

HOPE FOR MINERS IS ABANDONED.

Men Entombed in Harwick Coal Mine Are Believed to Be Dead.

VICTIMS LIE SCATTERED ABOUT.

Distressing Scenes Around the Shaft—A Rescuer Tells of the Search Underground.

Pittsburg, Jan. 26, 5 a. m.—After a night of suspense and uncertainty, made heartbreaking by the contradictory reports coming from around the pit mouth of the Harwick mine, where the direful explosion occurred yesterday, the relatives of the 180 entombed miners were forced to the conclusion that all hope of life remaining in those below would have to be abandoned. Reports early in the night led the sorrowful watchers to believe that some of the men would be saved, and when about 2 o'clock word was passed around that Selwyn Taylor had been found alive and that an investigation of the debris had shown that from 20 to 35 miners were still alive, but there was much rejoicing, but these rumors were soon contradicted.

At 2:30 there was a call to "hoist above" and in a few minutes kind hands were lifting the dead body of the mining engineer from the bucket and strong men bore him to the schoolhouse, where a place had been prepared for him. He was dead when found, killed by the after-damp.

In less than 30 minutes Dr. W. P. McCullough of Cheswick, who had been in the mine for over two hours, came up for a little warmth and a bite to eat.

"Are there any men alive down there now?" he asked.

"I don't believe there's a man alive outside the rescue party in that mine now," was the mournful answer.

So far only one of the miners who went down to work yesterday morning has been brought out alive, Alwyn Taylor, at the head of a rescue party to reach the bottom is dead.

At 4 o'clock this morning George Haworth, also of the rescue party, was brought to the surface. He is now at the school house and is still unconscious.

At this hour it is thought it will be several hours before the bodies are brought from the mine.

G. W. Cunningham, Inspector of mines for the Fourteenth district, Pennsylvania, made this statement as he came out of the mine at 5 o'clock this morning:

"I explored the mine for a quarter of a mile. I'm positive that of all those who entered for work yesterday morning, not one will be taken out alive."

Scattered about are dead bodies of the miners, some of whom are wrecked cars and tons of fallen coal and slate.

The roar of the explosion was terrific. It will take days to clear away the wreckage.

Until this is accomplished we will not know how many met death. I repeat that there is no chance of any of the entombed men being saved.

When pressed for what he thought was the cause of the explosion, he said:

"Fire damp caused the men to lose their way."

"To the cause of the explosion I do not care to make any statement at this hour."

G. W. Scheetz, general manager, issued this statement at the same hour:

"We need experienced men at once. No matter where they come from or how much they want, this company will pay the bills."

Under the wreckage of perhaps a hundred tons. They may be dead and there is a chance of some being alive. The first thing is to get the victims out."

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