



WHO IS TO BLAME

Commission Inquiring Into the Twin Shaft Disaster.

SOME DAMAGING TESTIMONY

Adjoining Veins Were Worked Simultaneously, Pillars Were Not One Over the Other and the Openings Were Unusually Wide, Say the Witnesses Who Were Heard Yesterday—An Old Miner Gives His Opinion Unasked and Despite the Objections of the Commission.

At yesterday's session of the commission investigating the Twin shaft disaster little evidence was given of startling nature, the witnesses for the most part being called to corroborate those who were heard yesterday. A crowd was present at both sessions. Attorney General McCormick was not present, but was represented by his deputy, John P. Elkin, of Indiana.

David Davis, civil engineer of the Newton Coal company, was the first witness called to the stand. He did not think that the accident was caused by the weakness of the pillars or the manner of placing them. The average width of the pillars was twenty feet. The manner of placing the pillars might have a tendency to weaken the mine. A crowd of chambers, though large pillars also had a tendency to weaken the mine. It looks as if it is possible that the accident might have been superinduced by the manner of working the mines. He never heard that any mining engineer or survivor had refused to go in the mine at any time because of its dangerous condition. He noticed a disturbance about 800 feet square on Thursday before the accident. The operators know of this.

To Mr. Stein's questions he stated that the general superintendent, Mr. Wheaton, called the width of the pillars should be.

The attorneys for the miners next called John B. Law, the general manager of the company.

OPERATES THREE SHAFTS.

The Newton Coal company he said in answer to Mr. McGovern's question operates three shafts, Seneca, Ravine and Twin, and one breaker, the Seneca. He himself has been general manager since 1892. He does not go into the mine at all and is not familiar with any of the mines.

Superintendent Langan had charge of the mining. Mr. Law never knew until he heard it at the investigation that gangways and chambers were opened to the widths of 24 feet. In his opinion it was good mining to leave larger pillars in the fifth vein than those directly beneath them in the sixth vein. The method of mining at the Twin shaft met his approval.

On the Saturday evening previous to the accident Mr. Langan called at his house but he was not at home.

There is no regular law which can direct a man what to do in working a mine. The scientist can not lay down any rules. It is not bad mining in his opinion to open gangways to the width of 24 feet if proper sized pillars are left to support the roof.

The company furnished the miners with all the props that were necessary. On the Sunday morning of the accident, it was necessary, he admitted, to send to Scranton for two car loads of props. These however, were extra sized props which were usually kept on hand.

Mr. Wheaton, attorney for the company, wanted to show Mr. Law, that the company would not mine coal in a reckless manner in the two lower veins when it has two or three veins of unmined coal to be gotten out from above those veins.

AN OBJECTION RAISED.

The attorneys for the miners objected to this questioning as the fact that the company was liable to lose some coal had no bearing on the inquest.

Chairman Stein, however, admitted the question and Mr. Law answered that if his fears are correct, the company can never take out the coal from the upper veins.

John Williams, a company hand at the Twin, who on the fatal night came out with Hughes, Healey and the others was next called by the attorneys for the families. On the Saturday preceding the night of the cave-in he noticed a squeeze not over five hundred feet from the foot of the shaft. The width of the chambers and gangways at the Twin is in his opinion from 24 to 25 feet. In his opinion the openings were too large for safety. He observed the space left under the roof in the fifth vein where three pillars had settled.

On the fatal night he went back into the mine but could not get down into the workings because of the fall that had occurred. After waiting at the foot of the bridge for two hours he went out on account of the danger.

He never saw General Manager Law in the mine and only saw Inspector McDonald once. The inspector could be in the mine without him seeing him.

EXPERIENCED MEN WANTED.

The examination of Williams having been completed Chairman Stein remarked that with all due respect to the knowledge and veracity of the young man who had been called as a witness the commission would suggest that older and more experienced miners should be called if they can be secured as their testimony would be of much more importance.

Mr. McGovern agreed with the commission in this and suggested that the investigation be adjourned until the middle of next week in order that the witnesses might be examined by the attorneys so that none but those who had new and relevant evidence might be called.

Mr. Wheaton advised that an afternoon session be held so as not to waste the half day. The company would send to Wilkes-Barre he said for Lehigh Valley engineers who had made an independent survey of the mine, the coal of

SITUATION AT THE MINE.

General Manager Law Tells of the Company's Future Policy.

There has been some talk during the past few days of the company being about to abandon the operations at the Twin shaft on account of the apparent hopelessness of recovering the bodies of the entombed men within any definite length of time. A Tribune reporter yesterday questioned General Manager Law about these reports and he said emphatically there were no grounds for them.

