

MINE DISASTER IN SOMERSET CO.

Gas Explosion Occurs During Tour of Inspection

SUPERINTENDENT IS A VICTIM

Several Foreigners Who Accompanied Party of Officials Into Pit of the Merchants' Coal Company at Boswell Said to Be Imprisoned—Three Make Their Way Out, Carrying With Them Dying Superintendent—Rescuers Hard at Work.

Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 26.—While Superintendent J. G. Logan and a party of miners were investigating conditions which had been unsatisfactory in the coal mine of the Merchants' Coal company at Boswell, Somerset county, a gas explosion occurred which has already cost the life of one man and may result in the death of a dozen more.

Because of the anticipated trouble, the night shift was not permitted to enter the mine and thus the lives of many men were spared.

Superintendent Logan, accompanied by Mine Boss George Morris, Pitt Boss John Cole and eleven foreigners, had begun an investigation and were nearly a mile back in the mine when the explosion occurred. Such was its force that a ten-ton motor was turned upside down. The mine caved in and the passageway was completely blocked, with ten men back of the obstruction. Three foreigners, badly burned, found their way out and carried the superintendent, who was seriously injured and unconscious. He died soon after being taken from the mine. Rescue parties are working hard in an effort to rescue Morris, Cole and the eight foreigners, whose fate at this time is uncertain.

Pittsburg, Jan. 26.—At 1 o'clock this morning J. D. O'Neil, general manager of the Merchants' Coal company, received word at his home here that all the men in the Boswell mine at the time of the explosion are accounted for except two. One of those who escaped is dead and several others are badly burned and bruised. The two missing men are both foreigners.