

GOOD FOR "JIM."

Meyersdale Boy First to Enter Boswell Mine After Disaster.

When the news of the disaster at Boswell reached Meyersdale it created intense excitement. The first reports were that the entire night shift were at work when the explosion occurred, then it was reported that 20 were killed. The first accurate reports came from Mr. F. B. Black and Mr. J. J. Hoblitzell, Jr., both of whom were at Boswell when the explosion occurred.

Mr. James Hoblitzell telephoned to his father, Mr. W. T. Hoblitzell, a number of times during the day but it was not until Mr. Black returned to the city that it was known that "Jim" had been the first to volunteer to head the first rescue party. The editor of the Republican was present when this startling information was first given to Mr. Hoblitzell. His countenance made an interesting study. Alarm over the danger his boy faced struggled with pride over the fact that "Jim" didn't flinch when duty called. The people of Meyersdale are proud of "Jim."

Mr. Black arrived at the mine just a few minutes after the rescue party entered the mine. He assisted in the rescue work and in the efforts to resuscitate Mr. Logan.

ANOTHER GUSHER.

125-Barrel Well Brought in by J. J. Hoblitzell.

Again Mr. J. J. Hoblitzell has struck oil. This time it is at Sparta, Ill., where on the Foster farm on the north corporation line a 125-barrel oil well was brought in Tuesday, January 19. Without shooting the well filled up with 850 feet of pure oil in one hour.

There is no water in the well, nothing but pure oil. The oil sand is fifteen feet thick. The well will be pumped without shooting. The citizens of Sparta are jubilant over the splendid well.

Mr. Hoblitzell, it is said, will drill more wells, as this latest one promises better than all previous Sparta wells put together.

Millionaire Supervisor.

Maryland can probably boast of the only millionaire road supervisor in the business, and the remote and mountainous Garrett county claims this overseer as its own. This far western county commissioned him, pays his meagre salary and profits by interest in its highways.

Dr. John K. Mitchell of Philadelphia, the son of the eminent neurologist, S. Weir Mitchell, and himself a specialist of note, is the supervisor of roads for the Deer Park district of Garrett county and is proud of his job. He has just accepted the appointment for another term of a year.

During his term of office he has given the Deer Park district the best highways in the county. When a few days ago he wanted to retire from his high estate, the clamor against it among the country people proved too persuasive and he has just entered upon his third term as an official of Garrett county. His salary is \$10 a month.

Woman Murdered.

A mysterious murder has caused considerable excitement in the little village of Chaneyville, in Bedford county. Mrs. Charlotte Ward went to a neighbor's home to do some work for the family and, as she did not return the following day, a search was made. The body of the woman, with the skull badly crushed, was found in the road some distance away. An inquest was held and suspicion pointed toward a brother of the victim, he

Frightful Disaster In Mine at Boswell Gas Explosion Monday Evening Responsible for Death of Five Men.

FIRST IN HISTORY OF COUNTY.

As a result of an explosion Monday evening in the mine of the United Coal company, at Boswell, five men are dead and the mine is badly wrecked. The dead are:

J. G. LOGAN, general superintendent of the mine, aged 30, single.

JOHN COLE, inside superintendent, aged 50, married, leaves a wife and four children.

GEORGE MORRIS, assistant superintendent, aged 45, married, survived by wife and five children.

ANDREW STULOCK, and son, JOHN, of Meyersdale.

Only the fact that Mr. Logan, the superintendent, who lost his life, would not permit the night shift to enter the mine saved the lives of possibly several hundred men.

The explosion occurred about a mile down in the mine. It tore up the tracks, severed the air pipes, overturned a ten-ton electric motor, and hurled cars hundreds of feet.

For some time it was known that there was gas in some of the old headings. While at work Monday afternoon near this place, two miners heard an explosion. They hastened out of the mine and reported the trouble. At once all the miners were ordered out, men were stationed at the entries with orders to turn back all members of the night shift who reported for work.

Logan, Morris, Cole, William and Ed. Hay, Hartshorn and seven miners entered the mine to locate the gas and arrange for getting it out. Morris and Cole were considerably in advance of the rest of the party and encountered the gas first. Suddenly there was a terrific explosion which hurled Morris and Cole to instant death.

While the rest of the party escaped the force of the explosion, they were soon enveloped in the deadly fire damp.

William Hay, the fire boss, of Jerome, was overcome and fell to the ground. Mine Foreman Hartshorn dragged Hay for quite a distance, then finding that he was rapidly succumbing himself, he laid Hay across an air pipe and staggered along himself. Coming to an air pipe valve, Hartshorn opened it and found he could get a little air. Remaining here until he regained his strength, he pushed on again and finally reached an air passage in safety and was safe.

Telephoned for Help.

Mr. Logan, the superintendent, was able to get to a telephone and send word to those above ground the conditions in the mine. He said unless help came soon he would not be able to make it. The time taken to telephone evidently cost Mr. Logan his life for pushing onward he was within 20 feet of the door leading to a fresh air passage when he was overcome. Here the rescuing party found

him an hour later. Behind that door were the men who escaped with their lives but they never dreamed the superintendent was so close to them.

Rescue Work.

Above ground all was confusion. All the officials except an engineer were in the mine. The air pumps would not work, the pipes were broken and cars could not be lowered into the mine.

Hoblitzell First Volunteer.

Finally the engineer called for men to volunteer to enter the mine to try to rescue the dying men. For a moment no one stepped forward as it looked like almost certain death to enter that place laden with fire damp and wreckage piled everywhere. Then Mr. J. J. Hoblitzell, Jr., of Meyersdale, jumped over the ropes and said he would go. Eleven others followed him and they made their way slowly and carefully into the mine. A short distance in they stumbled over the body of Mike Tychon, which was hurried to the open air. He was soon revived.

Logan's Body Found.

When Logan's body was found it was thought he was still alive and Dr. Charles Shaffer, who accompanied the rescuers, worked for almost an hour on the inert form in the mine. Finally the body was carried to the company's club house, where Mr. Logan stayed, and several doctors worked unceasingly at resuscitation. The exact time of his death is unknown. At first it was said he died after being brought to the surface, but later one doctor said death had beaten the rescuers by almost an hour.

Italians Escaped.

All of the Italians who entered the mine with Supt. Logan escaped, except Andrew and John Sutlock, whose bodies badly burned, were found in the eighth left heading. One of the Italians escaped through an air course, reaching freedom half a mile from the main heading.

Other Rescuing Parties.

Later a second rescue party entered the mine as it was thought there might be more men in the mine.

The bodies of Morris and Cole were found almost two thousand feet in the mine.

William Hay was found in an air passage having dragged himself there after Hartshorn left him.

Outside Aid Asked.

Immediately after the explosion aid was asked of the Quemahoning Coal company of Jenners No. 2, the United Coal company at Jerome and the Atlantic company at Boswell. All were prompt with assistants and their parties were augmented by a number of men from Hooversville. A number of doctors hurried to the scene, one of them, Dr. Charles Shaffer, going with the first rescue party. Other physicians who cared for the injured were C. F. Livengood, Charles McIntyre and C. T. Saylor.