



RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1911.

## FIVE KILLED IN MINE DISASTER NEAR RICHMOND

Laborers Meet Death  
in Unexplained Ex-  
plosion at Car-  
bon Hill.

EIGHT OTHERS  
ARE INJURED;  
ONE MISSING

Miners Had Been Warned by  
Foreman Not to Go Into Sec-  
tion Where Accident Occurred.  
Heartrending Scenes as Fam-  
ilies Gather at Mouth of Shaft.  
Historic Mine Has Recently  
Been Enlarged and Equipped  
With Modern Material—Cor-  
oner's Jury Will Investigate  
To-Day.

### Victims of Explosion

The dead:  
Frank Berger, thirty-three years  
old; leaves wife and three children.  
Louis Cywinski, fifty years old;  
married; family, except son, killed  
with him, living in Europe.  
Stanley Cywinski, son of the for-  
mer, twenty years old; single.  
Lewis Sarcowitch, thirty years  
old; single.  
Joe Lawicz, forty-eight years old;  
widower.  
Unaccounted for:  
John Jarnutsch, thirty-eight years  
old.  
The injured:  
Joseph Verdenn, James Robinson,  
Thomas Lee, Jefferson Deter and  
Arthur Deter, and three others  
whose names are unknown.  
The two Cywinskis, father and  
son, were killed side by side, and  
were found within a few feet of  
each other.

Five men dead, one unaccounted for and eight seriously, some of them, per-  
haps, fatally, injured, are the results  
of an explosion which occurred at 7  
o'clock yesterday morning in Carbon  
Hill shaft of the Old Dominion Devel-  
opment Company's coal mines, near  
Gayton, Henrico county. The cause of  
the accident is not definitely settled  
and will not be accurately determined  
until the coroner's inquest at 11 o'clock  
this morning.

The explosion occurred at the bot-  
tom of an incline running 1,600 feet  
into the earth. The men had just gone  
to work, when a number of them, all  
more or less injured, staggered to the  
mouth of the shaft and gave warning  
of the devastation and death behind  
them. Foreman Louis Wilson, who  
half an hour before had laid out the  
work for the miners, immediately  
formed a rescue gang, and the injured  
were taken out in the coal cars run-  
ning to the surface. All were gotten  
out without difficulty.

#### Coroner Is Summoned.

The dead were left until the arrival  
of Deputy Coroner J. Fulmer Bright,  
who was notified soon after the acci-  
dent. Dr. Hugh Taylor was asked to  
go to the aid of Dr. T. D. Dunn, the  
company's physician, and he helped to  
attend the maimed and injured.

Two of the miners were so badly hurt  
that they were brought by Dr. Dunn  
last night to the Virginia Hospital,  
where they were operated upon. Both  
were suffering severe scalp wounds and  
body burns, but it is believed they will  
recover. Dr. Dunn returned to the  
mines in a taxicab last night.

The physicians were followed by  
Commonwealth's Attorney Gunn, of  
Henrico county, and Lewis C. Williams,  
attorney for the coal company. A pre-  
liminary investigation was conducted,  
but the full details as to the cause of  
the death-dealing accident cannot be  
known until after the inquest, for  
which jurors were summoned yesterday  
by Officer Garnett. They are as fol-  
lows: R. G. Ellis, Wilbur Pierce, Lynn  
Conway, L. A. Snead, H. W. Henley and  
F. J. Browning.

#### Possible Causes.

Two theories as to the cause of the  
explosion are advanced. One is that  
the miners entered a "pocket" of gas  
with "naked" head lamps, the flames  
from which ignited the gas at the mo-  
ment of contact. The second theory is  
that the general explosion was due to  
the premature ignition of a stick of  
low-grade dynamite, the sort usually  
used in mines.

The men must have been killed in-  
stantly. There were no signs of a  
struggle. All were found within a  
few feet of each other, showing that  
they were together when the accident  
happened. Louis and Stanley Cywinski,  
father and son, were lying side by side.  
The bodies were badly disfigured and  
scorched, but easily recognizable. One  
of the mules used for drawing loaded  
cars was also killed.

The men who were only injured owe  
their lives to the fact that they were  
not near enough to receive the full  
effect of the shock. Had all gotten into  
the gas "pocket" the toll of life would  
have been many times greater.

#### Families in Distress.

Distressing scenes were enacted  
about the mouth of the shaft, when  
news of the accident went through the  
camp. Mothers, wives and children of  
the dead and injured looked about the  
shaft, weeping and wringing their  
hands. But there was no disorder, no  
hysterical outburst, and the work of  
rescuing the injured went quietly on,  
under the supervision of Foreman Wil-  
son.

As the wounded men were brought to  
the surface they were carried into the  
homes or into the company's office,  
which is only a hundred or so yards  
away from the opening of the mine.  
One wife helped carry her husband  
home. Others became quieter as their  
loved ones were brought up from the  
bowels of the earth, but there was no  
consolation for those whose husbands

## JURY BLAMES MINING COMPANY

### Explosion in Shaft At Carbon Hill Investigated.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 21.—Acting Coroner J. Fuller Fulmer Bright and a jury, with Commonwealth's Attorney Julian Gunn, held an inquest at noon today over the men killed by the explosion in the Carbon Hill-Gaylor mines, about four miles from this city, yesterday, and a verdict was rendered holding the company responsible for the accident.

Fire Boss Louis Wilson said he went into the mine yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, as is his duty to do every day, and made his usual inspections. At the 1,365-foot level he found a pocket of deadly gas. This he believed to be due to some defect in ventilation, so he posted a danger signal, and the fact that this was disregarded is thought to have been responsible for the accident. Many of the miners were unable to understand English.

The revised list of the dead at Carbon Hill, Gaylor Mines, is as follows:

Frank Berger, Pole.

Louis Salvinsky, Pole.

Stanlius Salvinsky, Pole.

Joseph Lawicz, Pole.

John Jaranitsch, Pole.

The injured are:

Jefferson Deter, German; burned.

Ralph Deter, German; burned.

Thomas Norton, negro; cut.

Joseph Debornlodino, Italian; asphyxiated.

Callorina Zenyina, Pole; burned.

Thomas Mullianasky, Pole; burned.

Oreste Amabella, Pole; burned.

Walter Lee, negro; burned and cut.

Samuel Houston, negro; slightly hurt.

James Robinson, negro; slightly hurt.

### Mine Explosion Due to Management's Negligence.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 23.—In the case of the explosion in the carbon hill, Henrico county mines, which occurred last Friday and in which six miners were killed and a larger number injured, the coroner's jury reported a verdict in which it is said:

"This explosion, in the opinion of the jury, was due to negligence on the part of the management of the mines properly to inspect the mines and properly to notify the miners of impending danger."

The case will probably be placed before the grand jury on the 31st instant.