

ENTOMBED FIFTEEN HOURS.

A SCRANTON MINER'S HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE AFTER A FALL OF ROCK.

SCRANTON, Penn., Oct. 11.—Herman Frager, a miner living in the northern section of Scranton, had a thrilling experience in a mine yesterday and last night, having been imprisoned for fifteen hours in the narrow chamber where he had been at work at the Brisbin colliery. Yesterday several hundred tons of coal fell from the roof across the track leading to the "chamber," cutting off all possible means of escape.

Frager was horrified to find himself shut in by the great black mass, and as the "squeeze" continued his prison kept growing smaller every moment until he expected it would crush the life out of him. The coal over his head was creaking ominously, and he felt that every moment would be his last. Close by his head lay two drills. These he seized and managed to adjust across the corner of the chamber just above his head with a view to supporting the superincumbent mass. They did their work well, although Frager feared they would break under the tremendous pressure.

All about him, however, the great boulders of coal kept pressing closer. Both of his feet were caught, and as the slow and fearful hours went by he felt his limbs growing numb and knew the circulation of blood had stopped. He had been gradually crowded into a half-sitting position, and as the sharp edges of the coal came in contact with his body he felt as if he was resting on spikes. In this terrible condition he remained.

When the crash came that buried Frager alive, it cut off all communication between himself and his assistant, Anthony Lavin. The latter was on the outside of the "fall" and immediately ran for help. A gang of twelve men came promptly to the scene and at once began cutting through the thick coal-pillar that separated them from Frager's narrow prison. There was but frail hope of his being alive still. His rescuers worked bravely at the risk of their own lives to save his.

As they progressed through the wall of coal their fears were intensified lest a single blow might release a boulder that would crush Frager to death, and so they proceeded cautiously until at last they had reached and rescued him. The fall occurred at 9 o'clock in the morning, and it was after midnight last night when Frager was taken from the narrow prison in which he must soon have died of suffocation if no help came.

Although badly bruised and faint from inhalation of foul gases and coal dust, he wept with joy when he was rescued, and his wife and little ones, who had been in agony all day and night, were beside themselves with delight as they clung about him. Frager told a reporter to-day that with the exception of some soreness in the body where the sharp edges of coal pressed into him, he was feeling all right again, notwithstanding his terrible ordeal. He is a hardy German of about thirty-three years of age and a sober and competent miner. His experience is the sensation of the hour here.