

FIRE-DAMP EXPLODES IN A MINE.

**ONE MAN FATALLY AND TWO SERIOUSLY
INJURED.**

SCRANTON, Penn., Jan. 3.—An explosion of fire-damp occurred this afternoon at the Oxford Colliery, in Hyde Park, one of the most thickly settled portions of Scranton, and were it not for the fact that the mine was idle, owing to the half-time order, it would undoubtedly have caused great loss of life. Only 14 men were in the mine at the time. Three of them were seriously injured, one fatally, and all had a narrow escape from instant death. The explosion caused intense excitement in the vicinity of the colliery where its force was heard and felt with startling vividness. It seemed like the crash of a thunderbolt. Houses shook, windows clattered, and the earth seemed as if agitated by an earthquake. The explosion sent its force with a roar up the air shaft several hundred feet, tore the stout timbers overhead from their fastenings and sent them flying in all directions amid a cloud of coal dust. At the regular hoisting shaft two men were about to descend just when the shock occurred. They had the car in place and were in the act of stepping on the platform when it was suddenly hurled high above their heads and went crashing through the irons and timbers of the tower, as if fired from a great cannon. The men were flung a distance of several yards, but escaped uninjured. The news had spread in the meantime, and hundreds came rushing to the mouth of the mine, expecting that the men who were inside had been crushed to death. A party was promptly organized to tender them assistance, and they were moments of painful anxiety that intervened from the time the relief gang disappeared until they returned.

Those who were in the mine when the explosion occurred were John Hopkins, Michael Hughes, John Jones, William Morgan, William Evans, David J. Davis, Harry Lloyd, Daniel Edwards, James Lyshon, Charles S. Jones, Patrick Feeney, and Thomas Williams. They presented a sorry sight as they emerged from the foul black shaft. Most of them had portions of their clothing torn from their bodies, and Hopkins was so badly injured that his death is hourly expected. They describe the underground storm as having been terrible. It carried them off their feet and hurled them about like toys, leaving the place in darkness after it had spent its force. William Evans says he threw himself on his face at the first symptoms of the shock burying his hands and feet in the coal dust, but he was badly injured after all by the flying debris. So fierce an explosion has not occurred here in some time, and it is a wonder, considering the manner in which the mine has been shaken up, that any of the workmen escaped with their lives.

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