

SIXTEEN IN ONE GRAVE.

Miners Meet a Frightful Death While Engaged at Work.

LIFE CRUSHED OUT BY TONS OF ROCK.

The Timbers in the Utica Mine at Angel's Camp Give Way While Sixteen Men Are Strengthening Them, and All Are Buried in the Mine But Three—Their Narrow Escape—Rescuers Quickly at Work, But Their Efforts to Save the Unfortunate Men Will Be Futile—All of the Men Are Married.

[Special to the EXAMINER.]

SAN ANTONIO, December 23.—A disaster occurred at 3 o'clock last evening in the Lase mine, owned by Howard & Hobart, located on the west edge of Angel's, by which sixteen men were buried and are supposed to be dead.

Sixteen men were sent into the drift on the 400-foot level to repair the timbering, which had become loosened. They had not worked over an hour when suddenly the supports of the upper timbers severed to the right, and the roofing of earth and rocks fell at the same instant, burying sixteen unfortunates underneath.

Thomas Corwin and two Italians who were working near the mouth of the drift managed to escape with their lives, though Corwin was so badly injured about the head as to require the services of a physician.

NO FEAR OF DANGER.

Corwin stated that the partitions were leaning pretty badly when he went into the drift with the rest of the men, but no one suspected that there was any danger of a cave.

When it came they were all unprepared and the sixteen were caught in the death trap.

He and the Italians escaped as soon as they heard the timber crack. The others also started to run, but were 100 feet in the drifts before they were able to reach a place of safety.

NO HOPE OF SAVING THE MEN.

Immediately after the accident men were lowered down the shaft, and entering the mouth of the drift they commenced digging into the debris. They found the attempt almost useless, as the timbers seem to have been woven together as though the sides of the drift had fallen toward each other and had been covered by roofing.

By this morning the rescuing party had succeeded in getting but eight feet into the pile of earth and timbers and none of the victims had been reached.

There is no prospect of getting the men out alive.

Most, if not all, of the unfortunate miners were married and had families.

1889 Utica Mine Disaster



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THE FATAL LEVEL.

A Description of the Mine Where the Disaster Occurred.

The Utica mine, or, as it is frequently called, the "Lane mine," Charles Lane being the Superintendent, is owned by Alvinza Hayward and Walker S. Hobart.

An EXAMINER reporter was in the office of the first-mentioned gentleman yesterday afternoon when the first direct and positive information was received by him regarding the disaster. It came in the form of a dispatch from the Superintendent, briefly stating that George Williams and fifteen others had been caught in a cave on Sunday afternoon in No. 1 level, between the "H. & H." and North shafts, and adding that there was no hope of their being rescued alive. The telephone line between the mine and the nearest telegraph stations was down until yesterday afternoon, which prevented the news being received earlier.

The Utica mine, which has been owned and worked by its present possessors for about three years, is a gold quartz ledge, about twelve feet wide, inclosed in walls of slate. It has two shafts and three levels, and has employed lately between sixty and seventy men, the output furnishing work for a sixty-stamp mill.

The total depth of the mine is 530 feet, the upper level being about 800 feet below the surface, the second about 100 feet lower and the third running off from the bottom of the shaft. It was upon the upper level that the cave occurred.

To this there are not only two entrances and exits by means of the two shafts mentioned, called respectively the "H & H" and the North shaft, but the level also connects in another direction with a neighboring mine, the "Stickles."

The cave occurred between the two shafts, which are about 150 feet apart.

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