

TWENTY LOADED COAL CARS DROP ON SECTION GANG

Cable Controlling Patterson No. 2 Mine Incline Carriers Snaps and Lets Train Dash 800 Feet to P. & L. E. Tracks, Crushing Out Life of Mine Superintendent Daugherty Along With Eight Others—Half Score of Injured Are Rushed to McKeesport Hospital.

Nine men were killed and 17 injured at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon when a loaded mine train of 20 cars dashed down an 800-foot incline track and then dropped precipitately 50 feet into a gang of 27 Pittsburgh and Lake Erie track laborers.

The accident happened at Patterson Mine No. 2 of the United Coal Company in Lovedale Hollow, near Elizabeth. The account of the responsibility for the accident, as gleaned from miners in Elizabeth, is that the pin came out of the cable drum, allowing the cars to drop to the bottom of the incline. Control of the 20 cars was lost when they started on their 800-foot journey to the bottom of the hill, where the tippie is.

The Dead:

Samuel Daugherty, 45, superintendent of Patterson Mine No. 2, Elizabeth.

Gabriel Johnson, 45, mine laborer, Patterson, Pa.

John Vono, 46, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Newell, Pa.

Pasquall Runko, 48, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Elizabeth.

Antonio Dent, 40, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Monessen.

John Friday, 50, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Elizabeth.

Alonso Friesse, 42, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Elizabeth.

Juan Pictore, 35, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie, Elizabeth.

Unidentified Italian; address unknown.

Injured in McKeesport Hospital.

Mike Payee, aged 28, Elizabeth, lacerations of skull and face.

John Serina, aged 50, Elizabeth, lacerations of left side and leg.

Louis Desantio, aged 32, Elizabeth, lacerations of forehead.

Joseph Bechara, aged 40, Elizabeth, lacerations of scalp and forehead.

Rossella Corutch, aged 38, Elizabeth, lacerations of scalp and forehead.

Albert Felle, aged 32, Elizabeth, lacerations of scalp, nose and forehead.

Mike Farmus, aged 20, Elizabeth; bruises on face and contusions of skull.

John Collins, aged 30, Elizabeth; left leg fractured.

Ralpho Corutch, aged 38, Elizabeth, lacerations of scalp and forehead.

Others Injured.

Edward Crimton, aged 42, Elizabeth, body bruises.

John Crimton, aged 20, son of Edward Crimton, injuries of back and scalp wounds.

Six men who, after being attended to by physicians at the mine, left without giving their names.

Tries to Save His Chief.

The cars from Mine No. 2 run down a hillside of solid ground. There is no trestle work. Edward Clinton, boss carpenter of the tippie, saw the loaded train of 20 cars coming and jumped 20 feet to safety, landing on soft ground. He hurried to the rescue of Superintendent Daugherty, whom he had noticed standing close to a railing near the tippie, but when he reached mine's chief he found him mortally injured, one of the cars having struck him. He died before an ambulance could be summoned. Gabriel Johnson was the only other employee of the mine killed. All the others were employees of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie section crew, into which the loaded train crashed after it had reached the tippie.

Superintendent Daugherty had been employed at the mines more than 20 years. About a year ago he had a narrow escape from death when caught in fire damp. He was confined to a hospital several months at that time.

Pittsburgh Officials Soon on Ground.

As soon as the Pittsburgh officials of the company heard of the accident

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Twenty Loaded Coal Cars Drop

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they rushed to the scene and by 9 o'clock last evening the streets of Elizabeth were crowded with relatives of victims and the morbidly curious. The bodies of the victims were hurried to Martin's undertaking establishment, where they were prepared for burial.

The undertaker's place is a sort of a morgue for the community, and it was soon filled with weeping relatives of the victims. Deputy Coroner Harry Ewing and Wesley Church were on the scene shortly after the accident.

According to eye witnesses—those who escaped with minor injuries and were able to go to their homes—the accident happened so quickly that there was little time for escape for any in the road of the dropping cars. Supt. Daugherty was caught between the railing of the incline and the flying cars and literally crushed to death. Johnson, seeking refuge near the railing, was caught up and hurled in front of one of the cars and horribly mangled. The train kept to the track until within 100 feet of the tipple, when a slight curve threw it off and it dashed on and over the precipice which carried death or injury to the section gang below. They had no warning and no time to escape the disaster. A swirling cloud of coal dust and the cries of the wounded was actually the first indication that anything serious had happened.

Rescuers worked feverishly to release

Rescuers worked feverishly to release the men who had been caught under the flying cars, and after two hours of strenuous work they succeeded in taking out 17 men, five of them being dead, the others injured. Automobiles that were passing near the scene at the time of the accident were pressed into service and the injured men were hurried to the hospital. The dead were taken to a private mortuary at Elizabeth and their identity had not been determined several hours after the accident.

Soon, however, doctors and nurses were being rushed to the scene from Elizabeth and nearby towns, and a morgue ambulance from Elizabeth began the work of carting away the dead. Before 9 o'clock nine bodies lay in a row in Martin's undertaking establishment.

Jumps Into Tree and Escapes.

Many thrilling escapes figured in the accident. Josiah Simpson, weighman at the mine, was at the tippie when he heard the cars crashing down the incline plane. He hastened from his office and jumped from the tippie, falling into the branches of a tree. John Skinto, a miner, was walking under the tippie at the time the cars started on their mad rush. He saved himself by fleeing to a nearby hillside.

Yesterday was the first day that the mine was working to its capacity for several months. It was stated that the mine will have to close for several days waiting the repairing of the tippie, and this will cause over 500 men to be idle.