

Tribune.

0, 1902.

TWO CENTS.

GAS EXPLOSION IN THE CAMBRIA MILL MINE.

Five Men Known to Have Been Killed and the Total May Go Over a Hundred.

HEROIC ATTEMPT OF OFFICIALS TO REACH THE ENTOMBED MEN.

Mine-Foreman Harry Rodgers, Assistant William Blanch and Fire-Bosses John Whitney, John Retallick and John Thomas Lose Their Lives in Trying to Reach the Men in the Territory Where the Explosion Occurred, Over Two Miles from Main Entrance--Some of the Miners Got Out at Millcreek Shaft, but Just How Many will Not Be Known Until a Poll of the Working Force is Made--The Rattling Mill Mine Has Been Worked for Fifty Years and This, It is Feared, is the Worst Disaster in its History.

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An explosion of gas in the Rolling Mill Mine just before noon today entombed from 75 to 100 men, and the mine foreman and four assistants who went to investigate the result of the accident lost their lives in the attempt to reach the place.

The dead are said to be Harry Rodgers, William Blanch, John Whitney, John Retallick and John Thomas. Two men who escaped at the fan house on Kernville Hill say they had to crawl over the dead bodies to get out and they thought the number would possibly reach seventy or one hundred.

About 11 o'clock this morning an explosion occurred in the Rolling Mill Coal Mine of the Cambria Steel Company, which may be more terrible in its consequences than the facts at hand indicate. Word reached the surface shortly before noon and Messrs. Marshall G. Moore, Mining Engineer, and one of his assistants—A. G. Prosser—promptly made an attempt to enter the mine. They were followed in a short time by Mine Superintendent George T. Robinson.

After much trouble they reached one of the telephones located in the mine and communicated with the Cambria General Office. They were unable to give any details of the effects of the explosion, but feared the loss of life would be large. Their progress was stopped by the deadly gases, and they stated that an attempt would at once be made to reach the scene of the accident, which is known as "The Klondike" in the miners parlance.

No entrance to the working portion of the mine can be effected from the main entry. Many of the miners escaped at Millcreek, a shaft reaching the mine near the powerhouse at that point.

It is feared that the loss of life is large, while the damage to the mine must be serious.

About a score of American miners who were at work in the Klondike district noticed the presence of the firedamp in their apartment soon after the explosion occurred and started at once for the main entrance. They were almost overcome by the deadly gas, but reached the outside world in safety about 12 o'clock. One of the men who got out safely

Engineer A. G. Prosser, who, with Mr. Moore, entered the mine at the main opening, came to the surface at Millcreek and immediately set about securing men and material to aid in the rescue.

It will be absolutely impossible to state the loss of life until the rescuers reach the scene of the disaster.

Harry Rodgers, the mine foreman, his assistant—William Blanch—with Fire-Bosses John Whitney, John Thomas and John Retallick were not in the Klondike when the explosion took place, but started down a short time later. It is feared all have perished.

Griffith Powell and Thomas Foster, two other fire bosses, carried Mr. Whitney 200 yards in the hope of saving his life, when they were compelled to drop their burden and save themselves. Mr. Whitney was unconscious while being carried by his friends.

The fifteen-year-old son of Harry Rodgers, when he heard that his father had been overcome with afterdamp, started down toward the Klondike to help rescue him, if possible, and he had no sooner entered the drift when the deadly gas almost overcame the lad and he had to be carried back.

His tongue protruded its whole length from his mouth and men had to force his jaws apart with a stick to prevent lock-jaw.

Young Rodgers, who is employed in the mine, was among those who escaped through the Millcreek Shaft. He was assisted to the Windber street car line by several miners and was brought to his home in the First ward.

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One of the men who got out safely said it is not known what caused the explosion and that it will probably never be known, as he believed none of the men at work in the Klondike district can be saved. He also said that only a few days ago the officials issued an order to the employees in the mine not to play with the gas and that the very next day a young Hungarian was seen pushing his naked lamp along the roof of the mine in search of it.

Mine Foreman Harry Rodgers, his assistant—William Blanch—and Fire Bosses John Whitney, John Retallick and John Thomas were overcome by the gases and perished in an heroic attempt to rescue the fated miners.

Mining-Engineer Moore and George T. Robinson, Superintendent, are at the head of a rescuing party from the Franklin slope and Conemaugh mine. They are slowly working their way toward the scene of the explosion, but must fight the deadly gases every step of the way. Canvas screens, or battices, are being used to wall off all the side entrances and rooms, so as to force a direct current of pure air ahead of the rescuers.

A representative of "The Tribune" was at the Millcreek shaft leading to the mine when a number of miners working in other parts of the mine came to the surface. They reported that the shock was felt all through the workings and some of them were still in a dazed and bewildered condition. They were unable to even guess at the probable loss of life, but feared the worst.

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LAW STUDENT QUIZ.

Bar Examining Committee will Meet in Ebensburg on July 24th.

The first meeting for business of the new Bar Examining Committee will be held at Ebensburg on July 24th, when the following young men will take their preliminary examination: Jacob A. Fronheiser, Carl Stremmel and Charles Moses, of Johnstown, and W. A. McGuire and Edward Shoemaker, of Ebensburg.

Judge O'Connor appointed the following members of the bar on the Examining Committee last January, when he was elevated to the bench: M. D. Kittell, Alvin Evans and John W. Kephart, of Ebensburg, and T. J. Itell and John M. Rose, of Johnstown. Mr. Kittell is the Chairman and Mr. Rose the Secretary of the committee.

SINGERS ENTERTAINED.

St. Joseph's Choir Has Happy Time at Mr. and Mrs. Mainhart's Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mainhart entertained the members of St. Joseph's German Catholic Church choir and a few of their friends at their home, No. 418 Napoleon street, from 8 to 12 o'clock last night with a musicale and luncheon. All the guests were delighted with the evening's entertainment. The choir, of which the host and hostess are members, rendered several selections, among them "By Babylon's Ways," Miss Frances Zang being the accompanist. Misses Mary Widmann, soprano, and Margaret Ruth, contralto, sang "I Live and Love Thee," and Mr. Mainhart rendered "The Holy City" and "For All Eternity." Luncheon was served at 9 o'clock.