

“AMSTERDAM EXPLOSION.”

(Report of Thos. Morrison, district mine inspector, Sherodsville, Ohio,
on the Amsterdam mine explosion, which occurred
April 21st, 1910.)

STATE MINING DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, O.

SHERODSVILLE, OHIO, May 9, 1910.

HON. GEO. HARRISON, *Chief Inspector of Mines, of Columbus, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:— I herewith submit the following report on the Amsterdam mine explosion, which took place about 9:30 P. M., on April 21st last.

I was informed over the telephone by the Superintendent of the Youghiogeny & Ohio Coal Co.'s mine at Amsterdam, that an explosion had occurred at that mine. Being at the Hotel at Amsterdam at the time, I reached the mine inside of an hour thereafter. Learning that the explosion was of a serious nature, I notified you by wire, with a request for assistance. We then entered the mine by means of the hoist in the air shaft, the main shaft being wrecked so that we were unable to use the cages in it.

The ventilating fan, which is a Robinson make, 14' x 6', operated by steam power, was found on examination to be much damaged. The bearings were so damaged that the end of the fan shaft dropped down, throwing the fan out of line, causing it to run against the casing and heating the bearings. This was a serious draw-back, as we had every hope of rescuing some of the men in the mine alive. After a hurried consultation, Mr. Jones, the Superintendent of the mine, concluded that by putting men at the fan to keep continually pouring lubricating oil on the boxings, he could keep it running for a few hours at least, and succeeded in doing so until 4 o'clock the following morning.

During this time, an exploring party staid in the mine, and we tried to reach the places where men were known to have been working. We succeeded in reaching the head of the 1st and 2nd West on the South Side of the mine, entering the No. 2 Room on 2nd West Entry, where two men had been working, and found their dinner buckets, but could see no trace of the men, who had evidently left this place after the explosion and tried to reach the shaft, as we found them later lying side by side on the 3rd Southwest Entry, where they had evidently been overcome with after-damp and lay down and died. The after-damp was so strong, our party was nearly overcome, and we were forced to retreat; some of the party having difficulty in reaching fresh air.

We reached the surface at 2:30 A. M., on the morning following the explosion. A few minutes after we had reached the surface, we heard a signal from the bottom of the main shaft, and immediately returned and found that one man had made his way to the bottom alive, carrying with him an open light. After bringing him out, we again started to explore the mine, and this time entered the old 1st Southwest Entry, where three other men had been working, taking out track rails. We explored this section, and found the tools, but the men were gone. We then concluded to make our way through a short pair of face entries to the 3rd Southwest, where we supposed the men had gone in their efforts to reach the shaft. On reaching this entry, we found the three men lying dead on the passway, where the after-damp had evidently done its deadly work. We put one of them on the stretcher, and started towards the bottom, but had not gone over 100 ft. along the 3rd Southwest Entry until we found the two men who had left the No. 2 Room on 2nd Southwest Entry, also dead from the effects of the after-damp.

As our party was again almost overcome, and believing that all the others were dead, we decided to return to the surface, which we did at 4 o'clock in the morning, and on learning that the fan was in such a condition that it could not be run much longer, we decided to stop and repair it, as we could not get along without an air current.

At 7 A. M., the fan was again put in operation, and the cage in the main shaft cut loose. We then proceeded to take in material to build temporary stoppings and carry the air current with us. With the officials of the mine, and the assistance of the miners of this and the surrounding mines, who willingly volunteered their assistance, this work progressed as rapidly as it was possible for it to be done.

On coming out of the mine about noon, we found that you and other members of the department had arrived at the mine and were ready to go in with the party which was going down. This party worked its way along the South Main Entry, and about 3 P. M., located seven bodies near the entrance of the 4th East Entry; these, and three other men were working in No. 18 Room, 4th East, when the explosion occurred.

From information received from three men who were afterwards rescued, those ten men tried to reach the shaft bottom; the last three men finding the after-damp too strong, retreated to the interior of the mine where they were found about 11 o'clock on the night of the 22nd.

