

# WALSH PROBING MINE DISASTER

**Mine Bureau Chief Visits Injured in  
Hospitals and Will Inspect  
Workings To-day**

**MINE AMONG MOST GASEOUS**

**Last of Bodies of Fourteen Victims  
Removed to Surface—Ten  
Funerals To-day**

In an attempt to place the responsibility for the mine disaster at No. 1 shaft of Loomis colliery of Glen Alden Coal Company in Hanover township on Friday morning, when fourteen men lost their lives and seven others were injured, Joseph J. Walsh, head of the State Bureau of Mines yesterday started an official investigation. He questioned men who were injured in the explosion. An inspection of the section of the mine where the explosion occurred will be made to-day by chief inspector Walsh and several district mine inspectors. A second investigation was Saturday but last night they announced they had not been able to learn the cause of the explosion.

**Inquest in Doubt**  
Homer E. Graham, deputy coroner for the district which includes Loomis colliery, said yesterday that he did not know whether an inquest would be deemed necessary. After the investigation by the mine inspectors is completed he will be informed of its results by Frank Kittle, mine inspector for the Loomis district, and the matter of an inquest will then be further considered. Mr. Graham said that on Friday and Saturday he personally viewed the bodies of the fourteen victims.

**Will Inspect Mine To-day**  
Chief mine inspector Joseph J. Walsh said last night that no report on behalf of the State would be made until the investigation has been completed. In company with mine inspector Kittle yesterday afternoon he went to Nanticoke State Hospital and talked with Steve Dinsura of Plymouth and Steve Raschewski of Nanticoke, two of the men who were injured in the explosion. To-day an inspection of the mine will be made and will be followed by visits to other miners who were in the section of the mine at the time of the explosion and who escaped with slight injuries.

**One of Most Gaseous Mines**  
Mr. Walsh termed the Loomis mine "one of the most gaseous in the world" and said that a thorough investigation will be necessary to determine the cause of the disaster. It was pointed out that in 1869, the old Dundee shaft, located near No. 1 shaft where the explosion occurred was abandoned because of the extreme gaseous condition.

**Last Three Bodies Removed**  
The bodies of the last three victims of the explosion were not removed from the mine until Saturday morning shortly after 4 o'clock. These were the bodies of Louis Jacobowski of Hanover Green who had worked in the mine only three days; Adam Penk of Plymouth and Andrew Gress of 16 China street, Breslau. Between noon Friday and 6 o'clock the bodies of Richard Wall, John Helfrich, John Turchik, William White, Thomas Phillips and Peter Swistak were brought to the surface. From 6 o'clock Friday night until Saturday morning at 2 o'clock the company changed the air currents in the mine and erected brattice work to keep back the gases and shortly after 2 o'clock the bodies of Steve Legas of Plymouth; Zibmund Kazumanski of Loomis Park; Joseph Franschinski of Kingston and Mike Kaswalo of Breslau were recovered and hoisted to the surface. W. W. Inglis, president of Glen Alden Coal Company and S. D. Dimmick, vice-president of the company remained at the colliery and in the mines until the last body had been recovered.

### Nine Widows, Twenty-seven Orphans

As a result of the explosion nine women were made widows and twenty-seven children were left orphans. The explosion was the most disastrous in District No. 1, United Mine Workers of America, since the catastrophe at Baltimore, No. 5, tunnel, of Hudson Coal Company, at East End on June 5, 1919, when ninety-two men met instant death.

### Cause Undetermined, Inglis Says

W. W. Inglis, president of Glen Alden Coal Company, announced yesterday that company officials have not yet determined what caused the terrific explosion at the colliery on Friday morning. Mr. Inglis said that a rigid investigation has been started but that it will most likely be several days before a report is made.

The section of the Loomis mine, in which the explosion occurred has been gaseous for some time, Mr. Inglis said. He also said that all employees carry safety lamps. He said that it has been established that electricity did not cause the explosion as the current was not being used at the time.

It has been ascertained that the explosion occurred near where one of the miners had his tool box. How such a tremendous amount of gas accumulated at that one spot and how it was ignited is a mystery, Mr. Inglis said. He added that the company would not hazard a guess as to the probable cause of the blowup, but that a complete probe by the company and the State will no doubt determine the real cause.

A report gained circulation that a naked light, reported to have been seen near a miner's tool box, might possibly furnish the cause for the explosion. Company officials said that they knew of no such report and said that they did not believe it to be true as the men carried safety lamps.

