

*The World*  
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## **MET DEATH IN A COAL MINE**

### **A LABORER'S IGNORANCE RESULTS IN A CATASTROPHE AT PLYMOUTH**

**Four Men Killed, Five Fatally Injured and a Dozen Others Badly Burned -  
Heartrending Scenes at the Mouth of the Mine - The Laborer Enters a Gas  
Chamber While Carrying a Naked Lamp**

#### **SPECIAL TO THE WORLD**

WILKES-BARRE, Oct. 21. - A terrible explosion of gas occurred this morning in the No. 2 colliery at Plymouth, operated by the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company, by which four men were killed, five were fatally injured and a dozen others were severely hurt. The victims are as follows:

#### **DEAD**

John Levinsky  
Dennis Titus  
Andrew Spennette  
Thomas Collins

#### **FATALLY INJURED**

Frank Lamareux  
Tomas Howard  
William Collins  
William Evans  
Edward Jones  
Anthony Spennette

The mine is one of the largest in this region, hoists on an average three hundred and twenty-five cars a day, and employs between 600 and 800 men and boys. The colliery has always been considered safe. Twelve years ago the Illinois vein was struck and work commenced upon it. Last January, however, it was abandoned and since then the gas has accumulated in large quantities in the abandoned workings. The men were all notified not to enter the chamber with naked lamps and as an extra precaution a signal board was put up, warning "All hands to keep out".

This order was strictly obeyed until 7 o'clock this morning, when a laborer named John Levinsky, who had been in this country a little over a year, and could not read English, walked into the gassy chamber with a naked lamp in his hat. The next moment, two terrific explosions occurred and the miner was hurled into eternity. Seventeen miners and laborers who were digging coal near by were hurled in all directions, together with coal, cars, rails, ties, and everything else, including two mules.

The force of the explosion was terrific and when the gas caught fire, the flames rushed up to the fan-house and soared twenty feet in the air above, a distance of 370 feet from the scene of the explosion.

The scene below where the dead and dying lay beggars description. All was confusion; cars were piled up promiscuously, railroad rails torn up, doors broken down and beneath all the debris lay the unfortunate men, whose screams of agony were heartrending. As quickly as possible, a rescuing party was organized and the work of taking out the dead and injured began. Dennis Titus was found 200 yards from the place where he had been digging coal. Part of his head and a leg were blown off, and almost every bone in his body was broken. Andrew Spennette was thrown against the gangways and horribly mutilated. Thomas Collins was pinioned under a car, where he had been thrown by the force of the explosion. He was almost unrecognizable, being terribly burned. The miner whose carelessness caused the catastrophe was found burned and battered in a frightful manner.

Five others, whose names are given above, were found terrible injured, all being badly burned, and none of them are expected to recover. The following are seriously injured, and some of them may die, all being badly burned, the doctors saying that they are burned internally, having breathed the fumes: Thomas McDermott, Sandy Love, John Colby, John Karst, David Grimes, John Woods, Joseph Thomas, and three others.

The scene at the mouth of the mine, when the dead and dying were taken up cannot be described. The noise of the explosion was plainly heard in the houses on the surface. The people rushed to the breaker, and their grief knew no bounds as they saw husbands, brothers, and sons horribly burned, the flesh hanging in threads from their bodies and those not dead crying upon God to relieve them of their sufferings.

As fast as the victims were taken up from the death-hole, they were taken in charge of by physicians who dressed their wounds, after which they were conveyed to their homes. The town is in mourning over the great disaster. The death-list will probably reach ten before morning.