

AWFUL EXPLOSION

In Rocky Mountain Mine No. 5,  
at Red Canyon.

No Hope for Any Who Were In  
the Mines.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 21.—A special to the Tribune from Red Canyon says:

A terrible explosion at Rocky Mountain Mine No. 5, situated at Red Canyon, Wyo., is believed to have killed eighty men, who are imprisoned in the mine, in addition to the ten who were in the power house above ground or near the shaft openings. The slopes and entrances to the lower workings are all blocked by wreckage and it is thought at least three days will be required for rescue parties to reach the bodies in the mine.

The horror occurred at 5:45 yesterday evening at No. 5 Central Pacific mine, Red Canyon, five miles north of Evanston. The explosion in the mine shocked the whole country around, wrecked the power plant, a fan house and several other buildings, entailing a heavy loss, but the death roll far overshadows other considerations.

Edwin Cox, the outside carpenter, James Bruce, outside boss, James W. Clark, Wm. Sellers, Jr., and James Gernilly, an Austrian, were killed in the power house, while O. Malby, foreman, Jerry Crawford and Andrew Mason were injured and died soon afterward, the last three being about the power house at the time of the explosion.

A few hours later the dead bodies of James Limb and Fred Fred Morgan were brought from the slope, only a short distance down, but as this is written there is around the mine a great throng of people, anxiously inquiring regarding friends known to be in the mine, and all hope of any of them being alive is gone.

No one, after seeing the ghastly spectacle presented by the two bodies brought out of the slope, could have hopes of any in the mine being alive.

These bodies were burned and blackened, with garments torn to shreds, making it almost impossible to identify them. How many were in the mine at the time of the explosion will take time to tell, but the best information obtainable now places the number at over eighty. Nearly all of them are known to be killed and leave large families.

Immediately after the explosion, Superintendent Bradbury telephoned to Evanston for all the physicians with an extra train. The Tribune correspondent went on the train and viewed the scene of the disaster before darkness set in.

The relief corps, carrying lanterns, got ready to descend in hopes of rescuing alive some of the victims. The blacksmith shop was turned into a dead-house, with four bodies lying there, one disfigured with its head blown off, the others less mangled. Brave men had tried to descend some of the air and escape slopes without success, and it was not until three hours after the explosion that a volunteer party entered the main entrance to the slopes and soon afterwards returned with two bodies. They reported that caves stopped further progress down the slope. Then a party went down to clear away the caves, after which the searching party again entered and work in that line is now going on.

This slope being down 2,000 feet, with nine levels, each one and a half miles long, may probably require several days to reach all parts of the mine. A few lives were saved because of the time of the accident. The miners quit work at 6 o'clock, and it is customary for them to be near the entrance and come out just as the whistle blows. A number of men had come out and some had just left the entrance to the mine slope away from the working tunnel, when the explosion occurred, thus escaping death.

Zela Baker and father and brother came out five minutes before the explosion. Zela was hit by the timber which killed the Crawford boy, but he was not much hurt. John Hanna, a carpenter, was talking to Cox and Bruce when they were killed, he being burned slightly, but it was understood the following persons were in the mine: Willard Brzwa, John Lock, Joseph Highton, George Higgs, John P. Hart, John Butler, John Critchley, E. Sloan, John Dexter, Charles Clark, Thomas, James and Samuel Hutchinson, George Hardy, Wm. Langdon and son, John Peebe, Wm. Weedup and John Martin, Jr.

A weigher was the only person in the power house not killed, he being but slightly burned, except the engineer, who was blown through the window, but little hurt.

Around the mine is a population of about 2,000.

Many families are bereft of their fathers or sons. A more sorrowful community could not be found, with children and women mourning the loss of husband, father and brother.

The explosion is described by many as most terrific, shaking the whole town, and causing women and children to run into the streets crying, "Oh, my husband," "Oh, my papa," with raised hands, imploring for the safety of the beloved ones. The explosion is supposed to have come from a blast setting fire to dust, making a dust explosion, since the mine was supposed to be free from gas, and being well ventilated.

The Rocky Mountain company, generally designated as the Central Pacific mines, have two mines, Nos. 5 and 6, with one mile face, making two separate mines with 100 feet pillars separating them. This leaves No. 6 unharmed, but deprives the company of one half of its capacity.

This is the third disastrous explosion in this vicinity. In 1881 No. 2 mine, Rocky Mountain, exploded, killing thirty-six Chinese and four white men. In the spring of 1890 Union Pacific mine No. 4 killed thirty-six men.

Newell Beeman, manager, arrived from Salt Lake last night and hastened to the mine, and is doing all he can for the injured and bereaved and to reach those in the mine.

EVANSTON, Wyo., March 21.—Forty men are lying dead at the bottom of the mine covered with debris. As many as

can are working to recover their bodies. The bodies of eighteen have been recovered. Fifty of the dead men were married and nine were single, and fifty widows and 250 orphaned children is the result of the disaster. The names of the dead are: Jas. Bruce, foreman; O. B. Maltby, superintendent of motive power; Albert Clark, Henry Scootcher, Wm. Graham, jr., Hugh Sloan, Wm. Sellers, Jas. Hutchinson, Wm. Weedup, Aaron Bull, Gus. Kazola, Chas. Kazola, John Wilkes, Wm. Pope, H. A. Hyborn, Mat. Johnson, George Hardy, John Fern, Baptiste Julian, John Lapar, Isaac Johnson, Sam Halston, Henry Burton, John Dexter, Thos. Hutchinson, Walter Miller, Mat. Silta, Joseph N. Lesti, Jas. Heden, Charles Clark, William Tagstaff, Jno. Lester, Jno. Theby, Geo. Critchley, Jno. T. Martin, David Lloyd, Marshall Langdon, Wm. Langdon, sr., Jas. T. Clark, Jno. Moore, George Hatch, John G. Locke, Willard Brown, W. H. Grieves, Fred Morgan, Jerry Crawford, James E. Clark, Sam Lamb, Wm. Sellers, jr., and W. E. Cox.

Thirty of the men killed belonged to the A. O. U. W. in which they are insured for \$2,000 apiece.

EVANSTON, Wyo., March 21.—The total number known to have perished in the mine disaster at Red Canon yesterday evening is sixty, of which fifty-one are married and nine are young men and boys. Up to this hour the bodies of the following fifteen out of a total of fifty-three, who met their death in the mine, have been recovered and turned over to their relatives:

W. B. Clark, John Morris, D. Laurie, G. Hyde, John Locke, W. H. Prieses, Samuel Clay, all single; Samuel Hutchinson, Wm. Morris, Thos. Booth, Benj. Cole, Charles S. Clark, Willard Brown, James Limb and Fred Morgan, all men of large families. This leaves thirty-eight unrecovered bodies in the mine. The timbering is largely blown out and the walls and roof of the whole interior are wrecked and shattered so that the volunteers of a searching party of eighteen, who are now seeking the bodies of their comrades, are every moment in danger of being buried.

## Red Canyon No 5 Mine Explosion NEWS2

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