

RESCUE PARTY FORMED.

Superintendent George Steele, of West Pittston, with Assistant Superintendent Gilbert Jones and Inside Foreman Robert Whitely and Bernard Holland immediately formed a rescuing party and set to work to reach the men. The first thing done was to acquire an air current and drive it into the gangway, where the injured men lay upon the ground suffering excruciating agony. Within a half hour all in and outside foremen and superintendents from mines thereabouts were on the scene assisting in the work of rescue.

The work of reaching the men was a tremendous task, due to the fact that there was considerable afterdamp. Robert Whitely and Bernard Holland were overcome and had to be taken out unconscious, and it was some time before they revived enough to resume their work. The injured when finally reached were taken to the emergency hospital at the foot of the shaft, and there corps which had been organized among the men for the purpose of giving first aid to the injured did excellent work in preparing the men for the physicians.

In the foreman's office at the top of the shaft were Drs. Hays, Sanders and Smith, of Wyoming, and Dr. Flemming, of Pittston. As the men were brought to the surface they were taken into the office and there cared for by the four physicians. These physicians worked in a manner highly creditable to their profession and with great comfort to the suffering men.

MORGUE IN BLACKSMITH SHOP.

A horrible scene was enacted when the bodies of seven men were brought up the shaft upon the carriage and then conveyed to the blacksmith shop, which had been turned into a temporary morgue.

Seven ambulances and two dead wagons were lined up on the outside of the blacksmith shop awaiting the receiving of a body. It is said that in removing some of the injured to the Pittston hospital it was found necessary to place two men who had been seriously burned in one of the vehicles.

One of the injured men when seen at his home by a reporter stated that he was unable to tell how the explosion occurred. He stated that he with a number of men were repairing the brattice which had been damaged by the explosions in the morning when suddenly all were surrounded by a massive flame. He then felt the re-

port and the "ever death reaping after damp" overcoming him and he knew no more until revived by a physician at the top of the shaft.

INSPECTOR BOYLE ON SCENE.

Mine Inspector P. M. Boyle visited the scene of the explosion and secured data which he intends using at the inquest to be held in a few days.

When interviewed Mr. Boyle was unable to state the exact cause of the accident, but this, he stated, will be made known at the inquest.

COLLIERY A HOODOO.

The Mt. Lookout colliery is owned by the Temple Coal and Iron company. The company has experienced considerable bad luck at the Mt. Lookout mines. The breaker was burned to the ground on two different occasions while during the past two weeks several men have been burned in small explosions of gas.

Elks' Straw Hats

for the parade sold by Rose, the Hatter, 223 Lack. ave. *1311

THE ELKS' DECORATIONS OF THE LACKA. LAUNDRY

The decorations on the building of the Lackawanna laundry, 308 Penn avenue, are surpassed nowhere in the city. Mr. A. B. Warman, the enterprising proprietor, has devoted much time in the supervising of the work. The decorations have been most artistically arranged and are in keeping with the high reputation of the "Lackawanna."*

Denmark has nearly 200,000 farms and farm gardens of ten acres or less, and about 100,000 farms of between ten and fifteen acres. There are less than 1,000 farms in the entire kingdom of 500 acres or over, the aggregate of these last named being less than a million acres. There are 1,985 co-operative dairies, with 158,170 members, and a co-operative egg exporting society with 500 local centers. The business done by these co-operative concerns is enormous.—Indiana Farmer.

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Sir Robert Hart, who for many years was director general of the Chinese maritime customs, has arrived at Singapore from Shanghai, homeward bound on board the German steamer Yorck. Sir Robert is on a year's sick leave.

1908 Mt Lookout Colliery explosion NEWS3

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