

# TERRIBLE CAVE-IN

## Large Area in Duryea Affected.

## GREAT DAMAGE DONE.

## 100 Buildings Wrecked More or Less.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH RUINED.

## The Altar Overturned and Images Broken.

## TWO MEN ARE MISSING

## Were at Work in the Hall- stead Mine.

## EXPLORING PARTIES AT WORK.

Duryea was visited this morning by one of the most extensive and damaging mine sinkings that has ever occurred in this part of the anthracite coal region. The cave took place over the old workings in the Hallstead mine and extends over a territory of one-half to three-quarters of a mile square, in one of the most thickly populated parts of the town, and affects, more or less, one hundred stores and dwellings.

The cave, which occurred at about ten minutes past nine o'clock, was of a startling nature. All of the houses in the locality rocked as though shaken by an earthquake, and through the wide openings in the surface flowed streams of water, hot fumes by the breaking of the water mains. Chimneys were leveled to the ground, foundations rocked and furniture was tumbled in profusion about the apartments.

The confusion and excitement that prevailed can better be imagined than described. Residents ran out of their homes panic stricken, while others who were peeped in their residences by reason of the jamming of the doors, fought hard in their efforts to be liberated. For a time all was excitement. No one could tell what had happened. From the rambling noise that preceded the shock many were inclined to the belief that it was the forerunner of an earthquake. Others were too much frightened to express an opinion and quietly awaited the climax.

It came, and gave the town such a shaking up as it has never experienced before. The earth fairly trembled with the shock, leaving many fine houses in a damaged condition.

The affected territory is located on the east side of Main street, Stephenson street, near the Back Road, being about the center of the troubled district. It will be remembered that a slight cave occurred in exactly the same place but a few weeks ago. This seems to be a continuation of this settling. As far west on Stephenson street as Henry Bath's home and east beyond the Back Road the surface has settled several feet, while north and south covering an area of about half a mile, the ground has gone down considerably.

Among the buildings most damaged are those owned by Michael Cleary and E. Pirotillo, on the Back Road, and the German Catholic Church, the pastor of which is Rev. Father Brühl. The foundations of the above mentioned buildings are badly cracked and the walls, framework, etc., throughout the buildings are severely wrecked. The water pipes in nearly all the affected houses are broken and chimneys shaken from their positions. The damage to the church property is the most severe. The shock was so great that the altar rocked and fell forward, completely destroying exquisite and valuable figures and other articles thereon. The foundation was greatly damaged and the corner stone jarred from its position. The loss to this congregation will be considerable.

The openings in the surface, some of which are two inches in width, extend the full length of the affected territory. On the property of Mr. Cleary, these openings are much more prominent and through them large stones and earth are continually falling, being lost sight of and leading to the belief that the settling has not yet abated.

It is impossible to speak in detail of all of the damaged properties. It is sufficient to say that all of the hundred or more neat dwellings in that neighborhood were badly shaken up and seriously damaged. There is scarcely one house that has not been damaged. The foundations of all have been affected, while in some doors refuse to close, walls are cracked and water and stove pipes were knocked out of place.

The damage caused so far by settlement, but it is estimated to amount to thousands of dollars.

Superintendent Meade, of the Spring Brook Water Company, was early on the ground and had men at work repairing the breaks in the water mains. Up to the time the reports arrived on the route he had discovered seven breaks in the main pipe and thought there were many more.

The Lehigh Valley and Erie & Wyoming Valley Railroad tracks also settled. The damage was not sufficient, however, to prevent the running of trains, but enough to prevent the turning of switches. This difficulty was overcome after several hours of work.

An old miner told the reporter that the affected territory had not finished settling yet and it was his opinion that there would be another cave before it was over. His reason for this view of the case was the knowledge that there is a great quantity of quicksand underlying the surface and if this started to run the settling would be much more extensive.

The cave occurred in what is known as the Horse vein in the old workings of the mine. The shaft has not been working for several weeks past, owing to repairs being made. However, there were a number of men at work in the mine and for several hours grave fears were entertained for their safety. Owing to the great shock on the surface it was thought the concussion in the mine must have been terribly severe. And while it was known that the men were not working in the affected part of the mine it was thought that they must have felt the shock to a certain extent at least, as the dust blown up the shaft was blinding.