"The company," he said, "will not give up the work of rescue as long as it can be prosecuted with safety to the workmen. As long as the air continues good and we are not bothered by water we will continue the work. There is no telling, however, but that these unfavorable conditions may arise at any time and in case they do we will of course have to cease operations."

He further stated that the company fears that the mine is a total loss and may have to be entirely abandoned. Whether or not their fears are correct cannot be ascertained while the work of rescue is on, as no exploring can be done until the air current is turned into the other openings of the mine and that is not practicable now, as the whole current has to be utilized in the slope where the rescuers are at work.

Part of the current could not be used for exploring purposes, as in the first place it would not be safe to diminish the supply now going to the rescuers and in the second place it would be dangerous to disturb the gas in the other portions of the mine, as it might be driven into the slope, where the workmen are. The only thing that can be done is to work on as at present while there is any chance of accomplishing the results hoped for and when all hopes of recovering the bodies fade, if such should come to pass, then begin the inquiry into the possibility of the mine ever being worked again.

There were no new developments yesterday about the mine. The same slow progress of about a foot an hour is the best that three shifts could report.

BOARD OF TRADE FUND.

Contributors for the Twin Shaft Sufferers Constantly Coming In.

Secretary Atherton, of the board of trade, last night reported the following contributions to the Pittston sufferers' relief fund:

Previously acknowledged	\$5,772.29
T. M. Miller & Co.	25.00
A. B. Stevens	25.00
Union No. 86, Tin Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers	25.00
P. H. Clemons	25.00
J. S. Hart	25.00
J. Ben Dimmick	25.00
	\$6,797.29

The following letter accompanied the contribution from the Tin, Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers' Union:

D. E. Atherton, Secretary Scranton Board of Trade:

Dear Sir:—At a meeting of local union, No. 86, of the Tin, Sheet Iron and Cornice Workers, of this city, held Wednesday evening, July 8, 1896, a resolution was passed extending their heartfelt sympathy to the families and relatives of those who lost their loved ones in the Twin shaft disaster on Sunday, June 28, 1896. They also passed the sum of \$25 to the relief fund, for which enclosed find check. Yours, etc., John W. McLean, Treasurer, W. S. Walsh, financial Secretary.

Governor Hastings has sent a sympathetic letter and a contribution of \$50 to the general relief committee. The funds in Pittston and Wilkes-Barre are rapidly growing and when the general relief committee is ready to begin its labors, which will be in the course of a few days, a handsome sum will be at its disposal.

THEY ENJOY THE FISHING.

All the More So Because It is Forbidden.

The Crystal Lake Water company, by its attorney, H. C. Butler, yesterday began proceedings in equity against John G. Thompson, George Ross, Jr., and William Price, of Carbonate, to restrain them from fishing in the No. 4 reservoir of the company near Farview.

It is alleged that the men make a practice of standing just outside the fence which surrounds the reservoir and from that position throw their lines into the water. This has been going on for upwards of a year, according to the bill of complaint filed by the company.

When remonstrated with it is alleged that Thompson declared that he will fish in the No. 4 reservoir in spite of the Crystal Lake Water company and the court of common pleas of Lackawanna county.

WELSH JOURNAL'S VIEW.

It Speaks in Complimentary Terms of Mr. Connell's Candidacy.

"Y Drych," in an editorial in this week's issue, speaks in very flattering terms of the candidacy of Mr. William Connell. In speaking of the candidacy of Hon. Morgan B. Williams in Luzerne and that of Mr. Connell in Lackawanna,

WHERE THE PILLARS ARE.

In his opinion the pillars in the fifth and sixth veins are directly over one another, or at least nearly in a line as is practical. By measurements it was shown that certain pillars taken haphazard had as much as 2-3 of their base unsupported by any pillar beneath and that the pillars in the upper vein were as a rule larger than those in the lower vein.

To a question propounded by Deputy Attorney General Elkin, Mr. Siley said that it was not customary in other mines to have the pillars in the upper vein larger than those in the vein below.

Fire Boss A. T. McCormack's record book showing his daily report of the condition of the mine was offered in evidence, having been asked for by the commission.

The next witness was Martin Healey, one of the miners at the Twin shaft who left on account of the impending danger on the night of the accident. He said he was thirty-five years of age and had worked at the Twin shaft since he was a boy.

