

MINERS TRAPPED BY FIRE

**Two Men Known to Be Behind
Burning Coal in Boston Col-
liery, of Delaware & Hudson
at Larksville, and Others
May Be Missing — Driver
and Nipper Are Dead.**

EXPLOSION STARTS BLAZE IN ROSS VEIN

**Three Miners Have Thrilling
Escape After Long Run to
Bottom of Second Opening.
Strike on at Colliery Which
Usually Employes Seventy-
five Men—Fire Still Burning.**

At least two men are believed to be trapped in a fire which followed an explosion last night in the Ross vein of the Boston colliery, operated by the Delaware and Hudson company at Larksville, Luzerne county, near Kingston. Two men, George Bender, a driver, and John Moldis, a nipper, are known to be missing, and at midnight last night were given up as dead.

There is a strike on at the colliery. The first started at 9 o'clock. John Morrissey, Ben Bedulls and Patrick Lloyd, three miners, had a narrow escape from suffocation. Morrissey keeled over in his attempt to escape with the others from the fire, and Lloyd and Bedulls went back into the shaft and rescued him.

All of the men are employed by Daniel Davis, rock contractor. They were engaged in driving a tunnel. The coal is mined from the top of the vein, known locally as Nesbitt's Hill, to which the miners ascend by means of steps. When a ton or car of coal is mined, the miners at the top of the hill slide the coal down in chutes to the men at the bottom.

Explosion Starts It.

Bender, the driver, and Moldis, the nipper, both Poles, were taking out a trip of cars when the report of an explosion was heard by Morrissey, Bedulls and Lloyd. The three latter made for the second opening which is at the top of the mountain. The smoke, following the air course, overtook them. Morrissey, who was running last, fell and his companions noticing that their companion was missing, retraced their steps and took Morrissey to the bottom of the opening where he recovered.

Bender and Moldis, it is believed, ignited a body of gas with their lamps and thus caused the explosion which developed instantly into a raging fire.

Up to 1 o'clock this morning neither of the men had been found. The fire at midnight reached the outcrop of the coal in the mountain side, and could be seen from the surface blazing fiercely in two cave holes near the top of the mountain. The blaze is being fought from the outside at the cave hole as well as from the inside.

The Boston colliery is a small concern, relatively. Seventy-five men are regularly employed at the colliery but there has been a strike on for the past few days and the working force is small.

Some of the miners declared at the slope early this morning that there are other men in the burning coal beside Bender and Moldis.

At 2 o'clock this morning no headway had been made against the fire. It is impossible to approach the point where Moldis and Bender were trapped. Delaware and Hudson officials are arriving on the scene and all the fire-fighting apparatus in the region is being rushed to the mine.

Larksville is located south of Edwardsville on the road to Plymouth. The entire village has thronged to the shaft.