

SIXTEEN MINERS KILLED.

THE TERRIBLE RESULT OF AN EXPLOSION OF GAS.

WILLIAMSPORT, Penn., Nov. 4.—Word reaches here to-day of a terrible mine horror at the Kettle Creek Coal Mining Company's mines at Cook's Run, Clinton County. On Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock George L. Miller, Superintendent, heard a terrific report, and arriving at No. 2 mine found that an explosion had occurred. He immediately carried the air to the face of the work, entered the mine, and within one hour had recovered 14 dead bodies. Six injured miners were removed, one of whom died soon afterward. It is feared that one or two more will die from injuries sustained. Samuel Killinger, P. Donnelly, M. Curran, and J. Carlston were the only English-speaking men killed; the rest were Italians and Hungarians. All that could be done for the injured was promptly done by Dr. Weymouth of Renovo and Dr. Brennan, the mine physician. An undertaker has been sent for to attend to the interment of the dead, most of whom are believed to be unmarried.

There is at latest accounts one man missing. Only a few escaped uninjured. J. Farrell, a driver, had a miraculous escape from death. He was entering the drift at the time of the explosion and was thrown toward the mouth of the drift, his mule being killed. Some of the bodies were thrown clear out of the drift by the force of the explosion. Robert Hampson of Towanda, the mine inspector, was sent for, but has not yet arrived. The County Coroner has been notified and will hold an inquest to-morrow. It is said that the general talk of the miners is that there was good ventilation and the mines are well supplied with air appliances. One man was found dead out in the woods, where he was blown by the force of the explosion.

The general theory is that in working a blast a gas feeder was struck, filling the chamber with gas, which, coming in contact with a miner's lamp, caused the fearful explosion. A gas-feeder is a pocket of gas imbedded in the coal, and as soon as a pick is struck into it the gas escapes with a rush. Mr. Miller, the Superintendent, is a thoroughly practical man, and is at present one of the board for the examination of mine inspectors, holding his commission from the State. The Kettle Creek Coal Mining Company is composed of Williamsport men, and its mines have been in operation about four months.

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