

MINERS KILLED BY BLACK DAMP

Experienced Men Lose Their Lives in
Spite of Efforts of Four Different
Rescue Parties.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Jan. 3.—An accident occurred at the Pine Ridge Colliery of the Algonquin Coal Company to-day, which resulted in the death of two men and the fatal injury of two others. The mine, owing to a cave-in, had not been in operation for some time past, and considerable gas had accumulated in the workings.

This morning D. J. Williams, the Superintendent of the mine; William Morgan, the Assistant Superintendent, and William Early and Martin Fortune, fire bosses, entered the mine for the purpose of devising a plan to drive an airway. They were experienced men and prepared for any emergency. The party did not return to the surface at noon, and there was some alarm as to their safety.

At 2 o'clock a searching party went down the mine to see what had become of the Superintendent and his men. The searchers could not go far, being driven back by the black damp. A rescuing party of experienced miners was then organized, and they entered the mine. They were slow in returning, and the greatest apprehensions were felt that all had fallen victims to the foul gas. But at 5 o'clock the rescuers came to the surface. They reported that they could find no trace of the missing men.

Another rescuing party of six men volunteered to go down. They were driven back several times by the fire damp, but finally managed to push their way into the workings and came across the dead bodies of Superintendent Williams and Fire Boss Morgan. After much difficulty the bodies were brought to the surface.

Later a fourth rescuing party went down the slope and found Early and Fortune. They were unconscious and when brought out physicians who were in waiting said they could not recover. The rescuers were loudly cheered by 2,000 persons who had been attracted to the scene of the disaster. All the victims were married men with families.

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