

EXPLOSION IN A COAL MINE

Four of the Miners Still in the Excavation—A Rescuing Party Hard at Work to Save Them.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Oct. 7.—The residents of the northern part of this city were startled at about 4 o'clock this afternoon by a tremendous roar, followed by a rocking of the earth, which seemed at the time to have come from beneath them. It was but a few moments later when many of them knew what it meant. A terrific explosion had occurred in the Dorrance Mine, and in less than half an hour thousands of persons gathered around the head of the shaft, only to witness puffs of smoke, mingled with dust and débris issuing.

When the first carriage was hoisted, it brought up a miner with his blackened face and burning lamp. He was at once grasped by his loving wife and children, who were glad to know that he escaped death. From him it was learned that there were only nine men in the mine when the accident occurred.

By 10 o'clock to-night five of them were brought out, and four others were yet to be reached. So far, only one is known to have been fatally injured. The others were burned and injured, and were being speedily removed to the City Hospital.

The colliery is owned and operated by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. It was started fourteen years ago, and has two shafts. One was sunk to the Baltimore vein to a depth of 1,070 feet, and the other to the Hillman vein, to a depth of 540 feet.

The cause of the explosion is not positively known. It appears that an engineers' corps, composed of five mining engineers, headed by Fire Boss Dan Davis, went into an abandoned opening of the old Baltimore vein, two of the helpers, Robert Blanchard and Robert Miller, remaining behind. A few moments later an explosion took place, and the latter two men were both knocked senseless to the ground.

Miller says he has no idea what caused the explosion, but it is supposed that one of the four men—Jones, Owens, Cahill, and Davis—touched off a body of gas with his mine lamp. Miller says they had quit work at 3:15, and were preparing to come out when Jones looked at the blue print, and remarked that he had forgotten to run two or three lines. He left Miller and Blanchard in charge of the instruments, and the balance of the party went into the old workings. About five minutes after they had gone a terrible explosion occurred, which extinguished the lamps and hurled Miller and Blanchard about as if they were straws. Miller picked himself up and ran blindly through the mine, until he struck a pillar of coal and was knocked down. He got up and ran again, but fell over a fallen prop and broke his right arm. He was then completely exhausted, and lay on the floor until two members of the rescuing party reached him.

At 11 o'clock to-night Jones, Owens, Cahill, and Davis were still in the mine. The rescuing party is straining every point to reach them, but a large body of afterdamp is giving them trouble. Large gangs of men are engaged in laying brattice to convey the air, and it is expected the men will be reached before morning. The only hope of their bodies being alive is that they are beyond the body of afterdamp, with sufficient air to see them through.

HIGH TEAS GIVEN FOR CHARITY

Madison Square Garden Banquet Hall Transformed Into an Oriental Palace—

Praise for Mrs. Barnes.

The banquet hall of the Madison Square Garden was transformed into that of an Oriental palace last evening, the occasion being the first of the high teas to be given under the auspices of the Food Exhibition now in process at the Garden.

Beautiful draperies of Eastern fabrics were hung in all parts of the large hall, disclosing charming corners filled with rare china and beautiful hangings.

This first reception and high tea was tendered by the woman's department of the exhibit to the heads and members of different educational and charitable organizations in charge of the present exhibition at the garden, half the proceeds of which will be devoted to charity.

Mrs. A. Benton-Barnes, the executive of the woman's department, who originated the idea of the high teas, and the possibility of assisting the charitable and educational organizations through them, is to be accredited with the success of the work. Mrs. Barnes's table occupied a prominent place in the centre of the hall and was decorated with a jar of American Beauty roses.

Her guests were Mrs. James Scrimgeour, President of the Woman's Health Protective Association; Mrs. C. O'H. Craigie, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Perry, Judge John Jeroloman, President of the Board of Aldermen; Dr. Cameron, D. B. Frisbie, President of the Teachers' Mutual Benefit Association, and W. W. Locke, Superintendent of the New-York Summer Vacation Schools. Mr. Locke introduced the speakers of the evening.

In his remarks he referred to the perseverance and energy of Mrs. Barnes in making the teas successful, and of the help they would be to the different organizations. Mrs. Barnes was then introduced, and said a few words of welcome to the guests. Mr. Frisbie spoke of the work done in an effort to secure legislative assistance for public school teachers incapacitated for further labors and its failure. The Mutual Benefit Association, he said, was assisting 100 teachers. The association needs money, and he hoped that the high tea, to be given under its auspices, would be well patronized.

A poem by Mrs. Scrimgeour was read and followed by a few words from Judge Jeroloman. Mrs. Craigie spoke of woman's charitable work. "A well-known female physician," she said, "has been heard to remark that if she had to do without either medicine or sympathy in her profession she would do without the former. I think it is the valuable sympathy women bring into their work which makes it of good effect," she continued. "Prometheus was the first philanthropist. He brought down fire from heaven for the good of humanity. It is the same with women," the speaker remarked; "for the blessings they bring to the world they go to the highest source."