

SUFFOCATED IN A MINE.

Five Heroes of the Mine Dying in a Utah Mine.

From the New York Post.

James Lawrence, Hugh McDermott, Robinson Williamson, George J. Taylor and C. D. Shreck, miners in the Grizzly Mine at Alton, were suffocated to death last week. The mine is entered by the tunnel, and the engine and boiler are about one thousand feet from the mouth of the tunnel. The shaft is at the side of the machinery and descends about four hundred and fifty feet into the mine, where the four began. The shaft ascends 300 feet and meeting a drift follows it about the incline about five hundred feet. Then another rise, 150 feet high, carries the smoke to the surface. There were three excellent places in the long drift for fire intended to create a draft, and the engine and the boiler were used in this object. At 11 o'clock Friday night Superintendent J. J. O'Toole entered the mine with Engineer Taylor and a helper of Shreck, who was below in the mine with Williamson. Taylor was sent above to see if there was any smoke; and he reported that there was none. It was then agreed to start the fire at a certain time and note the effect. O'Toole and Shreck remained at the furnace while Taylor lighted the three fires above. In about an hour Taylor returned and O'Toole told him that he smelt smoke coming down. Taylor answered that it wouldn't amount to much. After a short time Shreck said the smoke was affecting his head and that he would be obliged to go out. He started for the mouth of the tunnel, and soon after Taylor complained of the head. O'Toole also felt the unpleasant effects of the smoke and said to Taylor: "Ring the bell for the men below and get out as quickly as you can."

The warning bells were then rung for the two men at the bottom of the shaft, and O'Toole and Taylor started from the shaft on the car and soon reached the turntable. Here it was necessary for them to stop and take a new direction. The table had been partly turned when the two men were partly stopped by the gas. The light went out and Taylor was lost from the car. O'Toole fell down on his hands and knees and felt for the ends of the rails so that he could start the car when the terrible cause ceased. Just then the two men who had been warned by the bell ran towards the car. They had climbed 450 feet by the ladder, and as their lights had gone out when they were within twenty feet of the tunnel they had made their way in the dark, stumbling over O'Toole as they reached the car. The miners picked up O'Toole and endeavored to carry him along but he dropped from exhaustion and fell with his feet in a pool of muddy water. The water revived him and he started the car with the assistance of one of the men, whether Taylor the engineer, or Williamson the miner, is not known. The two men on the car passed Shreck, who was struggling alone, and tried to lift him up by the car, but were unable to do so. Soon afterwards they were obliged to abandon the car in the mine. Shreck, however, rolled his traps, and making a dash, gained the air about 1 o'clock Saturday morning. He slipped down a deep declivity which led to the boarding house and notified his comrades that there were men in the mine. It was resolved to make an attempt to rescue them, and a relief party was formed consisting of Shreck, Lawrence, McCormick and McDermott. O'Toole was found staggering along with his hands gripping the sides of the tunnel, and one of the relief party took him out of the tunnel. The rest pushed on to rescue their comrades who were further in. When they returned they brought with them the dead bodies of McDermott and Williamson. All of the men were affected by the gas, but because that Taylor was still in the tunnel determined to go after him. An attempt was made to dislodge them, but one of the men cried: "We won't let our mates die." Two of the men, Lawrence and McCormick, again entered the tunnel and never returned. They were found afterwards near their car, and Taylor's body was about 100 feet away from them.

1879 Grizzly mine suffocation



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