Mr. Jas. W. Paul and Mr. J. R. Cavanaugh, from the United States Geological Survey Rescue Station at Pittsburg, arrived at 5 o'clock on the evening of the day after the explosion, bringing with them, helmets and other equipment necessary for the rescue and resuscitation of men that might be rescued. They, with another rescue party, entered the mine, all the men who were in the mine at the time of the explosion having been accounted for except five.

The efforts of the Geological men, with the use of the helmets, were

directed to where it was supposed the explosion had occurred. After reaching within about 1400 or 1500 feet of the point referred to, they were compelled to retreat, on account of the exhaustion in their efforts against falls and other obstructions, and because of the high temperature in the mine. It was then decided that a force of men should remove some of the obstructions and conduct the ventilation by temporary means, nearer to the point desired to reach, and the exploring party returned to the surface.

Another exploring party, composed of Mr. John Rees, the General Manager of the Company, the officials of the mine, mine inspectors, and a number of others, commenced to explore the Southeast side of the mine, and after being compelled to retreat a time or two, finally succeeded in reaching the face of No. 3 and No. 4 S. E. Butt Entries, finding three of the missing men alive at No. 35 Room on 3rd S. E. Entry, but, though conscious, in a very exhausted condition.

The party at once communicated with the outside, and a force of men with blankets and stretchers was sent in to carry them to the surface, a distance of over 2,000 feet. After being carried to a point reached by the pure air, they were met in the mine by Mr. Paul and Mr. Cavanaugh, of the U. S. Geological Survey; Dr. Atwell of Amsterdam, and others, and the work of resuscitation and reviving was done before taking the men to the surface. They were taken on top about 1:00 A. M., on the second morning after the explosion, and soon began to show signs of recovery. There were twenty-three men in the mine at the time of the explosion; five of them, including the night-foreman, were on the North side of the mine, which was not affected by the force of the explosion. These men made their way to the bottom of the shaft and were hoisted. With the eight men already rescued, and the thirteen bodies which had been recovered, the two machine men who were working at or near the supposed location of the explosion were all that were not accounted for, and the work of conducting the ventilation in the direction of that point was prosecuted as vigorously as the obstacles met with would permit. By this means, we were able to get within about 500 feet of the face of the workings, and form good judgment as to where the explosion had taken place, but owing to the presence of after-damp, and the obstructions from falls of roof, our progress became very slow, and we decided to go out and report.

Another force of explorers then entered the mine, accompanied by Mr. Paul and Mr. Cavanaugh, with their helmets, and proceeded to the point where the other party had succeeded in reaching. Resuming the use of the helmets at this point, Mr. Paul and Mr. Cavanaugh proceeded cautiously to the seat of the explosion, finding the bodies of the two unfortunate men, and with great difficulty carrying one of them to the rescue party, who removed it to the bottom of the shaft. Knowing that the other man was dead, and there was great danger of losing life in

trying to rescue the body without conducting a volume of air to the point where the body was lying, a consultation was held and it was considered that it would take at least twelve hours to erect the necessary brattices and recover the body without the use of the helmets.

Mr. Paul, Mr. Cavanaugh, and mine inspector Jno. L. McDonald, each with the use of a helmet, proceeded to the face of the entries where the explosion occurred, placing the body on a stretcher, and it was drawn 400 feet by use of a rope through the deadly after-damp by the exploring party with whom they were accompanied, and thus the last body was brought to the surface about 1:30 P. M., on Saturday, April 23rd, forty hours after the explosion.

You instructed inspectors McDonald, Kennedy and Burke, to remain in the district with me and assist in the restoring of the airways in the mine, and to advise you when the mine was in readiness for inspection; this, we did, and later advised you that the mine would be in readiness on May 3rd for investigation, to ascertain if possible the cause of the explosion, and under your direction, the inspection was made on that date.

To you, and through you, I desire to express my sincere thanks to the officials of the Youghiogheny & Ohio Coal Co., and other neighboring Coal Companies; to the miners and community at Amsterdam for their loyal aid and heroic efforts in assisting in the work immediately after the explosion, and also to yourself and members of the mining department, and the Geological rescue men for ready response to my appeal for help and for the valuable counsel and active assistance in the hazardous work of rescue and recovery of the bodies of the unfortunate victims of the explosion.

