

COMPANY LIES ABOUT TRAPPED IRON MINERS

Steel Trust Agents Be- gin Whitewash

(Special to The Daily Worker)

IRONWOOD, Mich., Sept. 28.— In-
sanity, cold, starvation.

These three grim perils stalk side
by side blazing the way of death 727
feet below the surface of the ground
where 43 miners have been imprison-
ed in the G. Pabst mine here since
Friday at noon.

Shortly after dawn today a news-
paperman descended the wrecked G.
Pabst shaft to the lowest level where
a crew of ten men, working on a sus-
pended platform, are relining the
opening with steel, concrete and tim-
ber.

Rescuers Work On.

This rescue party is working 280
feet below the level of the ground and
a survey of their black workshop,
dimly illuminated by carbide lamps,
reveals that if the entombed men are
to be saved it will not be thru this
method of rescue.

In the F. Aurora mine, however, re-
ports come to the surface of fast
progress on the 300 foot bore being
made from the thirteenth level of
that mine to the eighth of the G.
Pabst where at least forty of the vic-
tims of the slide are trapped.

Believe Only 25 Feet Left.

Late today may see the completion
of this drift. The rescuers believe
they are 25 feet from the victims.
If such is the case it is believed that
the men on the eighth level will be
found alive.

The diamond drill for the emplace-
ment of which it was necessary to
blast thru granite in the second level
of the G. Pabst shaft, has required
constant repair and little faith is pin-
ned in it as a means of reaching the
men.

Company Rumors.

Altho the officials of the Oliver Iron Mining company have been sending out reports of tappings heard in the main shaft since last night, workers on the job discredit these announcements. Because of the apprehension held by relatives and friends of the men below they serve to placate the townspeople here, altho mumblings of dissatisfaction are to be heard on all sides.

A telegraph operator who descended the G. Pabst shaft to the emergency platform early this morning, came to the surface with the report that he could hear nothing which might be Morse code signals.

The whole weirdness of the jagged rocks, the blinking of the carbide lights of the miners, the echoes of their hammers and the occasional falling of some loosened material preys on the mind. This combined with the fear of death, is what the rescuers are trying to defeat.

Altho the men held below in the 1,000 foot tunnel may survive the pangs of hunger, many doubt their ability to withstand the mental strain. It is thot that some may, as has been known to be the case in similar disasters, hurl themselves in-

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to the 2,000 foot shaft which leads only downward.

32 Married.

Most of the men trapped are well along in years. This fact, it is feared, combined with the physical strain to which they are subject, may make them more susceptible to madness.

On the surface are waiting their wives and their families. Thirty-two of the men are married.

* * *

By a Worker Correspondent.

IRONWOOD, Mich., Sept. 28.—The United States Steel Corporation is now on the job applying the white-wash brush in an effort to cover up on the cave-in in the G shaft of the Pabst mine of the Oliver Mining company properties in which three men went hurtling half a mile to death and 43 others are entombed since 11:30 a. m., Friday, Sept. 24.

One of the first moves of the company was to appoint an anonymous "spokesman" to give out dope to the newspaper boys, and one of the first things he did was to say:

"I don't know how you boys feel about it, but I feel like a drink."

This sounded good to the capitalist news writers, and the result is that the "information" being released by the officials is satisfactory to everybody.

Shaft Very Old.

The G shaft is 40 years old and miners state that they have reported conditions to the mine captains who have taken them up with the higher-ups. The cave-in came when the shaft was not sufficiently supported to withstand the heavy rains of the past three weeks.

Another lie found in the United Press reports was that white-collared clerks and officials were among those engaged in rescue work. Ask the miners if the officials are working underground in the rescue work, and they say bitterly:

"Hell."

Fables Circulated.

All sorts of stories about the good air and water which the miners are enjoying in their tomb on the eighth level are being given out by the officials, but the miners state the air and water and light and phone connections are all shattered in the cave-in, and that the men cannot live long in the blasting powder smoke and gas damp.

There is no explanation of why the safety "dogs" on the cage did not keep the cage from plunging almost half a mile to the bottom of the shaft when the cave-in occurred.

