

# SIX MEN ENTOMBED ALIVE

## COLLAPSE OF THE ROOF OF THE MARVINE COLLIERY.

AN EXTENSIVE AREA OF HEADING AND GALLERY SHAKEN—ONE MAN KILLED OUTRIGHT.

SCRANTON, Penn., Sept. 13.—The Marvine Colliery of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company was the scene of a frightful disaster this morning, in which one man was killed and six others were either buried alive or crushed to death. A great fall of the roof occurred in the depths, which buried these men under thousands of tons of rock and coal and shook the surface of the earth near the mine with the violence of an earthquake. The force of the shock made itself heard and felt for a considerable distance from the shaft. People who were in the vicinity of the shaft saw a great cloud of dust emerge from the pit. Everybody felt that a fearful disaster had occurred, and Superintendent Atherton at once ordered out ambulances and stretchers, and had them near the mine to afford aid to the injured. It required but little time to determine the extent of the fall. It covered a vast area, and extended from the top or diamond vein to the lowest or 14-foot vein, 200 feet below.

The first intimation the miners had of their peril was in the rush of dust and débris along the galleries and chambers of the colliery. The air swept through with the force of a whirlwind engendered in the crash, which came without a moment's warning. The panic which followed was terrible. Nearly 300 men and boys were at work. Those who were not caught by the boulders ran for their lives, but found their progress most painful, as the crashing sounds all about them gave warning that death was still near. Most of the men worked their way out through the level into the sunlight. John Shafer, a miner 50 years old and married, was found dead just outside the fall. The missing men who are either buried alive or crushed to death in the fall are:

JOHN CARDEN, a laborer, 30 years of age, married.

JOHN YOUNG, a miner, 55 years old, married, with three children.

PATRICK McNULTY, married, with seven children.

CORMAC MCGUIRK, a miner, 55 years old, married, with two children.

PATRICK KAVANAGH, aged 45, married, with six children.

PATRICK HARRISON, laborer, 35 years old, married.

It was supposed at the mine, immediately after the disaster, that all these men were dead, and the anguish of their relatives was painful to see. As the story of the disaster spread throughout the city the excitement became intense. Many persons from a distance drove to the scene and watched the work of rescue during the forenoon hours. The Marvine shaft is about 350 feet deep, and the fall occurred 1,000 feet from the foot. In the region where the men were caught there is a cut through from Leggett Creek shaft, a distance of 600 or 700 yards from where the fall occurred. A rescuing party composed of about 20 men, under charge of Mine Boss Joseph Berkeley, went into the mine soon after the disaster. At 2 o'clock three of the rescuing party ascended the shaft. They were eagerly besieged by friends of the entombed men for particulars, but they gave but few details.

Then Ross, mine boss at Leggett Creek shaft, and Alexander Akeman, mine boss at the Manville shaft, descended into the shaft at 2:15 o'clock, taking with them safety lamps and such implements as they thought would be necessary. Half an hour later word came to the surface that props and timbering were needed, and a car load of timber and another of props were sent down in charge of William Campbell, Robert Elliott, Charles Fletcher, George Cooper, and James O'Hara. The timber and props were necessary because the mine was still "working," and required propping before the searching party could proceed. One of the searchers said the men could not trust themselves to go to the fall because there had been several falls in rapid succession since the cave-in which shut the imprisoned men out from their companions.

The efforts of the rescuers were directed toward keeping the air currents clear and getting fresh air to the prisoners, who they hoped still lived. After every fall a strong current of air coursed through the mine, and the rescuers were several times hurled against the walls of the slope and their lights were extinguished. The air was comparatively pure, and it was hoped that when the recovering party ceased work the workings would also cease and the mine become settled. The men came to the surface in twos and threes, and were at once besieged by the friends of the imprisoned men, eager for the latest information. The rescuers buoyed up the hopes of the friends, but aside they expressed their doubts of finding the imprisoned men alive. The rescuers and experienced miners generally believe that all are dead, and even though they may now be alive it is considered highly improbable that they can be reached inside of a week.

Phil Kelly, a timberman, who had a narrow escape, said to a reporter that the men noticed a "squeeze" about a week ago, showing the settling of the roof and bulging coal. This occurred in the old workings, and seemed to be making way toward the slope in which the accident occurred to-day. Mr. Kelly says he was there with a gang of six men this morning timbering on the road to the right of where the fall occurred. In this part there were 16 chambers, in which from 60 to 70 men were employed. They felt the "squeeze" coming, and all of them assembled in a group. Then they started through the old workings, when the first fall came. This put out their lights. The fall extended from where the timbering gang was first at work, a distance of 100 yards, to the road on the right of the slope. The fleeing men had to go through the other old workings to escape. They got into the main heading and found the gate locked. They quickly tore it down, and as they did so the roof fell in on all sides. The men were completely hemmed in. Their only hope then was to rush out in the face of the fall in order to get to the slope. They did this, while the roof was falling all around them. A large piece struck Kelly on the left shoulder, tore his shirt, and made an ugly wound in his head. The same piece caught Henry Shafer, knocked him down, and covered him. The other men of Kelly's gang were behind. They rushed through the fall, and escaped to the top of the slope.

While they were there a second fall occurred and shut them off from the others. This fall also extinguished their lamps, the men having relighted them after passing the first fall. In Kelly's opinion the six missing men ran back when they saw the second fall coming and escaped immediate death. The men who were at the top of the slope were blown in all directions by the force of the air as it coursed through the gangways and headings. Kelly was knocked against a car.

As the day progressed the scenes around the mine became most heartrending. Wives, mothers, and sisters, who had been kept at home in the hope that their friends would be reached alive in a few hours, gave way to despair and flocked to the mine, begging for the latest particulars. Strong men, some of them brothers of the entombed miners, became tremulous while they, experienced as they were, tried to catch a ray of hope from the most inexperienced persons about the shaft. At a late hour to-night none of the men had been rescued, and, according to statements of officials at the mine, none of them can possibly reach the surface before morning.

The force of the convulsion manifested itself on the surface of the earth about 1,000 feet to the northwest of the mouth of the shaft in 15 or 20 large fissures. Some of the miners gave it as their opinion that the caving in of the mine was the result of an earthquake.