

THIRTY-SEVEN KILLED.

AWFUL DISASTER IN A SEATTLE COAL MINE.

FIRE BREAKS OUT ON SIXTH LEVEL.

All Means of Escape Cut Off—Death Comes to the Victims Without Pain
—Out of Sixty-Two Men in the Franklin Mine Only Twenty-Five Are Left to Tell the Awful Tale of Death.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 27.—A terrible calamity occurred in breast No. 62 on the sixth level of the Franklin mine, near this city yesterday afternoon. The cause was a fire in breast No. 62. Sixty-two miners were imprisoned and thirty-seven were killed. The fire was soon extinguished and the work of taking out the bodies began. All were recovered.

About half of the miners were colored men, having been brought from the East four years ago to replace the strikers. The mine is owned by the Oregon Improvement company and produces the best coal in the state of Washington.

Several men were badly bruised and one colored man was taken out with a broken neck, their wounds indicating that they had thrown themselves against posts and timbers of the gangway in a desperate endeavor to escape. But the majority of the bodies bear no marks at all, not even a scratch, and their features were in quiet repose, indicating that their death had been a speedy and painless one.

M. D. Story, one of the rescuers who went in from the surface, upon reaching the sixth level north, ran along the gangway. At 1,000 feet in he found the first body, and then the rest of the miners were found scattered along in a row. In one place eight men were lying together, and in another one man was lying under a mule, five mules in all being dead.

Story says that the men were all lying in the middle of the gangway with their faces in the mud as if they had tried to bury their heads completely and thus escape the deadly and obnoxious coal smoke.

As the bodies began to arrive at the surface of the mine slope the excitement of the wives and mothers, and, for that matter, the whole populace, became uncontrollable. At 3 o'clock the last of the thirty-seven bodies was recovered and the people began to quiet down.

1894 Franklin Mine fire NEWS1

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usmra_rob
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