

**FIVE EMPLOYEES
OVERCOME BY GAS
IN AVONDALE MINE**

**Their Lives Were Saved by
Prompt and Heroic Action
of Fellow Workers**

CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

**Officials do Not Know What
Caused Accumulation of
Blackdamp in the Mines**

Blackdamp that drenched mine gas, overcame five employees of the George F. Lee Coal company in the Avondale section of Plymouth township yesterday afternoon and six or eight others were more or less affected by inhaling the dangerous fumes. Prompt and heroic action on the part of fellow employees who raised their own lives, saved the lives of the five men who were overcome. The colliery is idle today because of the untimely spread of the gas and a thorough investigation is being made by the company.

The men who were overcome were Steve Kapsinski, Joseph Zaleski, Andrew Pereminski and John Gosalski, all of the Jewel Hill section, and William Kelly of Plymouth. These men were carried out of the mine and given first aid treatment at the company's emergency hospital. Dr. Smith, of West Scranton, was called to treat them. Later they were sent to their homes where today it was reported that all are out of danger and a quick recovery is expected in each case.

The blackdamp made its appearance in the mine shortly before noon yesterday. Immediately the danger signal was flashed through the underground workings and most of the men were able to make their escape in safety. However, Kapsinski, Zaleski, Pereminski and Kelly, together with a couple of others were completely overcome to the fumes and fell unconscious while attempting to escape. John Gosalski's brave bold, took his life in his own hands in the rescue work. He made five trips into the danger zone, four times carrying a man to safety. On his fifth trip Gosalski himself fell a victim of the gas and it was necessary to carry him out of the mine from the spot where he fell while endeavoring to rescue a man where he believed others had been overcome to the gas.

Just what caused the blackdamp to accumulate in the mine will have to be determined by an official investigation which was started today. It is believed, however, that the change in weather conditions is responsible for changing the air currents in the mine and that these changed currents carried the blackdamp from a far off and abandoned portion of the mine into the workings where the men were employed.

It is said that the men who were overcome were using outside mine lamps rather than oil lamps. In the case of the fumes, the blackdamp is not detectable as quickly as when oil lamps are used. The latter are extinguished almost immediately when blackdamp makes its appearance. At least men are given warning by them in time to make their escape as a usual thing.

A number of officials of the company together with several employees entered the mine today to make an investigation. Two miles that were still in the mine yesterday afternoon are being searched for. As soon as news of the accident reached the company officials outside, a call was sent for two more rescue cars, including one from Kingston. This was rushed to the scene but the company's emergency equipment answered all purposes and the car was not needed after it arrived.

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