

EXPLOSION OF GAS

At 12.15 noon, June 18, an explosion of fire-damp occurred in the chamber of the first East Lift in the Dunmore vein, in the Johnson mine of the Scranton Coal Company. It is supposed that the explosion was caused by an unexpected increase of gas in the face of the chamber where John Galinski was working with a naked light. He was severely burned about the face and hands. The force of the explosion blew down a main stopping between the first and second lifts, which allowed the air to enter the return, instead of first entering the working faces in the lower lifts, thus causing an accumulation of gas. Immediately after the first explosion all the men in the lower lift came out to the main door of the intake. They were met there shortly by the men from the upper lift, who advised them not to return to the second lift, but to accompany them home. Some decided to go home and the others, after remaining a short time, decided to return for their dinner pails. They proceeded only a short distance when their lights exploded the gas and killed seven persons.

The coroner's jury after inquiring into the cause of their death rendered the following verdict: "We find that they came to their death June 18, 1907, as a result of a gas explosion in the Johnson mine of the Scranton Coal Company. From the evidence presented, all of the men lost their lives as the result of a second explosion following a first explosion which all escaped. The evidence is to the effect that all of the victims were warned of the danger and advised not to go back into their chamber. Disregarding the warning they started back and ignited the gas, causing an explosion, resulting in the death of seven men. Whereas, we are of the opinion that the company was in no way to blame or responsible for the disaster."

CONDITION OF COLLIERIES

SCRANTON COAL COMPANY

Johnson Colliery No. 1 shaft.—Condition as to safety good, drainage good, except in the Diamond vein.

No. 2. Shaft.—Condition as to safety and drainage good; ventilation fair. A fan is now being installed on the mountain to improve the ventilation.

Ontario Colliery.—Tunnel condition as to safety, drainage and ventilation good.

Klondyke.—Condition as to safety and drainage good, ventilation fair. A surface opening is being driven and a fan installed, which will improve the ventilation.

Sturgess Shaft.—Condition as to safety, drainage and ventilation good.

Blue Ridge Shaft.—Condition as to safety and drainage good, ventilation fair. There is room for improvement.