

TWENTY MINERS LOSE LIVES NEAR STONE CITY

EXPLOSION AT NO. 9 MAYER IS MOST DISASTROUS IN DISTRICT FOR 28 YEARS.

Tragic Scenes at Top of the Mine

Forbes and Pellegrino With Rescue Team, Resuscitate Ten—Bodies Recovered by 6:45.

Twenty miners died in Mayer No. 9 mine, operated by Ryan & Reedy, one and one-half miles northeast of Stone City, as result of suffocation from black damp following an explosion shortly after 12 o'clock yesterday noon. It was the greatest loss of life in a mine explosion in this district in the last 28 years—when 44 miners lost their lives in 1888 in an explosion near Frontenac.

The List of Dead.

PAUL LEFFVER
LERT HAYES
HUTT WINDSOR
LUDDY WINDSOR
FRANK WINDSOR
W. H. ROYCROFT
CHARLES TAVARNARO
JOHN LANTREIC
MATT ROTH
CHARLES ROTH
J. W. PAGE
DOMINIC KESLO
JOHN FRYE
WILLIAM HAY
FRANK JERINO
RUDOLPH TRELZ
GREGOR BURG
TONY KROSHOL
PAUL KONATZ
MIKE URISK

Ten Were Resuscitated.

Tim Reedy, of Ryan & Reedy, lessee of the mine, nearly lost his life. After the explosion, Reedy, pit boss at the mine, rushed into the north entry, poisonous with black damp, where the men were found, and was soon overcome. Other miners who first went to rescue their brother miners, were overcome. The following were made ill by the black damp and most of them resuscitated by the use of a lungmotor. Tim Reedy, George Turney, Tony Stiffler, Joe Brizner, Floyd Brizner, Louis Manley, Frank Burrell, Frank Korbushick, Jacob Volk and Ed Ryan. Of these ten, seven were resuscitated and six were among the 26 in the fatal north entry in which 20 were found dead. Physicians say they will probably recover. Nearly 100 men were employed in the mine. Those on the south side escaped any effect of the explosion.

Pitiful Scenes at Mine.

Scenes at the mine were tragic following the explosion and as the bodies were brought to the surface during the afternoon. As the news spread to Stone City, West and East Mineral, Carona and other nearby centers, wives, mothers, sisters and children of men working at the mine hurried to the place. Some came in buggies, a few got auto rides and some women walked and half-ran from a mile to three miles with babies in their arms.

About the shaft opening they crowded, impeding the work of removing bodies from the cage to autos and ambulances. Those related to the 20 who were known to be in the mine, soon learned the horrifying news. Women screamed, moaned and wept. The young wife of John Frye pleaded to go down in the mine.

"Why don't they find him. Let me go down. I can find him," she wailed. "I know he's dead, I know he's dead!"

Terrible Shock for a Mother.

A grey-haired mother, stooped, moaning, with a sobbing little boy holding to her hand, saw the male members of her family—husband and two sons—brought out dead. She was the wife of Huttt Windsor, mother of Lucky Windsor, 23, and recently married, and of Frank Windsor, a youth of 17 years. The three worked together, died together and were brought out together and placed in the same ambulance. The aged mother collapsed when she saw her worst fears were true.

Automobiles and buggies hurried from the mine, bearing the dead bodies to their homes or conveying those resuscitated where they could soon be placed under the care of a physician. A crowd of 200 people was constantly at the mine during the afternoon until the bodies were all brought out.

The work of rescue began at 2:15 o'clock and ended at 6:45 o'clock when those who brought the bodies from the north entry and gave treatment to those still alive, finished their work. Bodies were brought from the mine for a half hour afterward.

State Mine Inspector John Pellegrino and J. J. Forbes, head of the

U. S. Bureau of Mines rescue station, were informed of the accident about 1 o'clock. The mine rescue car is in the repair shop and could not be used. Mr. Pellegrino and Mr. Forbes assembled rescue apparatus, notified first aid teams to hurry to the mine, and then secured autos.

Mr. Pellegrino arrived at the mine first and gave respiratory treatment to several men brought from the mine overcome by the black damp. Reviewing these, he and an assistant entered the mine. Mr. Forbes and several others arrived a few minutes later. Mr. Forbes took charge of the rescue team of five men and began searching for bodies. Mr. Pellegrino stationed himself a mile underground at the last fresh air spot and Mr. Forbes and the rescue team worked for a distance of 200 yards away, wearing oxygen helmets in the poisonous atmosphere.

How Men Were Found.

Eight men were found in the main entry north, nine in back north and three in the first west. Only six of the 26 in the north entry escaped alive. They were given aid by use of the lungmotor. Mr. Pellegrino was assisted by Dr. Lightfoot, of Mineral. It was Dr. Lightfoot's first experience in a mine. He aided the state mine inspector until the last man was brought out.

With the exception of Frank Windsor, the 17-year-old youth, every one of the men found in the north entry were found with their faces toward the opening. They had started toward safety crawling on their hands and knees. Windsor was found in a sitting position against the face of the entry. He had been dead only about five minutes when found, it is believed. Nearly all the dead were stiff and mortification had set in when found. The oxygen apparatus was used vainly on some of these.

Rescue Work Was Rapid.

The work of rescue proceeded calmly, rapidly and efficiently. Mining men, when they learned the bodies had been recovered and all means of resuscitation had been used by 6:45 o'clock, were amazed with the speed of the rescue work. State Mine Inspector Pellegrino and J. J. Forbes, government mining representative, who directed the work of rescue and who worked expertly themselves, say that too much credit cannot be given the five men who formed the mine rescue team. They were, George Kettman and James Sherwood, deputy mine inspectors, Blaine Dunlap, George Price and Fred Jones. Price is mine foreman at No 14 Western, whose first aid team was on hand.

