

TWO HUNDRED MINERS

Entombed Over Two Hundred Feet Below the Surface.

By an Explosion in Harwick Mine, Western Pennsylvania.

Some Escaped, but the Great Bulk Must Be Dead—Heroic Attempts to Rescue the Victims.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 25.—An explosion in the Harwick mine, of the Allegheny Coal Co., at Cheswick, 16 miles from Pittsburgh, Western Penna., promises to add one of the greatest tragedies of years to the already long list of mine fatalities. Even the officials of the Allegheny Coal Co., the owners of the mine, do not know at this time the number of men still entombed 220 feet below the surface, but a conservative estimate places the number at 184.

General Manager George Scheetz, of the coal company, who is in charge of the mine, gives little hope that many of the men will be brought to the surface. The first ray of hope that any of the men had escaped came at 6 o'clock tonight when Adolph Gunia was brought out alive.

The explosion occurred at 8:20 o'clock this morning at the bottom of one of the shafts, presumably caused by a fire-damp. It was four o'clock this afternoon before it was possible to make the first attempt at rescue. Robert North and Jack McCann, one of the engineers employed by the Allegheny Coal Co., tried to get into the mine by way of the stairs through the air shaft. They groped their way some distance, but were driven back by the foul air.

The main shaft into the mine, 220 feet deep, was made up by the explosion, which buried both cages, one of which was within 30 feet of the bottom, through the tipple, 30 feet above the surface.

Shortly after five o'clock a temporary rigging had been put in place over the mouth of the shaft and a small bucket capable of carrying three men was fastened to the tackle. The first try with the new rig was made by Selwyn Taylor, a mining engineer, from Pittsburgh, and an assistant, J. N. Rayburn. A crowd of anxious men and women were at the pit mouth.

At last the cage reached the bottom. There was a silence of fully forty minutes before the men began to haul up slowly. When the cage reached the top Rayburn was there and with him Adolph Gunia, gasping for breath and evidently seriously injured.

Again the cage went down, carrying W. Taylor, an assistant of Selwyn Taylor, Robert North and J. McCann. There was a heavy silence as the cage went down, and the men were at work when the cage came up.

The little village of Harwick that surrounds the mining workings two miles back from the Pennsylvania R. R. has been horror-stricken all day. Wives and relatives of the entombed men have crowded about the entrance to the pit, begging for news of those they loved, only to meet the answer, "We do not know yet, if we find him we will send him home."

The little school house has been prepared as a morgue and here the girls from the highest class in the school have been impressed as nurses. Doctors have been summoned from the towns of Springdale and Denzies and from Pittsburgh, but nothing can be done until further details come from the mine.

Mr. Scheetz, manager of the mine, said tonight: "The explosion this morning was terrific. Both cages were blown from the shaft one of them a distance of over 200 feet. Three men at work on the tipple were blown to the ground and one of them is already dead. The other two are badly hurt, but I am told they are resting easily and may recover."

"There are at least 150 men in the mine and I am afraid that there are a number more, although there are several men on the pay roll who did not report this morning."

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 25.—From all that can be gathered at this hour, between 180 and 190 men are lying dead in the headings and passageways of the Harwick mine of the Allegheny Coal Co., at Cheswick, the result of a terrible explosion today. Cages after cages have gone down into the mine and come up again, but only one miner of all those that went down to work this morning has been brought to the surface. The rescued man is Adolph Gunia, and he is still in a semi-conscious condition at the schoolhouse on the hillside above the mine.

In addition to the miners at work when the explosion occurred it is now believed by practically all the men of the rescue party who have come up the 220-foot vertical shaft for a warning and a breathing spell, that Selwyn M. Taylor, the Pittsburgh mining engineer, who plotted the mine and who was the first to reach the bottom after the explosion, is also among the dead. Of those in the mine all are probably dead.

The explosion occurred at 8:20 this morning and the first warning was the sudden rumbling underground and then a sheet of flame followed up the shaft. Both mine cages were hurled through the tipple, twenty feet above the landing stage, and the three men on the tipple were hurled to the ground. A mule was thrown high above the shaft and fell dead to the ground. The in-

jured men were brought at once to this city, where two of them have died. As soon as the rumble of the explosion started the little village, the wives and children rushed to the scene of the disaster, but there was not any way to get into the deep workings. The cages that let the men into the mine and brought them out again were driven back by the foul air.

