

## Another Disaster In Anthracite Industry Is Recorded For the Wyoming Field--No Cause Assigned by Company Heads--Arrangements Made For Inquest--Statement Made by Officials--First Serious Accident Under New Compensation Law.

Seven men were killed, two others injured, five women created widows and fifteen children made fatherless in a gas explosion at the Lance colliery in Plymouth of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Co.

### The Dead.

WALTER BALESTA, miner, 26, single, Carver street, Plymouth.  
VITOLD MIKOWONSKI, driver, 19, single, 167 Commercial alley, Plymouth.  
STANLEY STANISZEWSKI, miner, 31, married, Shunk street, Plymouth, survived by wife.  
MICHAEL MIKALONIS, miner, 49, married, 373 Carver street, Plymouth, survived by wife and nine children.  
GEORGE GORKI, miner, 22 married, 625 State street, Plymouth, survived by a wife.  
JOHN LASASKI, miner, 26, married, 812 River street, Plymouth, survived by a wife.  
STANLEY SHUSTA, miner, 38, married, 183 Nottingham street, Plymouth, survived by wife and six children.

### The Injured.

Anthony Lavonski, miner, 19, Vine street, Plymouth, bruised and cut, probable fracture of skull, taken to Mercy Hospital.

Peter Jameski, door boy, 17, single, East Broad street, Larkville, slinged on back of head, able to walk home.

Although the accident happened in the early part of the afternoon, the officials of the coal company did not know the extent of the damage and whether or not there had been any fatalities. The work of rescue was accomplished with the greatest precaution, it being necessary to first purify the air before the scene could be reached and it was 4 o'clock before the bodies were reached and almost 7 o'clock before the dead reached the surface, when the ambulances which were summoned conveyed the dead to their homes and heart-broken relatives.

### Door Boy First Out.

The first to reach the surface following the disaster was the door boy, Peter Jameski. He was encountered by the rescuers at the head of the slope, where he was examined by Dr. Drake of Plymouth, who found that the back of the boy's head was slinged, but he was more frightened than injured and was permitted to go to his home in Larkville, which he did unassisted.

The rescuers, including a number of the officials, found that the force of the explosion had blown down a number of stoppings and doors and they worked with great precaution. The main task was to purify the air, which was successfully accomplished and the removal of the debris, which did not amount to as much as was anticipated, was then undertaken. The rescuers finally reached the scene and uncovered the bodies one at a time. When it was discovered that Lavonski was still alive he was hurried to the surface and sent to the hospital in an ambulance. At the latter institution, this morning, it was said that the victim's condition was better, but the physicians feared that he had a fracture at the base of the skull, caused probably by being thrown to the floor of the chamber or struck by a flying object.

### Pathetic Scenes at Mine.

Many pitiful scenes were witnessed when it became known that an explosion had occurred and that lives had been lost. Anxious wives and relatives ran to the colliery and begged for information concerning their dear ones.

When the list of dead was finally announced the scene was one that will not easily be forgotten by those who witnessed it. When the bodies finally reached the homes the sorrow and anguish was heart breaking.

A widow and six small children were at the home of Stanley Shusta on Nottingham street to receive the body when the ambulance drew up to the house with it. The neighbors tried to comfort the heart broken wife and mother and the little ones, many of the

latter being too young to understand what it was all about. At the home of Stanley Stanisewski, his bride of only a week, became almost hysterical when his remains were carried into the house. Her grief seemed to have no bounds and kind-hearted women living nearby used every effort to restrain her. Similar incidents occurred in the other homes.

Peter Jameski, the doorboy, when seen today said he could not tell anything about the affair. He said the report was deafening and that rock and coal flew in all directions, doors were torn down and the tamping came down, causing a frightful noise and that he ran as fast as his legs would carry him until he fell exhausted, and was finally discovered at the head of the slope by the physician and other rescuers, who examined him and told him that he was not injured and advised him to go to his home, which he did. He says the experience is one he will long remember.

### Gas Caused Explosion.

E. J. Newbaker, general inside superintendent of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Co., who was a member of the rescue party, told of the incidents in connection with the explosion to a Times-Leader reporter today. He said there was no question but what the accident was caused by an explosion of gas, probably by an accumulation of a pocket of gas or a quantity of gas unexpectedly released by a blast and that it came in contact with the naked lamps used by the miners.

The explosion was confined to two chambers and the slope. Mr. Newbaker says, and the victims included the persons who were working in that immediate vicinity. He says the exact location of the disaster was in the seven foot Ross vein of No. 5 slope. That part of the mine is supposed to be free from gas and the miners are permitted to work with naked lamps. John H. Evans, the assistant section fire boss, inspected the workings together with the fire boss, Thomas Davis, during the morning and found no gas in the "open lamp" sections and that the explosion was therefore entirely unexpected.

When asked if the explosion was heard at any great distance he replied in the negative, and said when the rescuers were on their way to the scene they found a miner at work only 1,000 feet from the explosion who was unaware of what had occurred. He said the damage was not as great as was anticipated and that the mine was in operation today and only a small section was idle owing to the necessary repairs, which are now being made.

The accident was the second of any proportions to occur in the Lance colliery, five men having lost their lives in a similar explosion on May 3, 1904. It is the eighth serious accident to occur in collieries of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company in many years.

Coroner Ashley and Deputy Coroner Dr. G. M. Drake of Plymouth announced today that no time as yet had been set for the inquest, but that it would take place as soon as possible.

There was general sympathy and

(Continued From Page Eleven.)

### Seasonable Suggestions

WAIT FOR THE  
EUCHRE AND PROMENADE  
by the  
Ladies of the Holy Name Church  
Swoyersville  
Columbus Hall, Feb. 23.  
Valuable Prizes.  
Music furnished by the Juven-