

FATAL ACCIDENTS

On the night of April 9 an explosion occurred in Eureka No. 37, Upper, mine, of the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, by which seven men were killed. They were engaged at the time in blasting rock to make room for an overcast near the entrance of fourth right heading. It is supposed that they overcharged their shots and were killed by the flame of the blast. It is probable, however, that coal dust played a prominent part in the explosion, as some of the victims were found quite a distance from the point where the blast had been fired. While it is true that this part of the mine was practically free from dust, the sides and roof were dry, and the small quantity of dust present was a prominent factor in extending the flame and widening the range of the explosion.

On the afternoon of October 31 an explosion of coal dust occurred in a section of Franklin No. 2 mine, of the Cambria Steel Company, by which thirteen persons lost their lives and one was severely burned. The explosion occurred at the face of No. 11 parallel off fourth left main, where two miners were at work. The coal at this point was thin, and the heading only ten feet in width. In order to make progress they were allowed to drill four holes into the coal, varying in depth from five to six feet, one at each side or rib, and two holes about three feet apart toward the center of the heading. These holes were charged with dynamite and fired by different length of fuse (or time fuse) in order to allow the two holes near the center of the heading to go off a fraction of a second in advance of the side holes.

It was proved by witnesses that the men working in this eleventh parallel did not commence work until about 2.30 P. M. on the day of the explosion. They remained outside until about 2 o'clock, and in order to prepare a bottom shot for the men who were to follow them on the night turn they, undoubtedly, charged the holes at the face of this working place with a sufficient amount of dynamite to be doubly certain of doing the work.

CONDITION OF MINES

BERWIND-WHITE COAL MINING COMPANY

Eureka Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35, 35 Upper, 36, 37, 37 Upper, 40 and 42.—Conditions not satisfactory at the face of the major portion of the active workings in each mine, the air currents being too weak for efficient ventilation, due to excessive air splitting. Drainage and general conditions reasonably good.

Eureka No. 41.—Idle the greater part of the year.

Eureka No. 38.—Idle the entire year.

CAMBRIA STEEL COMPANY

Rolling Mill.—Ventilation good. Drainage defective on haulage roads of No. 7 east off main south. No shelter holes provided on main dilly road.