

OSAGE COAL MINE ON FIRE.
Anxiety for the Safety of the Miners.
They Are Finally Rescued With Great Difficulty.
Acts of Bravery and Heroism Unparalleled.

Special to the Commonwealth.

OSAGE CITY, KAN., Feb. 3.

This place, settled as it is largely by coal miners, was thrown into a state of frightful excitement, just after dinner to-day, by the breaking out of a fire in a shaft of the Osage mining company. Thirty men and three boys were at work in the mine at the time, and as flames shot out of the shaft high into the air, mothers, wives and children rushed to the scene and rendered it harrowing to a heart-rending degree. With little or no water, the situation was horrible, until an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe engine happened most opportunately to arrive with a full tank. This, together with several barrels of salt, was emptied into the blazing shaft, and while this was at its height the head of a man appeared in the sea of flames, having come out of a very furnace as it were. Anxious hands were stretched out, and as the man was drawn to the surface he fainted. This was two hours after the fire commenced, and soon after a man named Mark, with unparalleled bravery, went down the shaft to rescue those beneath the ground. Coming up one after the other, some with strength to hold on and others unconscious, by half past four every man was saved, and the town was wild with rejoicing. The escape of the men was miraculous, deeds of coolness and courage being done that discount the proudest days of old-time chivalry. For hours none dared hope. All the men are doing well to-night, there being no question as to the recovery of any.

1875 Osage Kansas Mine Fire and Rescue

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