

SCORE MAY BE DEAD IN MINE EXPLOSION

PARTY SEARCHING FOR TRACES OF GAS
ARE OVERCOME.

Two Known to Be Dead and Twenty
More Probably Lost in Somerset
County Mine—The Superin-
tendent Among Dead.

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 26.—Two men are dead and twenty others supposed to be dead, as the result of three gas explosions in the Boswell mine of the United Coal Company, Somerset county, last night and early to-day. The men were members of an investigating party that had entered the mine to make an inspection of suspicious gas traces before allowing the miners to go to work. The dead are:

Superintendent J. G. Logan.

Andrew Stoncki.

Among the supposed dead are:
Assistant Superintendent George Morris.

John Cole.

William Hay.

Seventeen other men.

Until early to-day signals were heard from the imprisoned mine. At daylight, however, the signals ceased, and it is believed that all the men had come under the influence of the deadly afterdamp.

About 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon a small expedition entered the mine, and, as a result of this and other conditions that needed attention, it was decided to make a thorough inspection of the underground workings and entries. This was in charge of Superintendent Logan and twenty-one men volunteered for the dangerous work. They entered the mine shortly after five o'clock, and, while they were in the mine, a second and third explosion occurred, about six o'clock. These explosions had the effect of tearing down great quantities of coal, slate and rock in the interior, completely preventing the men from reaching the outside. State Mine Inspector Lowther, of Somerset, was seen at the scene, and from the miners who had not been allowed to go to work until the investigating party returned rescuing shifts were quickly formed.

The rescuers were unable to penetrate the mine any great distance, but worked heroically in an effort to reach their imprisoned comrades. All the while the rescue party received encouragement by the signal tappings coming from the entombed men. Towards midnight, the interior of the mine became intensely warm, and it was believed fire had broken out. Fortunately this was not correct. At 5 o'clock this morning the body of Supt. Logan was recovered. He had succumbed to "black damp." A short time later Andrew Stoncki's body was found and five members of the rescue party were overcome by the poisonous gas. They were carried to the open air and revived with difficulty.

At 6 o'clock a rescue crew again entered the mine, but at that hour it was not expected that any of the entrapped men would be brought out alive. Since midnight not a sound has come from that part of the mine where the party had been caught, and it was apprehended by those at the scene of the accident that they had been overtaken by the deadly "black damp," and, like Supt. Logan, had become its victims.