

A DISASTROUS CAVE-IN

The Hallstead Shaft at Duryea Flooded.

Five Hundred Men and Boys Thrown Out of Work—The Mine Filling With Water—Several Houses Damaged by the Cave-In.

A disastrous cave in occurred at the Hallstead shaft, Duryea, on Friday of last week, resulting finally in the flooding of the mine.

A small patch of ground began settling Friday morning, at 5 o'clock, but nothing serious was apprehended, although work was suspended for the day.

About 5 o'clock in the evening, however, an area extending over five acres went down, on the west side of the Lackawanna river, at Simpson patch. Thirteen double houses owned by the Simpson & Watkins company, and occupied by their workmen, were considerably damaged, and the tenants are moving to other quarters today.

Shortly after five o'clock it was discovered that the mine was rapidly filling with water, and the mules, cars, etc., were taken to the surface. The small mine pumps were kept going, but were unable to keep the water down.

The small pumps were removed and larger ones were put in position. The first rush of water was so great that it was feared that the Lackawanna river had burst into the mine. By some miners it is thought the flooding was caused by the backwater from the river, the result of recent heavy rains.

The Hallstead was formerly operated by E. Steller & Co., but of late years has been run by the D. L. & W. company. The shaft is located near the Duryea station. From 1,000 to 1,200 tons of coal were shipped from it daily, and nearly 500 men and boys were employed about the mine. It was the first vein that collapsed, but it is greatly feared that the two lower veins have also gone down. The pillar had been removed in the portion of the shaft that caved.

Connell's shaft is situated close to the territory alluded to, but as yet has not been affected by the cave-in.

The unexpected accident is a great calamity to the village, as so many men and boys are thrown out of work.

It is impossible to estimate how long it will take to pump out the water and place the shaft in condition to resume work.

The damage to the mine by the cave-in is not as great as was first supposed, but it has been found that there is a great body of water in the "dip" of the shaft. Of the row of houses in Simpson patch, only one was seriously damaged, and after the settling had ceased Saturday, the tenants who fled precipitately at the first rumblings returned to the houses.

Several hundred people visited the scene of the cave Sunday, and peered into the narrow fissures that mark the settling.

MANGLED BY THE CRUEL WHEELS