

THE MINE HORROR

An Awful Loss of Life Attended the Disaster.

VICTIMS STILL UNNUMBERED

Shocking Scene that Confronted the Searching Parties.

THE INTERIOR A CONFUSING WHORL

Mutilated Remains Found Scattered In Every Direction.

One of the Owners of the Mine Places the Number of Victims at 151—The Exact Cause of the Explosion Not Known—The Mine Always Considered Safe—No Feeling Against the Company as the Accidents Seem to Be Considered as Unavoidable—Funeral of the Victims Will Take Place Tomorrow.

YOUNGWOOD, Pa., Jan. 28.—The disaster in the Mammoth No. 1 mine of the H. C. Frick Coke Company will go down in history as one of the worst that ever occurred in the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania. The exact loss of life cannot yet be determined. One of the proprietors of the mine says that there were 160 men in the mine at the time of the explosion, and that several escaped, less than ten, and that the rest perished.

The scenes about the mouth of the shaft during the night were heartrending. Dead bodies were brought up every few minutes, and the crowd simply fell back to allow the men carrying stretchers to pass. Every corpse was covered, and no one even ventured to inquire which body it was, for they knew every one in that part of the mine at the time of the explosion was dead.

A man who was with the first squad of rescuers that entered the mine after the explosion said to a reporter this morning:

"The rage had been injured by the explosion, and we were lowered in it down the shaft. We only reached the bottom of the shaft, and returned at once to the surface. We had seen enough to satisfy us that all hope of there being any survivors was vain. The odor of fire-damp was everywhere, and everywhere was death and ruin. It was unsafe to remain until the ventilating fans were started, and so soon as these were in motion we again returned.

"The terrible force of the explosion was visible on every hand. Coal wagons ground to pieces, the dead bodies of mules smashed into almost unrecognizable masses, and on every hand the dead bodies of men. Some were torn and bent and crushed beyond semblance of humanity, others were stretched out as they had fallen and were without cut or bruise. Their faces were purpled as though in sleep. One was found in his wagon, which by some freak of the explosion had not been wrecked, resting as though in dreamless sleep, with his dinner pail by his side. Those who had thus escaped the violence of the explosion had evidently been working in rooms from which they had rushed only to be suffocated by the smoke and deadly fumes of the gas."

Smith, the fire boss, who inspected the mine on the morning of the explosion and reported everything all right, was identified only by his gun boots. He must have been nearest the explosion. His body was scattered about in a dozen pieces. His head was torn from his shoulders and both his legs were cut off. The bodies, so far as they were lifted from the mine, were taken to one of the company's houses, where they were prepared for burial. Undertakers from Greensburg, Scituate and Hunt Falls are at work looking for the dead.

General Manager Lynch said: "The number of killed depends solely upon the number of men in the mine. There were 150 men in the mine yesterday. We have been employing 200 men at these works, but on account of dullness in the coke business we have been putting down a number of men. Some of these men went away, but I don't know how many returned and divided up the work there was to do."

Superintendent Knightley could not offer any explanation of the explosion. He said it was caused by fire damp, but where it originated or how it accumulated he could not understand. The Mammoth mine had always been free from gas, he said. It was remarkable in that respect. The mine is not injured in any extent. The damage is limited to a terrible and irreparable loss of life.

MR. FRICK'S ESTIMATE.

He Says There Were 160 Men in the Mine and That 151 Perished.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 28.—Mr. H. C. Frick, owner of the Mammoth mine has been in almost constant communication with his representatives at the pit since the explosion.

Mr. Frick says that in all there were 160 men working in the mine at the time of the accident; nine escaped with their lives, some of them badly injured. The remaining 151 were either killed outright or suffocated by the terrible after-damp.

Fire boss Smith, whose body was so terribly mangled, had early Tuesday morning filed the following report in the office of the company at the works:

MAMMOTH, Jan. 27.
To The. L. C. Frick, General Superintendent.
This is to certify that we, the undersigned, have this day, January 27, 1891, examined the working places in Mammoth and found same to be in a fit condition for men and other workers employed herein.

Signed: Wm. Smith, Fire Boss.
Thos. Smith, Inspector of Machinery.
George Fisher, Engineer.

The Mammoth mine was examined by Inspector Jenkins of the Second district, on Jan. 26, 1891. His report says: "General condition of mine good, with 5,300 cubic feet air inlet."

Interviews were had with former owners of the Mammoth mine and others whose business interests and duties require them to keep posted on the condition of every mine in the Connetquot coal region.

Their statements agree in that there is no way to account for the accident. At no time has there ever been a suspicion of gas in the Mammoth mine, and at this point so well as at all others owned by the Frick Company, no expense has been spared to make their mines as safe as experience and science can make them.

CONSTANTLY FALLING DEAD BODIES

Superintendent Knightley Describes the Scene of the Mine After the Explosion.