At the mine, it was difficult to get any information in regard to the cave. The fact seemed to be that the officials were as much at sea in regard to the affair as the people. It was learned, however, that there were in the mine at the time of the cave the following seven men: David Emanuel, fire boss; Thomas R. Williams, a laborer, who was assisting him; Jim Handy and Thomas Robson, pump runners; Fred Houtzel, Henry Huddleston and Charles Carey. Of these seven men, it is known that the five last named are safe, though they were still in the mine at last report. Emanuel and Williams, however, could not be found by the men who made a search of the mine soon after the cave occurred, and a searching party consisting of the Hallstead officials and bosses from the surrounding collieries went down the shaft at two o'clock this afternoon to make another investigation.

ation at this hour from what it was in the morning. Emanuel and Williams are missing, and some of the men around the colliery, among them the father of W. Stone, a gray-haired man of about six feet, believe that there is no hope for them. A corps of twelve men, led by W. Stan Dawson, head fire boss in Hallstead, are in the mine at present. They went down what is known as "Fender's shaft," which is at the shaft for colliery. Superintendent Thomas Day of Scranton, was at the colliery this afternoon. It is said that the sinking was engaged in putting up bratt work, and Williams's father deems that they were in a very dangerous part of the mine. Both Emanuel and Williams are married men. Emanuel has a wife and seven children: five on Main street, Duryea, while Emanuel lives "on the hill" in Duryea. Hundreds of people have visited the scene of the cave and there are quite a number of people hanging around the colliery, awaiting developments.

4 p. m.—A message has just come from the shaft saying that no trace of the missing men has been discovered. The exploring party has been increased. Mine inspector McDonald has just gone down. He expresses the hope that the men may find their lights and be waiting in a abandoned chamber for recovery. Others say that there are enough men in the mine to have scoured it from one end to the other before this time.

It is reported that the cave was deep and the two missing men were on it while their companions were putting brattice work.

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...of the exploring party shortly after he came up the shaft. He said the mine was "working" badly and therefore the work of exploration could not go on as rapidly as desired. He said that everything possible was being done to locate the entombed men and that he had not given up hope altogether of finding their bodies in a short time. It was his opinion that the men might be located in one of the smaller openings where it is impossible at present to proceed by reason of the "working" of the roof and the quantity of gas. However, it is the general opinion that they are under the fall and hopelessly buried.

In conversation with a well known mine official, he said: 'In my opinion the cave is not unlike the Twin disaster. While the roof was 'working,' and it was thought there might be a cave, it was not expected to come so soon. It was one of those things that it was hard to tell much about, and the roof fell as in the case of the Twin, suddenly and without warning. Another difficulty that will confront the rescuers will be the locating of the men. The affected territory, which extends over one hundred acres, being so great, and there being no knowledge as to the whereabouts of the men at the time of the accident, the officials might dig indefinitely without getting even a clue to their whereabouts. Therefore the chances of recovering the bodies seem to me very slight.'

In the exploring party last night were Howell and Gomer Williams, brother of one of the entombed men. They report that the company is doing all in their power to recover the men.

This morning John R. Johns, superintendent of the Taylor mine, and Henry Harris, of the Holden mine, and General Superintendent Thomas D. Davis, with about fifteen workmen, went into the mine to continue the search for the men. They remained in the mine nearly the entire day and at this writing nothing had come up from below.

Daniel Edwards, general superintendent of the Kingston Coal Company, and John B. Law, general manager of the Newton Coal Company, were among the prominent mine officials at the shaft today.

#### THE ENTOMBED MEN.

The missing men are among Duryea's most prominent and respected citizens and expressions of deep regret at their sad fate are heard on every side. Residents, regardless of nationality or creed, unite in the general feeling of sorrow and have only the kindest words for both the unfortunate victims. David Emanuel, the missing fire boss, had been an employe of the Hallstead mine for nearly fourteen years past, ever since his settling in the town. His employers had the utmost confidence in him and he was regarded as one of their most trusted workmen. Owing to his long service in the mine he was perfectly familiar with every nook and corner in it, and the opinion expressed in some quarters of his having become lost is not regarded as probable. He was especially prominent in

township politics, he having been a candidate for school director at the last election. In other affairs in the town he also took an active part. He was thirty years of age and is survived by a wife and three small children. His parents live in Wales, whence he emigrated to this country but a short time prior to his settling in Duryea.

