

# PAIR SAVED BY MINE FLOOD; A TRIO TRAPPED

Unique Effect of Creek Rushing  
Into Gangway Where Five  
Men Work Together

RESCUE WORKERS ARE BUSY

May Yet Save Entombed Men,  
Though Chances Seem Re-  
mote—Victims Are Married

MAHANOEY CITY, Pa., Feb. 27.—Swept off their feet and whirled along like driftwood in a swollen stream, three men were carried to probable death like rats in a trap at Draper colliery, Gilberton, when the face of an old breast which approached close to the surface collapsed, allowing Mahanoe creek to empty in upon them.

There were five men in that section of the mines when they were caught in the first rush; but two of them, after harrowing experiences, managed to reach the bottom of the shaft in safety.

The entombed men are Joseph Drobas, William Kokas and John Servillas, all married and living at Frackville.

## Some Hope of Rescue.

"There is some possibility of rescue," say the officers of the Reading Coal and Iron company, which owns the colliery, "but it is rather remote, unless the three men managed to race high up into another breast. Even then they will have to wait days, perhaps, before the water and debris which chokes up the gangway can be cleared, opening a path to liberty."

Burrowing industriously into the bowels of the earth far up on a counter gangway of the West Tracy vein, the five men, all foreigners, employed by a Frackville contractor, had no thought of danger. As they mixed laughter with labor between puffs of the pipe, without warning the chamber was filled with water, rock and culm.

## Swept Away to Safety.

It came with a sweeping rush, carrying Adam Mazaitis and Joseph Matulis, who were apart from the others, off their feet and down a counter-chute. Cut off from their companions, Mazaitis and Matulis were buffeted about like corks on the water, until finally they managed to get their feet on the floor of the gangway.

Chilled to the bone and in total darkness, the two men, still up to their waists in water, pushed through into another gangway, along which they stumbled in a state of terror and exhaustion, until they reached the bottom of the shaft, when they were cared for in the Emergency hospital.

Meanwhile, that section of the mines where the breach occurred filled rapidly with slush and water, sealing up tight the gangway where the other three men were trapped.

Today the officials of the company made every effort to divert the course of the creek on the surface, and until this is accomplished nothing in the way of rescue can be carried on, because of the rushing water and culm, which has submerged tracks and pumps.

# **THREE MINERS RESCUED AFTER THREE DAYS ENTOMBED IN MINE Creek Caused Cave and Threatened to Drown Prisoners WERE MOURNED AS DEAD**

Mahanoy City, Pa., Feb. 18.—Imprisoned in the depths of the Draper mine for three days and three nights, realizing every moment that the waters of Mahanoy Creek which had caused the landslide that entombed them might engulf them in their dismal prison, three miners, foreigners, were finally rescued today almost on the verge of collapse.

The men had been caught in a narrow, but deep cut, the mouth of which had been covered with breaking timbers that held back the enormous mass of wreckage. They could hear their rescuers tolling on the outside, but it was not until the last night that they were able to make it known that they were still alive. By tapping with their picks on the main wall of coal they managed to attract the attention of the searchers.

Early today the mouth of their prison had been reached and food and warm drinks were passed into the suffering men. The hole was then enlarged and all three were lifted out.

Meanwhile at the mouth of the shaft, the families of the three had assembled. They had mourned the husbands and fathers as dead and so great was their joy that it was necessary to forcibly restrain them. When the three men emerged they were greeted with cheers.

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