

12 DROWN LIKE RATS IN MINE PIT

Wharton Steel Company's Work-
ings at Hibernia, N. J.,
Scene of Awful
Accident.

ILL TIMED BLAST OF DYNAMITE CAUSE

By United Press Wire.

HIBERNIA, N. J., Oct. 20.—Buried beneath hundreds of feet of water twelve miners were drowned in one of the Wharton Steel Company's mines near here shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. The victims had no chance of escape. With a tremendous roar the water broke through the wall of the pit in which they were working and in a few minutes the mine was flooded.

The dead: Foreman David Slight, Joseph Swenty, George Polylich, Andrew Miskoshek, John Manister, Paul Ketra, Joseph Swingler, Michael Nojok, Michael Compus, Stephen Mida, George Kormus, Joseph Ploskunka.

The shaft in which the accident occurred is on the side of a mountain literally honeycombed with abandoned workings in which millions of tons of water have collected. Only a thin wall stood between the men and death and an ill-timed blast of dynamite shattered the barrier and released the flood.

As soon as the news of the accident was known every man and woman in this little town rushed to the scene. In the chill early morning, with the rain falling in torrents, they clustered helpless about the mouth of the shaft, the weeping, hysterical women relatives of the victims imploring the men to do something but there was no hope from the first.

The pumps were rigged as soon as possible and willing hands have kept them going without a moment's pause but it will be a day or even longer before the mine can be emptied sufficiently to permit the recovery of the bodies.

The mine is owned by the Wharton Steel Company, one of the few large concerns which is not connected with the United States Steel Corporation. It was founded by the late Joseph Wharton, of Philadelphia, and owns mining interests in various parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and other parts of the East. The Hibernia mines have been operated for nearly a century.