

ACCIDENT IS THE WORST IN ALL HISTORY

OF BUTTE DISTRICT—21 MINERS DIE AS RESULT OF FIRE IN PENNSYLVANIA MINE

Butte, Feb. 16.—Twenty-one men were victims of Butte's worst mining disaster, which resulted from a fire which broke out in the air shaft of the 1,200-foot level of the Pennsylvania mine at 9 o'clock Monday night.

This developed at 2 o'clock this morning, when bodies of the last six to be accounted for were found by a crew of nine helmetmen at the foot of the manway on the 1,200-foot level of the mine, about 1,000 feet from the station.

The bodies were found huddled together within a comparatively small area. Noxious gases, however, forbade their removal and in all probability they will not be brought to the surface until later this morning.

Fan Removes Gas

The fire in the mine has been practically extinguished and a monster air fan, which has been in operation since noon yesterday, is rapidly pumping all of the gas and smoke out of the workings.

The air shaft in which the fire raged has caved from the 1,000-foot level to the 1,200, all of the timbers and wood structure apparently having been destroyed.

The fire area was bulkheaded yesterday and through the apertures cut in the bulkhead, streams of water will be played upon whatever remains of the fire from the 1,000-foot level.

Bodies Brought Up

Nineteen bodies were recovered yesterday, and all but six of these were brought to the surface and are being prepared for burial. These, with the bodies of William G. Brennan, assistant foreman, and Neil Brennan, a mines rescueman from the St. Lawrence, who lost their lives in rescue work Monday night, bringing the toll up to 21.

Mines Shut Down

Prevalence of gas in the Tramway, Anaconda and St. Lawrence, adjoining properties, yesterday forbade operation of these mines, but in all probability the morning shift will go to work today.