Other men trained in first aid work present to give assistance were: Ollie Welcome, Dick Green, Jay Burdick, Frank Collins, Emile Theys, James Murphy, Fred Mallett, William Jones and James Taylor. Nearly all the men were summoned from their work at mines. They volunteered their services to aid in the rescue work, but one team proved sufficient. They were kept in reserve. It was expected at first that the work of rescue might be at all night, and it was planned to work the first aid men in relays. J. J. Forbes and Mr. Pellegrino had taken plenty of chemicals for supplying the oxygen and lungmotor apparatus for 48 hours. Mr. Forbes, who highly praised the assistance rendered by the first aid and rescue team which worked with him, says he has trained 90 men in rescue and 150 men in first aid work in the past nine weeks.

Several of the bodies of the dead miners were taken to undertaking establishments in nearby towns. Most of the dead were taken to their homes.

Two of the dead miners were buried as well as suffocated. They are thought to have been at the immediate scene of the explosion. The rest were overcome by the black damp.

Cause of Explosion Unknown.

The circumstances causing the explosion are not known. The men who were in the north entry in the path of the wave of black damp are dead. Powder may have been set off. Gas may have been encountered. State Mine Inspector Pellegrino will make an investigation tomorrow. The men rescued will still be too ill to talk today, he believed. Last night, the mine will not work today. Fred Green, a deputy mine inspector stationed at Columbian, will visit the mine today and in company with the gas man, will go through the mine, put up a couple of stoppings and attend to some other work. As the force of the explosion was light, the mine is not damaged to any extent.

Mine Rescue Truck Needed.

Alex. Host, president of District 14, U. M. W. A. went to the mine in the afternoon. He went down to the scene of rescue work.

Nothing was more strongly emphasized as a result of yesterday's mine disaster than the need for a

ON VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.

They are telling a good joke on a Pittsburg restaurant man. Recently an acrobat performing at the Klack theatre mentioned knowing this man and expressed a desire to see him again. Manager Klack told him at the entrance of the theatre and suggested that he go back to stage door and greet his old friend. The Pittsburg man went to the dressing rooms but no one was there. He then went forward on the stage and seeing his friend on the other side started across with outstretched hand. Imagine his surprise when about half way to his journey's end he discovered footlights blazing to his right and a sea of upturned faces beyond them. The show was in progress and it did not take the restaurant long to find it out. He beat a hasty retreat and waited until the curtain fell on the acrobatic act. We would not mention this name for anything in the world for he is a friend of ours but his initials are Ed O'Connor.

COMMISSIONERS RAISE PAY

Street Laborers to Get Present—No Relief for Central School.

An ordinance passed on first reading last night by the city commission will raise the pay of laborers materially if they appear on the streets in uniform instead of plain clothes. The advance is being made in accordance with the upward trend of the foodstuffs and clothing. None of the commissioners are openly opposing the ordinance so its passage is practically assured.

Just how the ditch diggers and other laborers employed, who must come in contact with dirt, will live up to the new arrangement, is still an unsolved. Some customary dress is suggested, but no definite uniform has been established. The ordinance is not specific as to the color design or cut of the new dress for Pittsburg's street workers.

The old scale of wages follows: laborer, \$2.15 per day; one man with horse and wagon, \$3.00; one man with team, \$3.75. The new ordinance names the following scale: laborer, \$2.50; operating steam roller, \$3.00; one man with horse and wagon, \$3.25; one man with team, \$4.00. This is an increase of about 20 per cent.

Employees who do not provide themselves with uniform, either white or some other color, will not get the advance, according to the ordinance. The uniform idea was introduced so that the city commissioners could comply with the law and still raise the wages of their employees.

A resolution was introduced to pave Quincy avenue from College to Catalpa. An ordinance on first reading called for the opening of both Tenth street and Elm street over the Frisco tracks. A petition was presented for the paving of Chestnut street from Third to Ninth streets. The petition was adopted and a resolution ordered drawn.

Reports of the city treasurer and Pittsburg Humane Society were accepted. T. A. Jones, appointed as a special policeman, presented his bond and it was accepted. City Attorney Pingry was asked to notify the Frisco to furnish a flagman for the Walnut street crossing, in accordance with an ordinance recently passed.

Mrs. O. W. Schide appeared before the commission in behalf of the Parent-Teachers association of the Central school to ask that the streets around the building be roped during recess and a part of the noon hour. The commission decided that the street was designed for traffic and refused to comply with Mrs. Schide's request.

A New Girl in Town.

Have you seen the pocket lady? Be sure to see her this afternoon at the United Presbyterian bazaar, corner Fourth and Walnut. Something new and novel. Opens at 2 p. m. At 6:30 p. m. a chicken and dumpling dinner served in social rooms of the church for 25 cents.

mine rescue motor truck at Pittsburg, it is said. The U. S. Bureau of Mines car was undergoing needed repairs. It could not have got to the mine, in all probability, quicker than did the rescue men by use of motor cars. Yet State Mine Inspector Pellegrino and Mr. Forbes state that had they possessed a motor rescue and first aid truck equipped and ready for use they could have reached the mine a few minutes earlier and probably the death list would have been cut down eight or ten men.

Out of yesterday's catastrophe it was predicted, will grow better provisions for saving miners' lives, just as the death of 44 men in a mine near Frontenac in 1888 resulted in laws for the miners which have saved hundreds of lives.