Very respectfully yours,

THOMAS MORRISON,
Inspector 9th District.

STATE MINING DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBUS, O.

MAY 7, 1910.

Y. & O. COAL CO., *Cleveland, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:— Before resuming operations at the Amsterdam mine, the following orders must be complied with:

(1) The permanent stoppings must be replaced, and would prefer that they be made of brick and cement, or concrete.

(2) All obstructions, such as falls, must be removed from the air-courses, and doors repaired; would recommend that they be replaced with automatic doors.

(3) The dust in the airways, haulways, gobs, and on the timbers, sprinkled and removed from the mine.

(4) No open lights to be used unless on the passway at the bottom of

the shaft, and no one allowed to go beyond that point, or in any manner enter the return airway, without a locked safety lamp.

(5) The cages should be given a thorough overhauling, the ropes examined, and the guides in the shaft lined up. We would recommend that automatic doors be used at all important points in the mine, where it is necessary to use doors to direct the air current.

(6) After the above orders have been complied with, and the mine restored to its normal condition, the mining department must be notified, so that an inspection of the mine can be made before resuming operations.

Very respectfully yours,

THOS. MORRISON,
Inspector 9th District. ..
JOHN BURKE,
Inspector 1st District.

Approved:

GEO. HARRISON,
Chief Inspector of Mines.

AMSTERDAM EXPLOSION.

(Report of Geo. Harrison, Chief Inspector of Mines, Columbus, Ohio, on Amsterdam mine explosion, which occurred April 21st, 1910.)

HON. JUDSON HARMON, *Governor of Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:— About midnight on April 21st, I received the following telegram:

“BERGHOLZ, OHIO, April 21, 1910.

GEO. HARRISON, *Chief Inspector of Mines, Phone 5124, Columbus, Ohio.*

Explosion Y. & O. mine, Amsterdam, Ohio. Bad. Send for helmet men at once.
THOS. MORRISON.”

At 12:14 A. M., a message was on the Western Union wire to Jas. W. Paul, United States Rescue Station, Pittsburg, Pa., asking for helmets and helmet men, and from that time until 7 o'clock in the morning, when I left the city for the scene of the explosion, the time was spent in securing communication with all the district inspectors, requiring them to report at Amsterdam as quickly as they could get transportation to that point, which they did.

On arriving at the mine about 1:30 P. M., with district inspector W. H. Turner, who had also arrived, we at once examined the ventilating machinery, and went into the mine with an exploring party.

Mr. Morrison, in his report to this department, a copy of which is herewith attached, has covered the work of rescue so fully that it is not necessary to repeat it.

THE EXPLORING PARTY

And rescue work was entirely under the charge of Mr. Richard Jones, Superintendent of the Youghiogheny & Ohio Coal Co., and his subordi-

nate officials at the mine, and Mr. Thos. Morrison, district inspector, who evidently had plenty of good, willing volunteers to assist in the hazardous work.

Mr. Morrison was on the ground within less than an hour after the explosion, and from the time of the explosion until the last body was recovered, there was not a single hitch in the work, everything being done with cool deliberation, good judgment and foresight, and what was most remarkable, not a single person in any of the rescue parties received any injury, only from the effects of the after-damp, and nothing serious in that particular.

INSPECTION.

On the 3rd inst., in company with inspectors Thos. Morrison and John Burke, we made an inspection of the mine, to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the explosion. Mr. Jas. W. Paul, who is in charge of the United States Geological Rescue Station at Pittsburg, Pa., and the various persons composing the management of the mine, were also present.

There was little difficulty in locating the seat of the explosion, which all agreed was in the Left or East Entry of three parallel entries known as the Sub-South Main Entries, being driven in a Southwesterly direction, advancing into solid coal in the extreme Southwest section of the mine. These entries are each driven about 16 ft. wide, with a pillar of coal about 20 feet thick between the center entry and the one on each side. Breakthroughs are made between all the entries, as the law requires, namely: Sixty feet apart, and, in addition, canvas cloth is used to conduct the ventilating current from the last breakthrough to the face of the working place, so as to dilute and carry away the carbureted hydrogen gas (fire-damp), generated as the places advance.