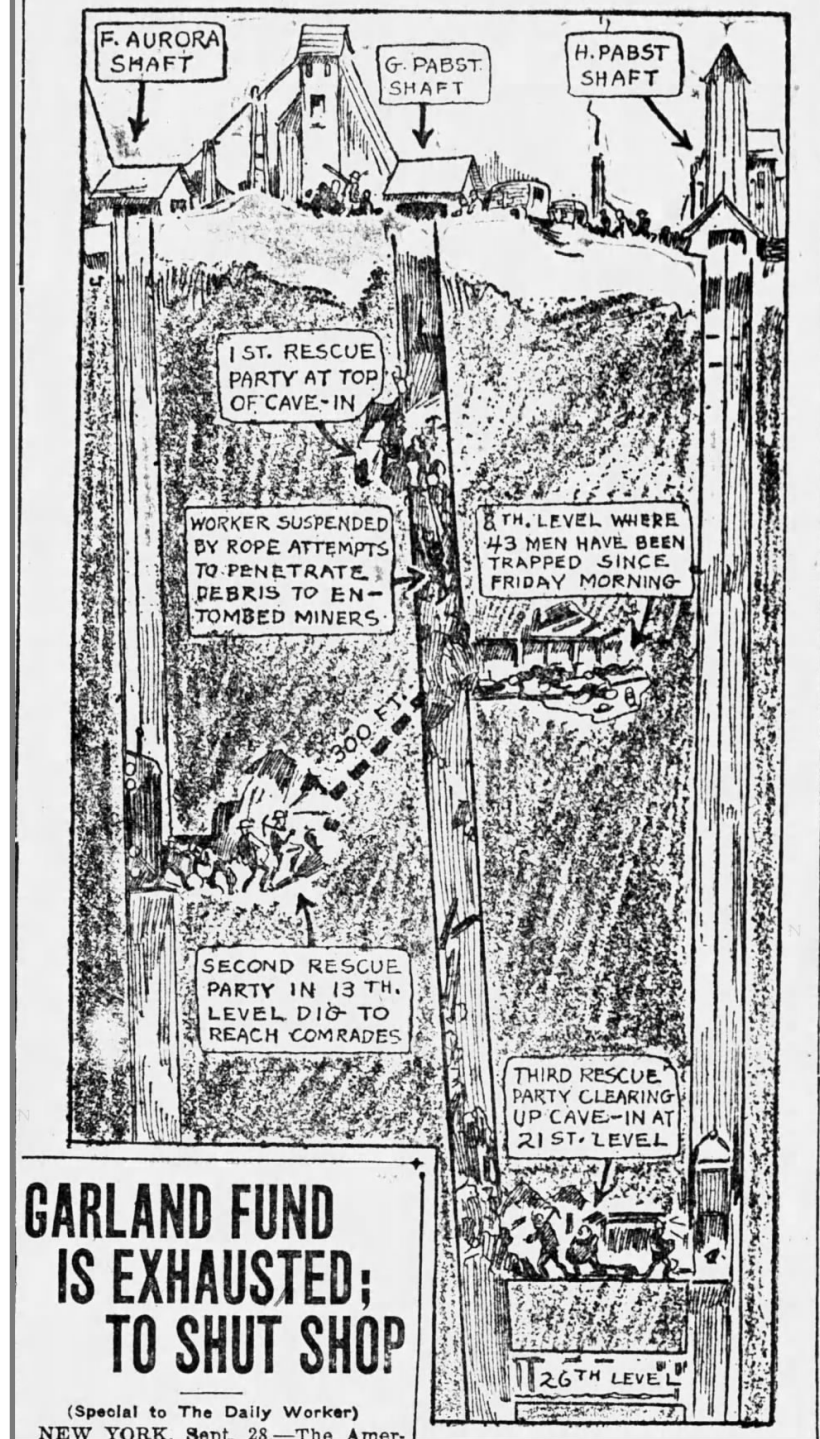
The cave-in occurred at 11:30 a. m. on Friday and it was covered up by the officials so that no word of it got onto the Associated Press wires at Ironwood which did not close until three o'clock in the afternoon.

The only official who could be reached during the night, when questioned about the cave-in, said:

"This is a hell of a time to wake a man up."

Where Ironwood Miners Are Trapped

Unless one of the four agencies being used to rescue the forty-three miners as shown in the above diagram are successful, there will be small hope of finding the men alive after many more hours. Thirty-two families will be fatherless unless this race with time and death can be won.



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