

The second gas explosion took place in the Citizens' Coal and Mining Co.'s mine, Lincoln, January 15, 1891. The night men had taken out the rails and built up the entrance to an abandoned room two nights before the explosion; Arthur Skinner and Albert Orr worked in the room next to and running parallel with this room. About 8:15 A. M., Skinner and Orr were sitting on their powder box about half way up their room. Shortly afterward a boy named James Connor, working in another room further along the entry, came in and sat down along side of them. Skinner rose and crawled over the pile of gobbing through a small opening into the room abandoned, but on rising to return, his light ignited the gas, which caused considerable of an explosion, knocking him down. The flame and force of the explosion rushed through the opening that Skinner had come through, striking square at Orr and Connor, who in their rush and excitement in trying to get away from the flames, inhaled it, which caused their death a few days afterward. Skinner, who ignited the fire-damp, was fortunate enough to be knocked down on the mine floor, and thus escaped with a very slight injury. If the deceased, on seeing the flame coming, had had the presence of mind to throw themselves face downward, it is possible they too would have got off as safely as Skinner.

Both the Lincoln mines within the last four years have greatly improved the quantity and better circulation of the air-current in the their mines, by putting in new and larger fans, keeping the air-ways in a clearer condition and splitting the air-current. Since the above accidents, they are closing off abandoned rooms entirely, immediately after the rooms are worked out.

*Non-Fatal Accidents.*—The non-fatal accidents number forty-one, being six more than last year. This increase in number may be attributed to a more full report of this class of accidents, as we requested the operators to make a full report of such accidents in the early part of the year.

Two of those injured are still unable to work; one is supposed to be permanently disabled. The other 39 injured have lost in all 2,250 days work: 23 are married men, with 77 persons depending on them for their living.

*Fatal Accidents.*—The following is a statement of each fatal accident in a very brief form:

July 25, 1890.—Joseph Shober was employed as a coal miner by the Lincoln Coal Co., Lincoln. On the morning of the above date deceased entered an abandoned room, and while there ignited fire-damp; he, keeping an upright position and fighting the flame to get out of the room, swallowed considerable flame, which burned him worse internally than externally; he succumbed to his injuries three days afterwards, leaving a widow and five children who were dependent.

August 4, 1890.—William Tokey, aged 43, single, was employed as a coal miner by the Claire Coal Company, Middle Grove. Deceased was opening out a new room; the shaft being idle that day, he was alone in that part of the mine. Having collected considerable coal in the narrow entry behind him, when he came to fire his second shot, the smoke of his first