A mining machine was found at the face of the center entry, mining the second cut in a breakthrough to the left entry, having made three runs when the explosion occurred. One of the bodies of the machine runners was in the center entry, nearly 200 feet from the face, somewhat burned. The other body was found near the last breakthrough in the left entry, considerably burned. The clothing on those bodies was not burned to any extent, but considerable charred dust was found in the left entry near where the body was found, and a little in the right corner at the face of the center entry.

CAUSE OF EXPLOSION.

All indications show that one of the machine runners went into the left entry, for some purpose which can only be surmised, and that he came in contact with, and ignited, a body of gas which had accumulated from defective ventilation.

MINE REPORTED "ALL RIGHT" AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

E. O. Jones, the night-foreman, stated that Charles Howarth, one of the victims, whose duty it was to travel the South Side of the mine, every night to see if any fire existed from firing of shots, or any irregularity, reported to him at 7 o'clock that everything was "all right", and those places were ready to cut.

The explosion was entirely local in character, and judging from the number of stoppings blown down, and falls of roof and destruction in other ways, the force from the concussion and expansion of flame was in as direct a line as could be made to the bottom of the hoisting shaft, which was the intake of air, the distance from the seat of the explosion to the shaft being about 2,600 feet. There are no old workings on that side of the mine, and nothing but entries being driven. There was no destruction in any other part of the mine, and no indication of explosion, only in the line of the force on the South Main Entry, towards the shaft and near it, charred dust was found, and a number of the mules and ponies in the stable a distance from the shaft was dead and the hair on them somewhat singed, while others close to were alive and showed no signs of injury.

Joe Sampietro, a driver, was found at the bottom of the shaft, immediately after the explosion, in a dying condition and never recovered. This man's duty was to move the mining machines from place to place, and go between the working places and the shaft to secure sharp bits, machine oil, or anything needed by machine men. His team of ponies was standing on the South side of the shaft in the passway, the harness and tail chain hanging hooked to the outer end of an empty car, showing that he had started to the shaft after moving the mining machine into the center entry where the explosion occurred. This machine had been moved about 800 feet, evidently from the work done about an hour or an hour and a half before the explosion.

THE FIRST EXPLORING PARTY

That entered the mine, in exploring the Main South Entry, found a main door standing wide open and fastened back to a post in such a way that it must have been intentionally done by some human being. The only conclusion reached is that the driver in coming out fastened it back to save climbing out of the car to open it as he returned into the mine again.

There was another door about 500 feet from the face of the entries where the explosion took place, through which this driver had to pass. The inference is that he was just as liable to prop that door open as he was to fasten the main door open. If this was done, the entire current of air would be cut off from that part of the mine. There was another door at another point on the South Main Entry, which, if kept open at

the same time as the first door named, the result would have been precisely the same. Inspector Morrison and Superintendent Jones were both with the first party that reached the open door. The other two doors mentioned, when reached, were both found buried under a big fall of roof, resulting from the force of the explosion, obliterating any possibility of evidence as to what position they were in at the time of the explosion.

The report of the fire boss shows that on the morning of the 21st, a slight trace of generating gas was found in those entries.

The ventilating fan was equipped with an automatic self-recording pressure gauge, showing the pressure, and that the fan was continually running up to the moment of the explosion.

THE INSPECTOR'S REPORTS,

(Copies of which are herewith submitted), show for the last four inspections that the mine has been well taken care of, and the law in some important instances, more than complied with, but like many other mines in the state, the elements of danger are there, and they cannot be tampered with, without serious risks to life and property.

In this case, the evidences are, that at 7 o'clock in the evening, everything was reported "all right" in that part of the mine, but between that and the time of the explosion, two and a half hours later, indisputably some person inadvertently or carelessly committed some act which cut off the regular air current, allowing the gas generated in the left entry of the three Sub-South Main Entries to accumulate, which was ignited by one of the machine runners, going for some purpose from the center place to the left entry. The two machine runners and the driver were all the men that were killed by the force of the explosion, the other twelve men found dead having succumbed to the effects of the after-damp in their efforts to reach the shaft after the explosion.

