

**Report of the Flood That Occurred July 24, 1912, in Which 18 Lives Were Lost at Superba No. 2 and Lemont No. 1 Mines**

On July 24, between the hours of 10 a. M. and 12 m., an unprecedented downpour of rain occurred in the valley in which Mt. Braddock, Youngstown, Lemont No. 1, Superba No. 2 and Stewart mines are located, resulting in the flooding of all these mines to a certain extent, and in the loss of 18 lives, 15 in Superba No. 2 mine and 3 in Lemont No. 1 mine. The mines are near Uniontown, Fayette county, along Cove and Coolspring Runs, on the Eastern outcrop of the Connellsville basin. The sudden fall of water was so great that the banks of the above-named streams were overflowed and the water rose several feet higher in the valleys than it was ever known to rise before. The location of the mines, with their openings and outcrop workings skirting the Eastern outcrop of the Connellsville basin and lying along Cove and Coolspring Runs, presented an opportunity for the flood to enter them. Some of the crop workings, especially in the bottom lands, had been mined so near the crop that there was very little covering over the coal where they had ceased mining, and as the pillars in some places had been removed, the surface caved in, allowing the water when it reached a sufficiently high point to cover the broken places in the surface and to work its way into the mines. In some instances over the crop workings, where the water covered the surface several feet in depth, new openings were broken through by the weight of the water and it poured into the mines. As soon as the unusual rise in the water was noticed the management notified the workmen of the danger, and every effort was put forth to rescue the men from the mine. It was impossible for all of the workmen to reach the surface, however. Some of them were met by the mad rushing waters and their retreat was cut off, or they were carried away by the swiftly moving current down the steep grades of the outcrop workings, which range from 10 to 12 per cent., and were drowned.

Following is the report of the Coroner's Jury, who inquired into the facts in connection with the disaster:

"Uniontown, Pa., September 5, 1912.

John Scanlon, of Lemont, came to his death on the 24th day of July, 1912, at Lemont, in Fayette County, from being drowned in Lemont No. 1 mine, of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, at Lemont Furnace, Pa., from a flooding of said mine. We find from evidence submitted that the flooding of the mines was caused by reason of excessive rainfall causing Cove Run to overflow its banks and back up water sufficient to enter the manway leading into the mine; that every effort was made to divert the water from entering the mine when danger threatened. That the men working the mine were notified as quickly as danger was discovered and that death was due to accidental circumstances for which no one could be censured."

"Uniontown, Pa., October 24, 1912.

Russel Gardner, of Evans Station, came to his death on the 24th day of July, 1912, at Superba No. 2 mine, in Fayette County, Pa., by being drowned by flooding of Superba No. 2 mine of Superba Coal

Company. We find that the unprecedented rainfall had occasioned an accumulation of water in the neighborhood of the mine, such had never before been known, that when danger threatened every possible means were employed by the officials in charge of the mine to rescue the men."

## CONDITION OF MINES

### H. C. FRICK COKE COMPANY

Continental No. 1.—Ventilation and drainage excellent. Timing at working faces very good.

Continental Nos. 2 and 3.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

Crossland.—Ventilation and drainage good.

Kyle.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

Leisenring No. 2.—Ventilation and drainage good, except in section the ventilation was not carried well up to the working faces on my last visit.

Leith No. 1.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

Leith No. 2.—Idle until late in the fall, and was visited but not during the year. Ventilation good. Drainage not very good in part of the mine.

Lemont No. 1.—Ventilation good, except in one district on my last visit. Drainage good.

Lemont No. 2.—Ventilation and drainage good.

Oliphant.—Ventilation and drainage good.

Phillips.—Ventilation and drainage good.

Redstone.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

Wynn.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

Youngstown.—Ventilation and drainage good.

### OLIVER AND SNYDER STEEL COMPANY

Oliver Nos. 1 and 2.—Ventilation and drainage good.

Oliver No. 3.—Ventilation and drainage very good.

### W. J. RAINEY

Mt. Braddock.—Ventilation good, except in some parts. Drainage good.

Revere.—Ventilation good. Drainage good, with some minor exceptions.

### LINCOLN COAL AND COKE COMPANY

Lincoln No. 1.—Ventilation good, except at some of the working faces. Drainage good.

Lincoln No. 2.—Ventilation and drainage satisfactory.

### ATLAS COKE COMPANY

Lafayette.—Ventilation good, with some minor exceptions. Drainage good.

### WALTERSBURG COKE COMPANY

Edna.—Ventilation good, except in main dip workings, where it was not carried up well to the working faces. Drainage good.