Mr. Pleasant, Pa., Jan. 28.—Supt. Knightley is a sorry distressed man. He has been in three big fatalities in this region, but the Mammoth disaster is larger than any. He said today to a reporter:

"No man knows the cause of the accident, and it will never be known for a certainty. About 200 feet from the bottom of the shaft we encountered a fall of rock in the gangway, which was caused by the explosion. Empty cars completely wrecked were piled up against it. We cut our way through and got down into the dip where the men were working, and then we were constantly falling over dead bodies. Not so many were killed by the explosion, but the stranded after-damp came on them and they succumbed to it. This is evident from the fact that only a small proportion of the dead taken out were trained in any way. I never knew before that gas was in the mine. This makes the explosion all the more terrible."

John W. Bell, fire boss at Hock No. 1, said: "About two years ago there was an explosion of gas at this mine and one man was burned to death. No safety lamps were used here. I do not know whether the fire boss did his duty, but let us be charitable enough to hope he did."

John Bole, who has a brother in the fatal shaft, relates the following story: "About 2 o'clock we heard a loud report in the direction of the shaft. We immediately started for the opening only to find a suffocating volume of smoke and gas gushing therefrom, and at once knew what was wrong. We began the work of extinguishing the flames and clearing the shaft of gas. This we accomplished by starting the large fans. I am fully convinced that every man who was in the shaft at the time was killed, either by falling timbers or by the after-damp."

No Feeling Against the Company.

YOUNGWOOD, Jan. 28.—There appears to be no feeling against the mine officers here. The men generally seem to feel that the explosion was an unavoidable accident, and attach no blame to the company. The reports of the disaster have spread far and wide, and while riding on a special engine to reach Youngwood, the nearest telegraph office, eight miles from Mammoth, the reporter met many men who were tramping to the mine for news of the fate of relatives employed at the works.

FACE WITH TORMENT

SCITATA, Pa., Jan. 28.—The funeral of the victims is expected to take place on Sunday. Many of them will be buried at Scitata, where they formerly lived, or have relatives.

Seven Miners Killed.

KANAWHA, W. Va., Jan. 28.—By the caving in of the roof in a surface drift of a coal mine at Amers, W. Va., during the afternoon, two men were crushed by falling timbers and instantly killed. Five other men were buried alive, and as they have not been rescued it is believed they are dead.

ATTACKED BY FOOTPADS.

A Young New Jersey Woman's Rescue Cut-short and Robbed.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Jan. 28.—James Hanne and Miss Millard, of Bayonne, while on their way to the Elizabethport station at 4 a. m., after spending the night at the ball of the Parcell Dram Corps, were attacked by footpads, who knocked Hanne down with a blow of a club, which stunned him, and rifled his pockets of \$16.75, and also took a gold ring from his finger and a gold watchpin out of his necktie. Another of the gang plundered Miss Millard of whatever valuables he saw on her person.

The young woman was terribly frightened, but was afraid to scream, as the man who had hold of her threatened to shake her if she did. The men disappeared across the fields in the darkness.

WANTED TO RIDE FREE.

A Woman Argues Her Case Before the Supreme Court.

BOSTON, Jan. 28.—A novel question of law, presented by the fair client in person to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, was the central figure in the court house during the day.

In 1903, the Boston & Providence Railroad Company took hold of John C. Dodge, of Attleboro, the directors in 1907 voting to accept the deed on the condition of a free ticket to John C. Dodge and his family.

Dodge left the State in 1905, dying in Brooklyn in 1906. Caroline C. Dodge is a granddaughter of John C. Dodge, and claims the right to ride free on the railroad. She argued the case in person, and the judges took the matter under consideration.

ABOUT IN THE DOMINION.

OTTAWA, Jan. 28.—It is learned from reliable sources that Sir Hector Langevin wins his fight with Sir A. P. Caron, and that the latter is being forced out of the Cabinet. President of the Council of the City's Cabinet seat will be given, it is stated, to Mr. Ives. It is reported that Sir John Hoodland and Treasurer Macleod of Quebec have formed a friendly alliance, and that the latter will not actively oppose the election of the former's followers in that province.

The Cigarette Attack.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 28.—Mr. Fox moved upon the cigarette in the House. He presented two separate bills on the subject, one prohibiting under a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment not more than two years the manufacture and sale of the cigarette and another making the smoking of them upon any highway, street, alley or byway of the street a misdemeanor, and punishable with a fine of \$10 for each offense.

Cattle Dealers Killed.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 28.—Cattle dealers in this city are greatly excited over a recent ruling of the Treasury Department in reference to the inspection of cattle, which if persisted in, they say, will seriously and disastrously affect the trade at East Buffalo, both of cattle men and the railroad companies.

An Election's Political Trough.

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan. 28.—From present indications the controversy over the State officers will reach some sort of a settlement this week or next.

Br. Stange's Case is Closed.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 28.—Mr. Charles Bradford was victorious all right, and his condition is critical.