Until the time arrives when we can all realize that the lurking dangers in mines require the most rigid discipline of every person in the mine, and each, from the General Manager to the trapper boy, knows and diligently performs his duty, calamities of this kind must and will occur.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. HARRISON,
Chief Inspector of Mines.
 THOMAS MORRISON,
Inspector 9th District.
 JOHN BURKE,
Inspector 1st District.

Columbus, Ohio, May 12, 1910.

[House Bill No. 577.]

AN ACT

To make appropriation for the relief of those left dependent on account of the accident at the Youghioghenny & Ohio Coal Company's mine near Amsterdam, Ohio, on the night of April 21, 1910, in which fifteen men lost their lives.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

Amsterdam
mine disaster
appropriation.

SECTION 1. That for purposes hereinafter stated there is hereby appropriated out of any money to the credit of the general relief fund, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.)

SECTION 2. That the speaker of the house and the president of the senate shall forthwith appoint a committee consisting of three members on the part of the house and three members on the part of the senate, which committee shall have power to distribute this money as they deem proper and right.

Duties of
committee.

SECTION 3. The committee appointed under this act shall meet with the local union No 2581 U. M. W. A., at Amsterdam within fifteen days and determine the amount and to whom such relief shall be given, and shall issue the orders of the committee in accordance therewith.

SECTION 4. The auditor of state shall issue his warrant on the treasurer of state upon the order of this committee, signed by all the members of the committee.

SECTION 5. The committee is vested with power to turn any or all of this money over to a trustee or trustees to be paid to the one for whom it is intended, in installments. The amount of which installments is to be determined by the committee.

GRANVILLE W. MOONEY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FRANCIS W. TREADWAY,

President of the Senate.

Passed April 30, 1910.

Approved April 30, 1910.

JUDSON HARMON,

Governor.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DISTRIBUTE RELIEF FUND, MADE TO THE SENATE.

Mr. Duval submitted the following report:

The joint committee appointed under the provisions of H. B. No. 577 — Mr. Gilson. To make appropriation for the relief of those left dependent on account of the accident at the Youghioghenny and Ohio Coal Company's mine near Amsterdam, Ohio, on the night of April 21, 1910, in which fifteen men lost their lives, submits the following report, accompanied by the minutes of the proceedings of the committee, the latter of which, we recommend be filed with the Clerk of the Senate and that the report proper be spread upon the Journals of the two houses.

The committee organized by the election of Senator Duval as chairman, and Representative Tidrick as secretary, and, after carefully considering all the facts presented, made the following distribution of the funds under its control:

Katrina Roskiewicz, widow of Angelo Roskiewicz, two hundred and fifty dollars;

Maria Reva, widow of Italice Reva, three hundred dollars;
 Mrs. Maria Howarth, widow of Charles Howarth, twenty-one hundred dollars;

Isabelle Smith, widow of John Smith, four hundred dollars;
 Jean McMaster, mother of Robert McMaster, six hundred and fifty dollars;
 Annie Lockhart, widow of James Lockhart, six hundred dollars;
 Elizabeth Hay, widow of Herbert Hay, five hundred dollars;
 Giavonni Sonavere, injured, fifty dollars;
 Luigi Beneditti, injured, fifty dollars;
 Erominio Benefitto, injured, fifty dollars;
 Ermilio Percello, injured, fifty dollars;

The committee appointed Messrs. Duval and Tidrick to carry out the instructions of the general committee.

It is the opinion of the committee that five thousand dollars will be an equitable relief for those whom the committee has first knowledge of being in distress, and the committee will therefore return to the state treasury the unexpended balance of five thousand dollars.

The People's Banking Company, at Amsterdam, which is made trustee herein will disburse this money according to the instructions of the committee and will take receipts for each payment so made. The bond required herein of said bank will be deposited with the auditor of state with a copy of this report, and, when the bank has deposited with the auditor of state receipts, showing that the amount of money deposited herein has been paid out, and, if the auditor has no reason to believe that the bank has not complied with its part of the agreement, he shall release said bond. The signature on the bond and the signature of this contract and report by the officials of the bank will be deemed a sufficient contract.