### Miners Plan to Aid Stricken Families

At a special meeting of Loomis colliery local union of United Mine Workers of America, held in Nanticoke on Saturday night, the members discussed ways and means to alleviate suffering among the families of the fourteen victims of the disaster and to make proper arrangements for the funerals. In each instance pall bearers were selected from among the union men and given instructions to attend the funerals being held to-day and to-morrow.

While practically all of the families will receive some benefits under the State workmen's compensation act, fear was expressed at the meeting that this financial aid would not be sufficient to prevent immediate suffering among the fatherless families.

John B. Gallagher, of this city, travelling auditor of United Mine Workers of America, attended the meeting as a representative of the district officials and related the depth

<p>of misery to which some of the survivors had been plunged by the catastrophe. Mr. Gallagher said that he visited the home of Andrew Gress at 16 Shawnee street, Breslau, where he found six orphans, whose sole support had been cut off by the disaster. According to the information given to Mr. Gallagher, three years ago the mother of the family died. When Mr. Gallagher visited the home he met a fifteen-year-old girl, who explained that she had been the mother of the household since her own mother died. While her father was living, the girl managed to keep the home together for her five brothers</p>	<p>and sisters, ranging in ages from four years to thirteen years but between sobs she explained she did not know what would become of the home since the father was carried home dead on Friday. Mr. Gallagher said that under the State Compensation Act the six children will receive \$10 a week for three years, but this amount will not be sufficient to keep the children together unless they receive outside aid. He also declared that the \$10 a week payment will not be continued permanently but in three years will be reduced as the various children approach the age limit of sixteen years</p>	<p>stipulated in the statute. Members of the local union pledged themselves to make concerted efforts to obtain further financial assistance for this family of six orphans as well as for the families of the other victims. On Friday night members of the Orpheus Glee Club held a meeting in this city and sent \$100 to the home of Thomas Phillips, 22 East Noble street,</p>	<p>Nanticoke, to help the family if needed. Mr. Phillips was a member of the glee club and sang with it when it won the recent prizes at Utica and Philadelphia. Starting to-day the funerals of the victims of the Loomis mine accidents</p>
			(Continued on page 8)
<div>Good Housekeeping</div>			

Walsh Probing  
Mine Disaster  
(Continued from page 4)

will be held. By to-morrow night the last of them will be laid in his resting place, the accident will soon be forgotten, but the sorrow of the families for the departed parent will continue and the hardships inflicted by the loss of the breadwinner of the family will be felt in increasing measure.

All such accidents seem to have outstanding sad case. This accident is no exception for in the little home of Andrew Greese, 16 Shawnee street, Loreslau, there are six orphans, the oldest 15 years. She, a wonderfur little mother, made so by experience of the past three years. Her mother died three years ago last April and she took up the task of keeping her brothers and sisters together when she was not yet thirteen years of age. Andrew Greese was a good father, who owned his own home, although it shows that it was hard work to pay for it, as it contains very little furniture. But as Mary, the eldest child said, "It is our home."

A look at those children who are very bright, but sorrowful, would lead any person to say it would be little less than inhuman to allow them to be separated after so hard a struggle for the father and this little mother during the past three years. With the compensation of \$12 per week coming into the home under the law, a fund of at least \$2,500 should be raised and placed in trust with some reliable individual or institution to be paid to those orphans at the rate of \$50 a month, which, with the compensation, will tide this family over the next four years, after which time the girls could be employed and the family be self-supporting. "This is not asking too much for this little girl who has made such a wonderful sacrifice to keep the family together, and in a manner that is a great credit to her," said John B. Gallagher, of the United Mine Workers, last night.

In checking up on the figures it is found there are nine widows and twenty-seven children as dependants under the compensation act and two posthumous children.

Thomas Phillips left a wife and the following children: Edward, aged 14; Margaret, aged 12; Alice, aged 11; Thomas, aged 7; Betty, aged 5.

Richard Wall, a wife and a daughter, Evelyn, aged 10.

William White, a wife and a daughter, Lillian, aged 5.

Louis Jacoboski, a wife and Leo, aged 4; Joseph, aged 1; posthumous child.

William Welsh, a wife and son, Carl, aged 5.

Mike Celurko or (Kasware), a wife and six children, Michael, aged 10; Coster, aged 7; John, aged 5; Anna, aged 4; Mary, aged 2; Theodore, 6 months.

Adam Penk, a wife and daughter, Marie, aged 2; posthumous child.

John Turcek, a wife and three children, Cecilia, aged 5; Irene, aged 3; Eleanore, aged 1.

Peter Swastak, a wife.

