

## Henry Clay Boiler Explosion.

On the morning of October the 11th, at about 7.30 o'clock, one of the most disastrous boiler explosions which has occurred in the history of mining, happened at the Henry Clay colliery. The plant, which was almost a new one, contained 34 cylinder boilers. Twenty-seven of these, without any apparent cause, exploded, killing 7 men and injuring 2, and utterly demolishing the boiler house, besides doing damage to the surrounding buildings. Boiler experts from all sections of the country visited the scene, but none could give any satisfactory reason, or no two agree, as to the cause of the explosion. All agreed, however, that the material in the boilers was first-class, and that the explosion was not due to this cause. A strange thing which may be mentioned was that 15 boilers on one end and 12 on the other, exploded, while 7 in the centre remained in position and did not explode. The closest investigation on the part of the company and also by the coroner's jury, failed to place the cause, consequently it will have to be classed among the many of the strange happenings for which no satisfactory reason can be assigned.

TABLE A—Comparative Statement of Fatal Casualties from Various Causes that Occurred During the Years 1892, 1893 and 1894.

|   | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Suffocated by smoke from mine fire, . . . . . |      |      | 5    |
| Explosions of fire damp, . . . . .            | 7    | 5    | 6    |
| Falls of coal and roof, . . . . .             | 16   | 30   | 27   |
| Mine cars and machinery, . . . . .            | 10   | 15   | 12   |
| Falling down slopes and shafts, . . . . .     | 3    |      | 3    |
| Breaking of ropes and chains, . . . . .       | 1    |      |      |
| Explosion of blasting materials, . . . . .    | 5    | 8    | 9    |
| Kicked by mules, . . . . .                    |      | 1    | 1    |
| Falling down schutes, . . . . .               |      |      | 3    |
| Boiler explosions, . . . . .                  |      |      | 7    |
| Miscellaneous, . . . . .                      | 3    | 18   | 5    |
| Totals, . . . . .                             | 45   | 77   | 78   |