

SMOTHERED IN A COAL MINE

FIVE MINERS ARE SUFFOCATED
AT ISSAQUAH.

Forest Fire Ignites the Timbering
of the Air Shaft and Flames
Quickly Spread—Eight Men Under
Ground at the Time—Relief Party
Finds the Bodies.

[Special Dispatch to The Ledger.]

SEATTLE, Aug. 21.—A forest fire, igniting the timbering in the air shaft of the Issaquah coal mine, on the line of the Seattle & International railway in the eastern part of this county, occasioned the death of five miners who were engaged in the more distant underground workings.

The fire was discovered at about 9:30 o'clock this morning, and at about 5 o'clock this afternoon the last body had been brought to the surface by the rescue parties who had entered the mine at the risk of their own lives to try to reach their comrades in time.

List of the Dead.

The names of the dead are: Carlo Cassasa, Dominick Cassasa, Calvin Zowell, Ben Lawes and John Lind. Al Detsel was with the above men, but managed to make his escape from the burning mine. Death was occasioned by the fire driving the black damp and fire damp through the mine, overtaking the men and causing suffocation.

1900 Issaquah No. 4 Mine Asphyxiations

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When the fire was discovered the alarm was immediately sounded, and an effort made to notify all the miners working underground. This was successfully carried out in every instance save in those noted. When the five miners who succumbed failed to reach the tunnel the work of organizing a rescue party was immediately started. Efforts were made to prevent the miners entering the mine, but without avail. A party of twenty-five set out and in time came upon two of the bodies, bringing them to the surface.

Loss Not Known.

This was about 3 o'clock, and within another hour the bodies of the three remaining men known to be in the mine were brought up. The air shaft is across the hills from the town of Gilman, or Issaquah, at a distance of about one mile and a half from the tunnel mouth. The extent of the damage to the mine itself is at present unknown. It is the belief of some that a portion of the mine will have to be blown up to effectually save the underground workings. Others, however, are of the opinion that the fire will soon be under control and the mine suffer little serious damage. Of the men killed majority are married. Ben Lawes leaves a widow and seven children, none of whom are yet capable of making their own living. Calvin Zowell and Dominick Cassasa leave fairly large families, in more or less dependent circumstances.

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