

EXPLOSION CAUSED THE DEATH OF TWELVE MINERS AT JOHNSTOWN

Dust is Thought to Have Been Ignited Snuffing
Out the Lives of a Dozen Miners in
an Instant--All Have
Been Recovered.

CONVENTION OF LADIES' LODGE

The Quarterly District Convention of the Daughters of St. George is being held in this city this afternoon and evening. About one hundred past officers of the organization from Charleroi, McKeesport, Braddock, North Side, South Side, Homestead and other points are in attendance. A sumptuous banquet was held in the lodge rooms in the Odd Fellows building at noon and this afternoon the business session is being held and the convention will close this evening with another large meeting.

Mrs. Godfrey is chairman of the Entertainment committee and everything possible has been done to make the affair a success. The result is that the visiting ladies are being entertained royally and will long remember their trip to Monongahela.

FIRE DESTROYED GENERAL STORE

Fire at Bentleyville, last night completely destroyed the general store of Samuel Nixon, a well known merchant of that place. The blaze is of unknown origin and when discovered had gained such headway that the crude methods of fire fighting at hand were of no avail and the building and its contents were quickly reduced to a heap of ashes. Mr. Nixon kept a general store and his stock was exceptionally large. This will practically be covered by insurance,

Johnstown, Pa., Nov. 1—Twelve men are dead and one other dying in the Cambria hospital as the result of an explosion which is thought to have been caused by coal dust in Franklin No. 2 mine of the Cambria Steel Company, just east of this city, Sunday evening. The bodies of half of the victims of the explosion are so badly mutilated and charred that it is doubtful if they will ever be identified. Peter Hart of Conemaugh is missing and it is believed he is among the victims.

The only hope that the officials of the steel company had of identifying all of the men was to find their time checks in their clothing and establish an identification by reference to the time roll of the men employed in the Franklin mine, but as the clothing was burned completely from a number of the bodies and the time checks are probably laying where the charred remains were found, the officials realize that the task of identification will be most difficult if not entirely impossible. No progress has been made as yet in this line of inquiry. Nor is it certain that the cause of the explosion will ever be known. Only one man, Robert Barr, who was taken to the Cambria hospital of those who were in the mine at the time of the explosion is living, and it is not thought he can survive.

Mine Inspector Williams, who was on the scene early, is of the opinion that the explosion was caused by mine dust and that its force extended from the sixth to the tenth parallel on the fourth left heading. He had examined the mine October 11 and found no sign of gas. The mine, he says, was in good condition, all the mine laws having been complied with.