On the night of the accident he went in to do timbering, but when he heard of the squeeze that was in progress he went out with a number of other men, who, like himself, were afraid. During the preceding the accident he noticed the squeezing. In his opinion the mine was safe to work in until the fall came on Saturday, when it became dangerous because of the possibility of the gas being forced out into the workings where the men were by the fall which was taking place beyond. All the gangways had any personal knowledge of were not more than fourteen or sixteen feet in width.

The session adjourned to meet at the same place next Thursday at 10 o'clock a. m., which time was agreed upon by all interested.

NEXT TO MOTHER'S MILK

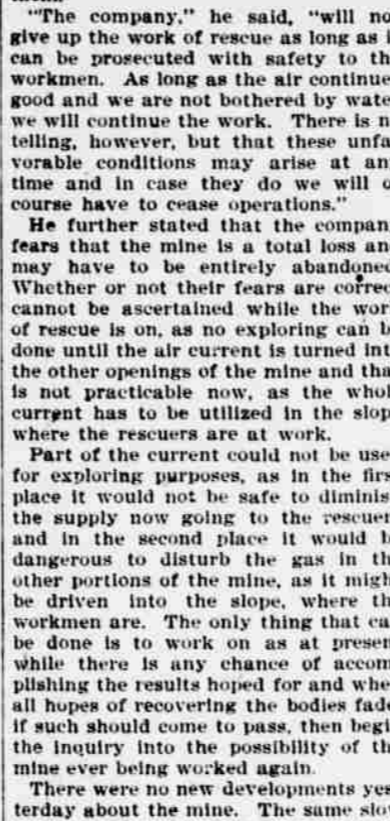
Physicians Tell Why They Rely on Lactated Food.

Mothers May Stop Worrying About Cholera Infantum.

Here is a Diet Sublimely Nutritious and Absolutely Pure.

Baby's food during hot weather cannot safely be experimented with. Physicians always recommend lactated food when weaning time comes, or when mother's milk falls or must be given up. Every process in the preparation of this superior infant food is familiar to medical advisers.

There is no secret about lactated food. It is manufactured under the personal supervision of Prof. Boynton of Vermont university. Sugar of milk, the basis of mother's milk, is the basis of lactated food. With it is combined pure barley malt, the finest wheat gluten, and the nutritious elements of the oat. It is thoroughly cooked by high steam heat, making a "pre-digested."



ONE OF THE DOCTOR'S PATIENTS.

nutritious food, that fulfills every requirement of the growing child. Lactated food is by far the safest food a child can take in summer.

Whenever physicians are consulted in the case of babies that are not thriving their reply is "Give the little one on lactated food."

Years and years of splendid results in the rearing of delicate children on lactated food has given it its brilliant reputation among mothers, nurses, and physicians. As a nutrient and preventive of summer diseases, cholera infantum, diarrhea, colic, and wasting sickness, lactated food has been subjected to the most trying tests, and has brought thousands of babies safely through the hot summer, sustaining their strength in the exhausting diseases peculiar to childhood. Here is a letter from George M. Peabody, M. D., written from his residence in Wayland, N. Y.

—Enclosed find a picture of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. S. of this place, only another recruit to the vast army of children who owe their continued existence and health to lactated food. Since my graduation it has been my privilege to advise, and in some cases to insist, on the use of your best of baby foods, lactated food. "Other foods" have often disappointed me, but never lactated food. It is both a pleasure and a duty to recommend it.

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They know what they want and appreciate the stylish outfits we turn out for them. After all there is a great deal in being properly dressed, and we make a business of seeing that you appear that way.

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Why let your home and business be destroyed through strong drink or morphine, when you can be cured in four weeks at the Keeley Institute, 728 Madison Avenue, Scranton, Pa. The Cure Will Bear Investigation.

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Walk in and look around.

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The King of Pills is Becham's—BECHAM'S.

Pillsbury Flour mills have a capacity of 17,500 barrels a day.

The Trials of Life.

What shall I do? I am so debilitated with this malarial fever that I cannot attend to my ordinary duties. Well, do as others have—try Aunt Rachel's Malarial Bitter; they are unequalled and will act favorably on all functions of your system, and restore them to vigorous action. They are simply Sayer's Wine with such herbs and roots as Physicians use daily in their practice for the cure of malaria.

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An elegant assortment at prices that are very low considering the quality, make-up, etc., is being shown at our store. If you are thinking of buying a Spring Suit call in and look at our stock—it will do you good, and us, too, of course. We are almost sure you will buy—cannot resist.

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A Fine Russia Calf Bals, Needle Toe, all sizes and widths, Goodyear welt, up to date, \$2.50.

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