

Inspection Under Way At Working — Charmbury To Get Report

Deputy State Mine Secretary Gordon E. Smith joined State and Federal mine inspectors today for an on-the-spot investigation of the explosion which ripped through the Glen-Nan Coal Company's Forge Slope at Newport Township Tuesday night. Two men were killed outright and two others died last night at Nanticoke State Hospital. Three other miner workers are listed in critical condition at the hospital.

Deputy Secretary Smith, along with six inspectors, entered the mine at 8:30 a. m. to determine the exact cause of the explosion. Preliminary reports indicated that the blast resulted from methane gas under pressure. It was reported today that the full-scale examination of the workings will probably substantiate the original belief.

The inspection party emerged from the slope at about noon today and Mr. Smith reiterated his earlier statement that the mine explosion was probably caused by methane gas.

Smith said: "Methane gas apparently liberated from an adjacent robbed area mixed with air as it was released into the working panel, thus causing the explosion."

Will Meet Charmbury

Once today's inspection is completed, Mr. Smith will meet with State Mines Secretary H. Beecher Charmbury and report on the inspectors' findings. The meeting will probably take place tomorrow at Hazleton as Sec. Charmbury begins an extensive tour of the



Paul Romanowski sive tour of the Anthracite region. He is inspecting the strip mining operations throughout the southern hard coal fields. He recently completed a swing through the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton area to get a first-hand report on strip mining conditions here.

Accompanying Mr. Smith on today's tour of the Forge Slope were State Mine Inspectors Kenneth Lee of Wilkes-Barre; Thomas Beaney, Wyoming, and Willis Devens, Forty Fort. Also, Federal Mine Inspectors Joseph Lindsey, Wilkes-Barre; George Culverhouse, Kingston, and Elwood Menta, Plains Township.

The two mine workers who died at Nanticoke State General Hospital last night were:

Paul J. Eckrote, 38, of 14 Haeefele street, Lower Askam, Hanover Township, a miner, and Paul Romanowski, 54, of rear 160 East Union street, Nanticoke, a bratticeman.

Eckrote died at 7:50 p. m. of burns and injuries to the face, hands, chest and back. Romanowski passed away at 8:50 of burns and blast injuries to the head, face, chest and upper arms, as well as internal injuries.

Killed instantly in the explosion were:

Thomas Ruminski, 45, of 196 East Main street, Glen Lyon, a laborer, and Henry F. Robey, 48, of 16 Pikes Peak Section of Nanticoke, a section foreman.

Conditions Critical

In critical condition this morning at the hospital are:

Stanley Krzesinski, 50, of 72 Susquehanna Avenue, Honey Pot, laborer, blast injuries of the face, hands and right leg.

Stanley Jachinczak, 40, of 335 East Grand street, Nanticoke, laborer, multiple blast injuries, shock and right leg injury.

Reported fair:

Raymond Isopi, 36, of 141 Gouge street, Plains Township, a laborer, possible internal injuries and injuries to the right forearm.

Frank Marchlinski, 47, of 202 East Grand street, Nanticoke, a miner, head and back injuries and injuries to the left ankle.

Edwin Buchalski, 39, of 367 East Ridge street, Nanticoke, miner, burns of face, hands, chest and both legs.

Treated and discharged:

Leonard Stegura, 42, of 20 Pine street, Nanticoke, miner, mild shock.

Adam Baker, 46, of 1215 New Grant street, Nanticoke, a miner, inhalation of gas fumes.

William Belles, 43, of 629 Hanover street, Nanticoke, a laborer, scalp laceration.

(Please Turn To Page Twenty-Five)