Thomas Wood, one of the first of the rescue party hauled to the surface, told his story of his trip through the mine. He said: "I was with Taylor and we climbed over three or four walls. Taylor laid out the mine and seemed to know the way. He went up and then we took the mule path into the south level. We saw two men who were alive, and noticed those who were back of us and then went on. We passed the third, fourth and fifth heading and then through an over drift into the air shaft. I began to feel dizzy and sick and then I saw Taylor stagger and fall. His lantern fell. I tried to lift him, but could not carry him up and I made my own way to safety."

N. W. Cunningham, the mine inspector of the fourteenth district, reached Harwick about 1:30. When seen by the Associated Press representative, just after his arrival, he said: "The mine was inspected, I think, about the first of December. There was no gas there then, but I never considered the mine dangerous."

Among the rescue party now in the mine in addition to Inspector Cunningham are Jack McCann, Robert North, Robert Carney, Henry Decker, Robert Gibson and William Walker. Another party of 20 has just gone down. Three of the rescuers when they returned to the surface declared their belief that the men were all dead, including Taylor, the engineer. Late tonight Manager Scheetz telegraphed to Chief Mine Inspector J. A. Roderick, of Harrisburg, Pa., and said: "Two outside men died of injuries this evening. But one brought out of shaft, who is still living. Rescuing party in mine, including Mine Inspector Cunningham, who will advise later."

H. F. Hutchinson, who gave out the lists to the miners before they went to work in the pit this morning, said: "At 7:15 o'clock, the time when the whistles blow and when everyone is supposed to be at work at the mine, I had given out between 180 and 190 lamps."

"That was one lamp to a man?"

"Yes."

"Did any of those lamps come back?"

"No."

"There is a light in every cottage in the little hamlet above the pit mouth. It will probably be hours before the extent of the catastrophe is known."

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 25.—At 12:15 this morning Robert North and Michael Cain of the rescue party came to the surface and reported that Selwyn Taylor had been found alive and that 75 of the miners had been located, the majority of them, it is believed, alive.

MAY BE ST. JOHN SCHOONER.

HIGHLAND LIGHT, Mass., Jan. 25.—The fact that a schooner lies sunk two miles off Wellfleet, and that another is drifting out to sea on fire a few miles south of her, while the crew of the latter is coming to Boston on a slow going tug, leads to the belief that some disaster has taken place off Cape Cod during the past 24 hours. The tug on which is the crew of the burning vessel is expected to arrive in Boston early tomorrow morning.

The sunken vessel was discovered by the life savers of the Cahoona Hollow station this morning and despite the heavy northwest gale, Capt. Cole and his crew put off to her in their surf boat. When they returned, Capt. Cole reported that the vessel appeared to be about 125 tons burden, that her masthead was just awash, and that the mainmast was broken just above the masthead, while the wreckage of the boom, gaffs and sails were held by the rigging.

DELAWARE BREAKWATER, Del. Jan. 25.—A schooner, the Delaware, was seen forenoon and probably reached the backside of Cape Cod last night or early this morning. Alma, from South Amboy, for Eastport, Saratoga, from Hoboken for Rockland, Hunter, from New York for St. John, N. B.; Silver Heels, from Raritan River for Portsmouth.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

Arrived.

Jan. 22—Coastwise—Sts. Westport III, 43, Powell, for Grand Harbor; Ruby, O'Donnell, for Pictou; sch. Augusta, Dwyer, 20, Scott, from Pictou.

Cleared.

Jan. 22—Coastwise—Sch. Eastern Light, Chester, for Grand Harbor; Ruby, O'Donnell, for Pictou; sch. Augusta, Dwyer, 20, Scott, from Pictou.

Domestic Ports.

Arrived.

HALIFAX, Jan. 22—Arrd, str. Carthaginian, from Glasgow and Liverpool via St. John, N. B.

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At St. Thomas, Dec. 21, sch. Harry Troop, from Barbados, etc.

At Port Antonio, Jan. 21, sch. Lilliam Blauvelt, Goodwin, from Port Antonio, etc.

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THEY ACTUALLY DO THE WORK.

FOOD EATEN IS WORTHLESS LESS DIGESTED—SOME ACHES MUST HAVE BEEN

DEATHS.

ALLABY—At Salt Springs, Kings Co., Jan. 15th, Chas. H. S. Allaby, aged 43 years.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., Jan. 21—A portion of the coasting fleet was released from the harbor on Monday, Jan. 21, by the weather conditions, but only a few tugs with their barges succeeded in getting out of the harbor. The northeast wind tonight banked it up again, and there seems little prospect of the sailing vessels leaving until the wind changes. Despite the great fleet of ice scattered through Vineyard Sound the schooner Wanda, from Walton, N.S., managed to work her way out of the harbor and reached here this afternoon.

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VOL. 27.

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