

8 ENTOMBED MEN RESCUED ALIVE

Tamaqua, Pa., Jan. 2.—After days of tense anxiety and strenuous work, the eight of the mine men entombed by a rush of water and water, etc., in the East Lehigh colliery were rescued alive at 11 o'clock last night. Just before midnight the body of the ninth man, Joseph Walters, was recovered. When the rush of water occurred and the struggle for life began, it is believed the last man obtained and fell, hanging on his head.

There was great rejoicing when the rescuers breaking through a large body of debris heard unmistakable evidence that the imprisoned men were alive after being for more than 25 hours face to face with almost certain death.

Mine Inspectors Curran and Brennan, who were with the rescuers, abandoned through the opening: "How above you?" and were rejoiced to hear the answer: "All well!"

It was at first thought that several hours would be required to reach the men, but such progress was made that in less than an hour from the time communication was opened they were being hoisted through the small opening made by their willing rescuers. John and William Berry, Robert McAffer, Frank Rubright, Ed. Miller, Elmer Allen and Ludwig Schiabel all reached the gangway in safety, but Joseph Walters was not with the party.

All the local physicians were summoned and the men were treated in the office of the colliery.

Although the dawn of the New Year was a dark one for many homes, the closing hours were filled with brightness when the rescue became known, and by a late hour the streets filled with happy people, and the welcome news brought many people from their couches to congratulate those whose few short hours ago were given up for lost.

Contrary to expectations, the rescued men were in such good shape that instead of being taken to the hospital they were all able to be removed to their homes, with the exception of Allen and Schiabel, who were taken to the hospital.

In the thrilling work of rescue the debris that blocked entrance to the entombed men's chamber was abandoned into cars of two tons capacity and as soon as one was filled, which required about 15 minutes, this gang of men was relieved and fresh volunteers were pressed into service, so that no moment was lost. Refreshment was kept at the foot of the shaft, and the wants of the faithful workers received prompt attention.

At dusk yesterday the rescue work had progressed to about 11, about 50 feet from breast 35, through which the water is supposed to have forced its way. Nearly five feet an hour was the progress made.

That these imprisoned would be rescued alive was doubted by men who have followed mining for years, and who know the inside workings of the East Lehigh colliery. Miners feared that if any of the men had escaped the rush of water and the refuse following they had succumbed to black damp.

It is estimated that the crowd around the colliery, rescuers numbered 2,000, so great was the interest taken by relatives and friends of the unfortunate men, together with the curious who helped swell the throng. In order to prevent interference with the work the shaft was roped off and a police patrol established. Last night the scene of the disaster, which is on the southern outskirts of the town, could plainly be observed from any portion of the borough, lanterns and torches of every description being everywhere in evidence.

Seven of the entombed men are Americans and old residents of the town. Rubright, Berry and McAffer are married and have families, the two former have passed middle life and have married children.

Rubright, although a mine of but few years' experience, has been particularly fortunate in regard to accidents, having been burned and otherwise injured on three different occasions in a little over a year while employed at the colliery.

Joseph Walters, the man who lost his life, was a single man forty years old. He formerly resided at Boston Pitt. His brother, John Walters, resides at Gilberton.

East Lehigh Coal Colliery rescue

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