FIVE MEN ARE DEAD AND THREE OTHERS BADLY BURNED M AS RESULT OF GAS EXPLOSION AT MINNEQUA PLANT

Catastrophe Occu at Furnace 7 in Openhearth epartment Without Momen s Warning.

OTHER WORKMEN HAVE NARROW ESCAPE

Similar Explosion Occurred One Year Ago in Same Place When Six Men Received Burns.

Dead:

NICK UZELAC, married. Blown against side of sewer.

JANDRE UZELAC, 36, married. Burned.

STANKO MARICH, 36, married. Burned and inhaled gas.

MIKE RADMONOVIC, 43, married. Blown against side of sewer and inhaled gas.

ELIJA ZIGICH, single. Burned.

Injured:

Mile Marich, 25, single. Burned about head and chest.

Peter Sudar, single. Burned about face and hands.

Karl Pensinger, single, foreman. Inhaled gas and soot.

Twelve feet underground, trapped without a chance of escape and without warning of their danger, eight employes of the Minnequa steel plant were caught in a terrible explosion of gas at 12 30 o'clock yesterday afternoon with the result that five bodies now lie in the morgue, while the other three men in the party are in the hospita, suffering with severe injuries. Nick Uzelac was killed instantly by the explosion and Jandre Uzelac, Stanko Marich, Mike Radmonovic and Elija Zigich were so badly injured that they survived but a short time after they were conveyed to the Minnequa hospital. Immediately after the accident heartrending scenes were enacted at the gates of the steelworks, where men, women and children, with relatives at work in the plant, gathered and implored admission that they might see if any of the killed or injured were their loved ones.

The accident was one of the worst that has happened at the steel works for many years, but it came near being a disaster which would have ranked among the most appalling in the country. Fifty men who were eating their noon lunch near the gas sewer manhole where the explosion took place, were covered by hot ashes and soot, and narrowly escaped death or serious injury by the exploding gas.

A heroic feature of the accident was the work of American employes who hastened to the scene, entered the sewer, which, for all they knew was a death trap and brought the bodies of the dead and injured to the surface while the fifty foreigners who were at hand stampeded in their fright to places of safety.

How Accident Happened.

The explosion occurred in the gas sewer through which gas is conducted to openhearth furnace No. 7. The men were employed in cleaning the sewer of soot which collects rapidly. Furnace No. 7 was shut down for repairs, and the danger of working in the sewer was reduced to a minimum. Through disobedience of orders the men came to their death, as it is said they were given explicit instructions not to reenter the sewer until they had been informed that it was safe. The exact cause of the explosion has not been definitely ascertained, but it was probably due to the generation of gas by the mixture of water with the accumulated soot.

Instructions Disregarded.

At the noon hour the eight men went to the manhole to get a breath of fresh air and eat their lunch. Six of them sat together, while the other two were nearby. As soon as the lunch was consumed Nick Uzelac and his companion, who were sitting together, signified their intention of returning to work. Objections were made by others, who reminded Uzelac that the man who turned water into the sewer had told them to wait until he returned. Uzelac disregarded his companions, and taking his rake, and accompanied by a man with a wheelbarrow with which to haul the soot away, he went to a point near the end of the sewer to commence work. The others followed, but were near the manhole when the explosion took place, and so escaped instant death.

Men Blown Into Manhole.

Uzalac had barely started his work when, with a noise that was heard all over the plant, the gas belched forth in flames with a violence that shook the ground. Uzalac and his companion who was handling the wheelbarrow, were blown to the manhole.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

WRECKED LIFE SAVING SLO

New York, Dec. 7.—"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This inscription on an urn into which were put yesterday the ashes of Henry N. Mallabar, brings to light for the first time the story of a hero whose life was forfeited in the saving of others. On June 15, 1904, Mr. Mallabar was chief clerk in Riverside hospital on North Brother island when the ill-fated excursion steamer General Slocum, a mass of flame, bore down on that island.

Mr. Mallabar was one of the first to see the burning steamer and one of the first at the work of rescue. A strong swimmer, he plunged into the water and swam out to where women and chil-

HON. J.F.M'DONALD WILL BE CA FOR GOVERNOR OF COLORADO

PHYSICIANS GIVE UP ALL HOPES FOR KING OSCAR

Unconscious Periods Grow More Prolonged

Stockholm, Dec. 7.—King Oscar of Sweden is dying. He has lain unconscious all day and the attending physicians hold out no hope. The crown prince was formally appointed regent last Wednesday. The king at that time, fearing the worst consented to hand over the government to him.

Stockholm, Dec. 8.—5:00 a. m. —The physicians have administered further stimulants to the king, which, it is expected will prolong life for some hours.

Await Bulletins from King.

Stockholm, Dec. 7.—Although the theaters and other places of amusement were open as usual, the crowd, numbering thousands, patiently waiting in a pouring rain in front of the palace, testified to the popular sympathy for the aged monarch, whose life is slowly ebbing.

Within the palace, members of the royal family, high ecclesiastics, the premier and the minister of foreign affairs had been assembled for some hours in the king's study to which room his majesty had been removed at noon when still unconscious. This measure was taken to enable all the family and the officials to be present

Candidacy is L Friends of Forme and Strong F is Assu

Special to The Chieftain.

Denver, Dec. 7.—Although not directly a ernor to do so, a number of his friends be a candidate before the next Republica of governor.

Gov. McDonald has never asked the pe home town and country for a single positio his friends have taken hold and secured him he has never declined to accept the n position might be, whether it was for al of Leadville, chairman of his local precin lieutenant governorship which afterward

The announcement that his name woul was made by several of his friends today of the Republican central committee state ganization was concerned or rather insofa ganization was back of Gov. McDonald.

"You can say for me," stated Mr. Vivia Donald, first, last and all the time. I thi didate that can be named."

RESCUERS WORK TO REACH ENTOMI

Relatives of Victims Fr Besiege Morgue i of Loved O

CHICAGO WINS CONVENTION