

THE MINE SET ON FIRE.

Coroner's Jury Find the Franklin Disaster Due to Incendiarism.

SEATTLE, Wn., Aug. 26.—The coroner's jury investigating the disaster in the Franklin coal mine Friday, in which thirty-seven men were killed, has rendered a verdict finding that the fire was started by parties unknown who willfully, knowingly and maliciously desired to do great injury and damage to the lives of the employes and to the property of the Oregon Improvement company. It is believed that the person who fired the mine also perished, though no one will venture an opinion as to who the incendiary was.

1894 Franklin Mine fire NEWS3

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Funeral of the Miners.

SEATTLE, Wn., Aug. 26.—Today was made the occasion of a general funeral of the victims of the Franklin mine disaster on Friday last. Two of the dead miners were buried in the Odd Fellows' cemetery here, three at Renton, one at Spring Brook, five at Black Diamond and eleven at Franklin. A funeral train left Franklin at 6:45 o'clock this morning, carrying nearly all the living people to Black Diamond. Rev. John F. Damon preached the funeral sermons. After the melancholy rites, the train ran back to Franklin carrying mourners to the funerals there. Throughout the whole Green and Cedar river valleys, from Franklin to Renton, the church bells tolled and their mournful notes announced that the people were performing their duty to the dead. On every side appeared the grim emblems of death and in the place of the excitement succeeding the accident had come a feeling of loneliness, deep, overpowering and depressing. The miners realized that their friends were no more and violent grief at bidding their loved ones a last farewell almost distracted the widowed and the fatherless. All the victims are now in their last resting place except three at Franklin and three in this city. Of these, two will be buried here tomorrow and the arrangements for the funerals of the others are completed.

MINERS KNEW OF THE DANGER.

John Kangley Talks About the Disaster at Franklin.

General Manager John Kangley, of the Northern Pacific Coal company, said Saturday night that the mine disaster at the Franklin mines was something that no human power could have averted. "The mines cover such a wide area, so many places that had been worked and abandoned had fallen in and there was so much refuse matter present," said he, "that fires were liable to happen through spontaneous combustion at any time. In fact fires were breaking out quite frequently. Such spontaneous combustion, as that at the Franklin mine, is caused by the combination of soap stone, sulphur and coal. Miners place props up in the rooms where they are working to keep loose stones from falling down. As they work, in spite of their utmost vigilance, coal is often thrown out with the refuse and as sulphur is occasionally found here and there, it also becomes mixed up with it. As soon as the room is abandoned the loose stones from above keep falling down until finally the place gets entirely filled up and the props are mashed down through the earth. The soap stone intermingles with the coal and if sulphur is present combustion is slowly produced by the chemical combination of the elements contained in the three principals.

"I was at Franklin six years ago when the mines were being opened and every precaution was being taken then by the owners for the future safety of the men. The men who were suffocated at Franklin Friday all knew how dangerous the mine was, so did the owners. But miners become very brave. The places in the mines where they have worked for months and even years become so familiar and they feel so at home when there, that it is hard for them to feel fear, even in the presence of danger."