Andrew Greese, 6 children. Mary, aged 15; Agnes, aged 13; Francis, aged 11; John, aged 9; Stanley, aged 7; Anna, aged 5.

Compensation will cover all those accidents including the single men who left dependants, while those without dependants will be allowed a total of \$250 for funeral expenses.

In going over the number of dependants roughly, the total amount of compensation involved in the accident will amount to about \$55,000, although \$50,000 might be a closer mark. The amount will run from \$250 to about \$4,700, depending on the number and ages of the children.

Loomis Mine Disaster  
RELIEF FUND OPENED

The volunteering of two subscriptions of \$100 each for the relief of needy and worthy dependants of the victims of Friday's explosion at Loomis colliery, Glen Aiden Coal Company, has led the Record to open its columns for the acknowledgment of subscriptions to a relief fund.

Upon investigation it has been found that there is one family of six orphans which appears to be most worthy of public assistance. The eldest of this family is but 15 years of age. She has been acting as a little mother to her five brothers and sisters for three years. Now the father is gone. The children do not want to be separated. They occupy their own home. It is estimated that a fund of \$2,500 paid in small sums at regular intervals will, with the compensation to be paid, tide them over until they are self supporting.

Probably public no doubt will respond in sufficient measure to meet the requirements.

The two subscriptions volunteered yesterday are:

J. K. Weitzenkorn.....	\$100
M. A. Oppenheim .....	100
Total .....	\$200

1924 Loomis Mine explosion NEWS

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usmra rob  
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**Nine Victims to be Buried To-day**  
The funeral of nine of the victims of the Loomis mine disaster will be held from their homes this morning and this afternoon. The funerals of three victims will be held on Tuesday.

**Thomas Phillips-Richard Wall**  
A double funeral will be held for Thomas Phillips of 22 East Noble street, Nanticoke, and Richard Wall of 320 Prospect street, Nanticoke. The two coffins will be placed side by side at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon in Bethel Congregational Church at Nanticoke where services will be conducted. Burial will be in Nanticoke cemetery.

**John Helfrich**  
John Helfrich of Hanover Green will be buried from his home at 9 o'clock this morning. A requiem mass will be celebrated at 9:30 o'clock in St. Aloysius' Church, Barney street, followed by interment in St. Mary's Cemetery at Hanover.

**Lewis Jacoboski**  
Funeral services for Lewis Jacoboski, also of Hanover Green, will be held Tuesday morning. A requiem mass will be celebrated at 9:30 o'clock in Holy Trinity Church at Nanticoke. Final services will be conducted at the grave in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

**Adam Penk**  
Adam Penk of 457 Second street, Plymouth, will be buried Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from his home. Services will be held in St. Mary's Polish Church at Plymouth followed by burial in the cemetery of that church.

**Andrew Gress**  
The funeral of Andrew Gress will be held from the family home on Shawnee street, Bristau, at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning after which a requiem mass will be celebrated in

Several most attractive and durable styles shown in this collection — Mahogany or Polychrome pedestals—silk shades—electric socket equipment—chain pulls. 75c a Week.




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# THE GREAT HOUSE

## 32-34 Public Square

**St. Mary's Polish Catholic Church.**  
Burial will be in St. Mary's Polish cemetery.

**William Welsh**  
Funeral services for William Welsh will be held this afternoon at his home on Main street, Hanover Green, according to announcement last night by officers of the United Mine Workers.

**Zigmund Kasumanski**  
Zigmund Kasumanski, of Loomis Park, has no relatives and his body was unclaimed last night as it lay in a Nanticoke morgue. The local union made up of miners at the Loomis colliery, will arrange the funeral and will receive \$150 from the company if the mine is in operation the day of the funeral.

**Steve Legas**  
The funeral of Steve Legas, 69 Coal street, Plymouth, will be held from the family home with a requiem high mass in SS. Peter and Paul's Church, at 9 o'clock this morning. Burial will be in SS. Peter and Paul's cemetery.

**John Turchik**  
The funeral of John Turchik, of 630 Maple street, Nanticoke, will be held from the home of Jacob Gust, 629 South Hanover street, Nanticoke, this morning at 10 o'clock. A high mass of requiem will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Nanticoke, with interment in Holy Trinity cemetery at Nanticoke.

**Joseph Franschinski**  
The funeral of Joseph Franschinski will be held from the family home at 225 Slocum street, Edwardsville, tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock. The remains will be taken to St. Mary's Lithuanian Church where a high mass of requiem will be celebrated at 10 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. George W. Inczura. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery at Pringle.

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## 1924 Loomis Mine explosion NEWS

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