

TWELVE MEN DROWN IN HIBERNIA MINE

Wall Gives Way and Mine Shaft Flooded By Water.

Twelve men were drowned in the Hibernia mine Thursday night when supporting timbers gave way and let water from an abandoned shaft flood a new working. There were sixty men in the mine when the accident happened and all but twelve succeeded in reaching the skip level and from thence getting above ground by means of the skip. The bodies of the twelve dead have not yet been recovered and they are at a depth of 1,600 feet. The dead are:—Joe Swenty, George Collick, David Slaight, Andrew Muskoscheck, John Mananista, Paul Ketra, Joseph Swingidr, Michael Nojac, Michael Compus, Stephen Mida, George Kormus and Joseph Floskunka.

The mine is about four miles from Rockaway and is owned by the Wharton Steel Co. A new shaft was recently started near an abandoned working and a blast may have loosened the timbers supporting the sides of the new shaft permitting the water to pour in from the old mine.

Pumps have been put at work to remove the water from the shaft so that the bodies can be recovered.

The water in the Hibernia mine has been lowered fourteen feet since Friday noon. Pumps are at work in both the new shaft and the old mine and the skip in the new shaft is also utilized. The skip is a steel bucket approximately three feet square and eight feet deep. As there is about 750 feet of water in the shaft it may take two months to remove the water instead of two weeks, as prophesied by the mine officials.

The twelve bodies are down in the "sink" or bottom of the mine, 1,650 feet below the surface.

Prosecutor Charles A. Rathbun has been conducting an investigation through his county detective, Ed-Brennan. Mr. Rathbun said that he would take no official action against the Wharton Steel Co., owner of the mine, at present. Nothing can be done, he said, until Coroner Edward F. Totten has held an inquest and the jury returned a verdict. As the inquest is held up until at least one of the bodies is recovered it may be several weeks before the coroner may move in the matter.

When asked if the October grand jury would be reconvened to make an investigation Mr. Rathbun said no. A member of the grand jury is Augustus Munson, the mine superintendent. Mr. Munson has been superintendent for thirty-three years.

Alexander Grau-Wandmayer, of the Austro-Hungarian consul-general's office, in New York, visited the scene of the disaster Monday afternoon. He said that he had called upon Prosecutor Rathbun but denied having made any demand for an investigation, asserting that he was confident the officials would do all the law permits in the matter.

His visit, he said, was for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the widows and orphans left as a result of the disaster. It was the purpose of his government, he asserted, to see that they were given proper legal advice and everything done for them that was possible.

Mr. Wandmayer found that seven of the dead men had wives and families in Hungary while the remainder lived with their families at Hibernia. It will be the duty of his government, said Mr. Wandmayer, to notify the families of the drowned miners in Hungary of the loss of their husbands and fathers.