Katrina Roskiewicz, — furnish her ticket to her destination in Austria, give her fifty dollars in cash and bill of exchange for balance of two hundred and fifty dollars.

Marie Reva, — fifty dollars now and fifty dollars when her baby is born, ticket to her destination in Italy and balance in cash.

Mrs. Howarth, — thirty-five dollars per month, but the sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Duval and Tidrick, may expend five hundred dollars of said twenty-one hundred for a home, to be in her name and to be occupied by her so long as any minor children remain and are taken care of by her, provided she survives them, and, in case of her death, the property shall be in trust for any minor children until they become of age, at which time it shall belong to all surviving children equally, and, in case the sub-committee does purchase home for her, the amount allowed per month may be adjusted as the sub-committee deems proper.

Isabelle Smith, twenty dollars per month.
 Jean McMasters, twenty-five dollars per month.
 Mrs. Lockhart, twenty-five dollars per month.
 Elizabeth Hay, twenty dollars per month.
 Giavonni Sonavere, cash.
 Luigi Beneditti, cash.
 Erminio Beneditti, cash.
 Ermellio Percello, cash.

MARSHALL N. DUVAL,
Chairman Relief Committee.

R. S. TIDRICK,
Sec'y Relief Committee.

DAVID TOD,
 J. P. MAHAFFEY,

EDGAR ERVIN,
 A. F. TURNER.

The recommendations of the joint committee were agreed to.

U. G. DENMAN,
Attorney General.

STATE OF OHIO,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, June 23, 1910.

HON. GEORGE HARRISON, *Chief Inspector of Mines, Columbus, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:— You have asked me to submit to you a form to guide manufacturers of illuminating oil for mines which this department considers a compliance with section 974 of the General Code. Part of section 974 is as follows:

“Each person, firm or corporation compounding oil for illuminating purposes in a coal mine, or mines, shall, before shipment thereof is made, securely brand, stencil or paste upon the head of each barrel or package, a label which shall have plainly printed, marked or written thereon, the name and address of the person, firm or corporation compounding the oil therein contained, the name and address of the person, firm or corporation having purchased same, the date of shipment, the percentage and the gravity in degrees Baume scale, at a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit, of each of the component parts of animal, vegetable and mineral oil contained in the mixture, and the gravity in degrees Baume scale at a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit of the mixture.

Each label shall have printed thereon, over the fac-simile signature of the person, firm or corporation having compounded the oil, the following: “This package contains oil for illuminating purposes in coal mines in the state of Ohio, and the composition thereof as shown hereon is correct.”

From the above section I consider the attached form a compliance with the same. I would suggest that this brand or label be placed upon the head of each barrel in some permanent form. I note the law provides that if a label is securely pasted upon the head of a barrel it will be a compliance with this act. I suggest that you warn manufacturers of oil to be careful in this particular for the reason if the label is merely pasted upon a barrel it may be either torn off or on account of dampness come off of its own accord, and would therefore cause trouble to the manufacturers, and for this reason I offer the suggestion that manufacturers brand the head of the barrels or packages in which the oil is contained in some secure form, thereby avoiding any possible trouble. I may add that there are probably other forms of a label that would comply with the section which I have above quoted, but you may inform the manufacturers that all who use this form of label which I have attached to this letter will be safe and free from any possible prosecution for not having their label according to law.

It has come to my notice that some manufacturers in their label use the words “cotton seed oil” in place of “vegetable oil.” I understand that “cotton seed oil” is “vegetable oil,” but I suggest the manufacturers use the words “vegetable oil” as the law requires, and not “cotton seed oil.” Perhaps the use of the words “cotton seed oil” would be a compliance with the law, but by using the words “vegetable oil” the manufacturers do away with all possible chance.

I also understand that a number of manufacturers place the name and address of the person, firm or corporation who purchases the oil on the barrel at a place other than the head. After carefully considering this section, I am of

the opinion that the name and address of the person, firm or corporation purchasing the oil must be placed on the head with the label, and that placing such name and address at another place on the barrel is not a technical compliance with the law.