The other victim, Thomas M. Williams, is a son of ex-supervisor Thomas R. Williams, of Duryea. He, too, took an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and best interests of the town. He was very well known and was an exemplary man. One of the saddest features of his death is the fact that he is survived by a wife and seven children, the eldest being but fourteen years of age. The family has been residents of Duryea for a number of years and are highly regarded. Mr. Williams was thirty-nine years of age. He was a miner by occupation, and when he met his death had merely been assigned to assist his entombed companion for a few days. His parents reside in Duryea, together with one brother, Howell Williams. Another brother, Gomer, lives at Taylor. He was also a cousin of Howell Williams, of this city, and David Williams, of Hightstown.

Both families have the sympathy of the community in their terrible affliction.

#### AT THE HALLSTEAD.

Still No Trace of the Two Men Entombed on Friday.

It is not necessary to look alone to the battlefield for heroes. We have them at home. There are five men in the fatal Hallstead mine at Duryea today who are not looking for the pomp and glory of war, yet who, in their humane efforts in behalf of their fellow men, show they are of the stuff of which heroes are made. They are Mine foreman John Hale, of Bellevue, Thomas Walsh, Robert Bainbridge, Thomas Callaway and Fred Henzy. These brave men are today engaged in working their way around the extensive fall in hopes of ascertaining some clue as to the fate of the entombed men—Williams and Emanuel. Yesterday a force of men were engaged during the entire day clearing that part of the mine in which the cave occurred of the large quantity of gas that had accumulated, in order that the work of exploration could proceed more rapidly. Up to the hour of going to press, there were no new developments in the case. The work of removing any portion of the fall has not yet been started, owing to the uncertainty of the whereabouts of the men. It was thought advisable to first explore all parts of the fall before taking any other action. Assistant General Superintendent Davis, of the company, said today that time or money would not be spared in an effort to secure the men, dead or alive.

Duryea was probably visited yesterday by more than at any time in years. Thousands of sight-seers from all the neighboring towns and cities strolled in the vicinity of the cave and fatal mine. There was very little to be seen, however, as the greatest damage by a cave of this character is generally beneath the surface. Therefore, the throngs of people who visited the town expecting to see a section of it completely swallowed up went away very much disappointed. Today the scene was almost deserted.

All day and last night, search was made for them in vain. The searchers had to proceed with extreme care on account of gas and on account of the fact that they were exploring workings which had been traversed by only the fire bosses for twenty years or more. Some of the places they were unable to enter on account of the accumulations of gas, and further search had to be abandoned until these places could be cleared and made safe.

As to the fate of the two men of course all is conjecture. It is known, however, that the old workings into which they had possibly entered to learn how the settling was progressing are completely closed, the roof having crushed the pillars that remained into atoms so that the roof is now practically resting on the floor of the affected vein. If the men entered these workings, and the entrance was closed by the squeeze afterward, they may have been imprisoned and thus met a slow and lingering death, but it is more probable, from all the indications, that when they entered the affected workings, the whole district came down as a mass and that the lives of the men were crushed out instantly. It is regarded as strange that men of such long experience with the nature of mines should have ventured into the old workings, knowing, as they must have, that a big cave was imminent. The warnings inside a mine when a settling is about to take place it is said are numerous and unmistakable, and should be sufficient to guard against loss of life, especially when no attempt is being made to prevent the fall, as in the present case.

Fire boss David Emanuel was perhaps more familiar with the workings of the mine than any other man, and to him was entrusted the work of watching the workings and taking care of some gas which had accumulated as a result of the settling. Mr. Emanuel was fully aware of the conditions in the mine and took with him for company Mr. Williams, who was one of the oldest and best workmen in the mine. It was about ten minutes after eight in the morning when pump-runner Handy, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. Williams, saw and talked with the two men. He says they left their naked lamps and oil cans near where he was standing and started down the slope with safety lamps. This was the last seen of the men.

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#### EXPLORING THE MINE.

About thirty hours have elapsed since the terrible affair startled the community, yet the situation in the mine is practically unchanged. An exploring party, led by Evan Evans, of Kingston, superintendent of the D., L. & W. Coal Co., Superintendent Thomas Phillips, of Hyde Park, and Superintendent Griffith Thomas, of this city, with fourteen men, were in the mine all night in search of the unfortunate men, without discovering any trace of them. They worked their way into the face of the cave as far as they could go with safety, but were compelled to return owing to the serious "working" of that part of the mine and a large quantity of gas that was discovered.

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