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The Oldest Newspaper — THE — ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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A FATAL ACCIDENT.

Miners Hurled Into Eternity Through the Explosion of Fire Damp in a Shaft.

SICKENING SIGHT, IMPOSSIBLE TO PICTURE.

Safety Lamps Not Used in the Mine, Because the Presence of Gas was not Suspected.

By Telegraph to the News.

MINE EXPLOSION.

A Number of People Killed and others Injured.

SCOTTDALE, Pa., Jan. 27.—By an explosion of fire damp in the Mammoth shaft of the H. C. Frick Coke Company, yesterday, eighty ninety miners were ushered into eternity and a number seriously injured. The explosion occurred this morning shortly after 8 o'clock, and it is supposed was the result of the ignition of a miner's oil lamp. The after damp which followed the fire damp explosion suffocated nearly every workman. The few men who escaped the awful situation fell to the ground, thereby preventing the gas settling. The persons not killed are in such a critical condition that their deaths are momentarily expected.

Up to this writing fifty bodies are recovered, all without a sign of life. A fire which broke out after the explosion was soon extinguished. By an immense fan which was put in operation the gas has about all been driven from the pit, and the work of rescuing the entombed miners has commenced.

The Mammoth plant embraces 500 acres, one of the largest plants in the coke region, but it is hard of access. It is situated near the United works, where an explosion recently destroyed an entire shaft.

The affair has cast a gloom over the entire coke region, and tonight hundreds of miners are flocking to

THE SCENE OF DISASTER

offering assistance. The appalling loss of life in the Dunbar disaster is more than overshadowed by the destruction of life in the Mammoth calamity. The news spread throughout the entire coke region with great rapidity, and everybody is awe-stricken. Offers have been tendered for eighty persons from Mount Pleasant undertakers.

No one escaped from the mine in a condition to tell the story of the awful disaster. It is estimated that there are fifty wives and families left wholly dependent on the charity of the world for sustenance by this disaster. In fact, they are almost penniless. As the mine has not been running full for quite time, and work has been exceedingly scarce, contributions will have to be resorted to to supply the widows, mothers and children with the necessaries of life. The Frick Company will act liberally in this direction, and Master Workman Potter has sent an appeal for aid to the miners and coke of this region.

AT MIDNIGHT

It is stated 119 men were killed in the explosion. Only 50 bodies have been taken out so far. The mine is again on fire and it is feared all the other bodies will be cremated.

A partial story of the disaster is detailed. An unexpected flow of gas was struck and the miners working in the workings connected with the Rain 2, 3 and 4, were all killed. One fire boss, a Welsh boy, had been in the mine and examined the working places. His mangled body lies at the morgue. The only evidence that he attended to his duties, are the regular certificates of inspection received from him this morning, which guaranteed the mines safe. The miners have three certificates had been filed out and went to work. They never returned.

Superintendent Keighly, who was mine inspector in the Dunbar district when that horror occurred, was at the mine when the explosion took place. He immediately called for volunteers, and gathering a few about him, descended the shaft. Before doing so he notified General Superintendent Lloyd, and that gentleman ordered all the mine superintendents in the region to the scene.

When the volunteers entered the mine it right impossible to picture met them. A back of cars, mules and, more terrible than all, men, were

PACKED IN A COMPACT MASS

against the ribs or walls of coal, and not a living thing was in the wreckage. It was almost as solid as the coal itself, so terrific was the force of the explosion. The obstruction was removed with difficulty and they entered the chamber of horrors. The first object they discovered after leaving the main entry was a gum boot, in it was the leg of a man. Further on they found a human head, but nowhere in sight was the trunk that had borne it. In all, a few minutes, a few hours, a distance surrounding after walking a distance sufficient to fatigue a horse, they found the trunk. The rugged rock, with blood oozing from it, told the story of an appalling disaster.

Working their way in, they found bodies strewn along the gangway. One unfortunate had death in his grasp on his knees in prayer, with hands clasped and eyes uplifted. His body was found in this position. It was a pathetic picture.

While all this was occurring the people of the region were concentrated at the scene of the great disaster. Women, children, relatives and friends of the unfortunate victims rushed to the mouth of the pit shrieking and sobbing, and the scene was one

NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.

Following them came the physicians and undertakers from Scottdale, Mount Pleasant and Greensburgh, and after them Father Lambing of Scottdale, who was running the bereaved with words of sympathy and consolatory, bodies urging the men to greater work to rescue any who might be alive and imprisoned. The services of the physicians were little needed, for every man in the workings where the explosion occurred was killed. None were injured, and dead bodies were brought up every few minutes. Every corpse was covered, and no one even ventured to inquire which body it was, for they knew that every one in that part of the mine at the time of the explosion was dead.

Superintendent Keighly was sorely distressed. He had been in two other mine disasters, at Dunbar and Youngstown, but this was far worse. He said: "No man living knows the cause of the accident, and it will never be known for certainty. Not so many were killed by the explosion, but the after damp came and the unfortunates succumbed to it. This is shown by the fact that in many these bodies in the immediate vicinity of the worst wreckage were mutilated."

One fireman connected with the mine said that

SAFETY LAMPS

were not used in it. The presence of the gas was not suspected.

John M. Bell, fire boss at Herts No. 1, said: "About two years ago there was an explosion of gas at the mine and one man was burned to death. No safety lamps were used here. There was too much wait here for one to know it