In conclusion, I desire to add that manufacturers who use the attached label will avoid all possible technicalities in regard to the label.

Yours very truly,

F. H. KIRTLEY.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
Result of Test of Contents by Baume Scale at 60 deg. Fahr.
- (d) {

Animal Oil	{Gravity
Vegetable Oil (e)	{Gravity
Mineral Oil	{Gravity
Mixture	{Gravity

This package contains oil for illuminating purposes in coal mines in the State of Ohio, and the composition thereof as shown hereon is correct.

- (f)
- (g)

Legend.

- (a) Name of purchaser.
- (b) Address of purchaser.
- (c) Date of shipment.
- (d) Only necessary to have component parts of contents.
- (e) Place result of test.
- (f) Fac-simile signature of the person, firm or corporation having compounded the oil.
- (g) Address of person mentioned in (f).

Caution: BE SURE AND PLACE LABEL ON HEAD OF BARREL OR PACKAGE.

STATE OF OHIO,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

U. G. DENMAN,
Attorney General.

OPINION.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, September 22nd, 1910.

HON. GEORGE HARRISON, *Chief Inspector of Mines, Columbus, Ohio.*

DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your letter of September 16th, in which you ask my opinion upon the following questions:

“Would it be contrary to the provisions of Section 925 of the General Code, which provides for the removal of standing gas in all available parts of old abandoned workings in mines, to permit the sealing up of such old abandoned

workings and prevent gases generating therein from flowing out into the air current passing through other parts of the mine where miners are working?"

"In the event that it will not conflict with the provisions of Section 925, will this department be justified in advising or requiring, through its inspectors, the sealing up of the abandoned parts of mines; provided, however, that the sealing up of such abandoned parts will, in the judgment of the inspectors, increase protection to the lives of persons working in other parts of the mine?"

The part of Section 925 of the General Code material to your inquiry is as follows:

"Each mine generating fire-damp so as to be detected by a safety lamp, shall be kept free from standing gas. All traveling ways, entrances to old workings, and places not in the actual course of working, shall be carefully examined with a safety lamp by the fire boss not more than three hours before the appointed time for persons employed therein to enter. Parts of the mine not in the actual course of working and available, shall be examined not less than once each three days, and shall be so fenced as to prevent persons from inadvertently entering therein."

You will note that Section 925 of the General Code deals exclusively with mines which are in some degree being worked and does not apply to abandoned mines. If the abandoned workings of a mine are so sealed up as to cease to be a part of the mine, I am of the opinion that the above section will not have any application in such a case. However, the sealing up of old workings should be done in a manner satisfactory to the mining department and in a manner which would prevent the standing gas of such old workings, which have been sealed up, passing through other parts of the mine where miners are working or are likely to be stationed. The sealing of the abandoned parts of a mine must also not in any way affect the air passages of the mine.

I particularly call your attention to the fact that after such abandoned workings of a mine are sealed up, that part shall in effect be an abandoned mine and be governed by the provisions of Section 938 of the General Code relating to abandoned mines.

Yours very truly,

U. G. DENMAN,

Attorney General

Owing to the danger of blasting coal off the solid, and to the excessive amount of smoke generated by such shooting, the following notice was posted at the Hazelwood Mine.

NOTICE TO BE POSTED AT THE HAZELWOOD MINE,
DELLROY, OHIO.

To Govern the Blasting of Coal.

- First. No shot shall be fired in this mine, unless at least one-half of the coal is undercut, and no hole shall be drilled beyond the undercutting.
- Second. In narrow work no hole shall be drilled beyond the shearing, and all holes must be tamped with fire clay, or other uncombustible material.
- Third. Shooting shall be restricted so that no shots will be fired, until quitting time, and shooting shall commence at the last working place on the return air current and continue on in turn toward the intake.
- Fourth. The mine foreman, or superintendent, shall see that these rules are enforced.

THOMAS MORRISON,

Inspector 9th District.

Approved, October 18, 1910.

By GEO. HARRISON,

Chief Mine Inspector.