

HORROR AT CERRILLOS.

Five Men Meet Their Death By An Explosion Of Gas.

A terrible accident occurred at Cerrillos, N. M., on last Friday, in which five men met their death. At a few minutes before noon large volumes of smoke and dirt were seen belching from the mouth of the Cook & White mine at Madrid, two miles from Cerrillos, and it was but a short time before the whole camp of 2,000 people were hurrying from all directions to the spot, it being known by all that some great disaster must have occurred, and it was feared the White Ash explosion in 1895, when twenty-four unfortunates were killed, had been repeated.

It was an hour or more before any entrance could be had to the mine, during which the anxiety of the waiting families was something heartrending. At the expiration of that time, however, straggling miners appeared at the entrance, groping their way from the interior, in the dark, the air being so foul no light could be used, even safety lamps refusing to burn. About 175 men were in the mine at the time of the explosion, and former experiences had taught that the direct predictions were not improbable. Great relief was felt, therefore, as one by one the entombed miners emerged from the cavern of death. When nearly all had escaped it was ascertained conclusively that an explosion of gas, caused by a shot, had occurred in the third left entry, and that, fortunately, it was confined to that one locality.

It was known that four miners and a driver were working in the third left entry and steps were at once taken to rescue them or recover their bodies.

Two hours after the explosion, however, no lights of any kind could be used, but brave men attempted the almost impossible feat, and in total darkness crawled down the slope, and by the sense of feeling finally came to the spot where it was found none of the five unfortunates had escaped death.

The bodies were carried to the sur-

face, and there were received and tenderly cared for by relatives and friends. The dead miners are:

John Piva, Fred Airo, Edward Wats, driver, and two Poles, whose names could not be ascertained.

The driver, Edward Wats, was a lad of about 17 years, whose parents have until recently lived in Cerillos. He was universally looked upon as a bright boy and one likely to make a good record for himself.

The Cook & White mine is known to contain considerable gas, but it has supposed great care was taken to prevent accidents. This explosion was undoubtedly caused by a shot, but whether through any carelessness of the miners is not now known. J. W. Fleming, territorial mine inspector, at once repaired to the scene and began a strict inquiry, with the object of placing the blame, if any, where it properly belongs.—Las Cruces Democrat.