

FATAL ACCIDENTS

On the evening of October 3rd, at the Drifton Colliery of Coxé Brothers and Company, Incorporated, a serious and unexpected accident occurred, by which five men, Toney Plum, John Plum, Stephen Soffle, Angelo Nazardo and Joseph Camerano lost their lives. After the breaker had quit work for the day, Manus Carlin, the breaker foreman, was instructed to take down an old stack that stood over an air shaft and was partly surrounded by the refuse bank. The intention, and the instruction given the foreman, was to take the plank off from the top down, but when they arrived at the stack the men refused to go up on the ladder to begin at the top. After some discussion, it was decided to cut the stack around near the bottom, which was done, cutting the stack about two feet above the edge of the bank so as to avoid a rush of the bank into the shaft. After the cut was completed the men got on the north side of stack to push it over. When it was pushed over, the plank about six feet below the edge of the bank gave way and allowed the bank to rush in, sweeping the men into the air shaft, and before they could be rescued from below they were all dead from suffocation. The rest of the party, some on the east side and some on the west side of the stack, escaped, when they felt the material going from under their feet. It is very easy to see how this accident could have been avoided. Had the man in charge thought that the plank down in the shaft would give way, I am satisfied he would not have put the men on the north side of the stack.

CONDITION OF COLLIERIES

G. B. MARKLE AND COMPANY

Jeddo No. 4 slope, Jeddo No. 4 shaft, and Ebervale.—Ventilation, roads, drainage and condition as to safety, good.

Jeddo No. 7 No. 1 slope, and No. 3 slope.—Ventilation, roads drainage and condition as to safety, good.

Highland Nos. 2 and 5.—Ventilation, roads, drainage and condition as to safety, good.

LEHIGH VALLEY COAL COMPANY

Hazleton No. 1, Hazleton Shaft, Spring Mountain and Spring Brook.—Ventilation, roads, drainage and condition as to safety, good.

COXE BROTHERS AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED

Drifton, Deringer, Gowen, Tombicken, Eckley, Buck Mountain and Stockton.—Ventilation, roads, drainage and condition as to safety, good.

PARDEE BROTHERS AND COMPANY

Lattimer.—Ventilation, roads, drainage and condition as to safety, good.

A. PARDEE AND COMPANY

Cranberry.—Ventilation good; roads and drainage fair; condition as to safety, good.