

COAL MINES ARE FLOODED.

The Avondale Is Abandoned and the Nottingham Is Threatened.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., April 3.—The condition of affairs in coal-mining circles here is becoming critical. The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company has abandoned the work of putting in pumps at its Avondale Mine. This endangers the great mine of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, which adjoins the former. Water continues to flow into the Avondale Mine, and in time will overflow into the Nottingham, unless it can be pumped out as fast as it flows in.

Whether the water comes from the Susquehanna River or from the adjacent lowlands is a question that has not been settled. The fact that the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company has abandoned pumping operations at the Avondale leads to the supposition that the officials think the water comes from the river. If they were not of this belief they would make preparations to pump, and, under ordinary conditions, they could stop the flow. But if the water is rushing in from the Susquehanna, pumping operations would be futile.

One of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western officials said to-night: "We have decided to take out all of our pumps, pipes, and machinery. The water is rising rapidly. We will abandon everything and let nature take its course."

The officials of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company are not at all pleased with this action of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company. Superin-

tendent Lawall said to-night: "We will do everything to protect our property. The course of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western officials in stopping pumping is a surprise to me. The danger to the Nottingham is now greater than ever, but I think we can hold the water back. In fact, I have every hope we will be successful in our operations." Mr. Lawall said that the company will have special pumps manufactured, and work will be rushed night and day with the greatest possible expediency. He said the water is now entering the Nottingham Mine, though not to any great extent; but that if the pressure from the Avondale increases, the inflow at the Nottingham will, of course, also increase.

The pressure must be lessened, and the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Company will strain every tension to do it. The Nottingham must be saved at all costs. It is one of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Company's most valuable mines. When in full operation, it employs 1,200 men and boys. Its coal is not surpassed by any that is mined in this region. The loss of the Avondale Mine to the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western would be nothing compared to the loss of the Nottingham to the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Company. The disaster that has overtaken the two big collieries has paralyzed business in the town of Plymouth, where most of the employes live.