

NO SIGN OF THE MEN.

The Spot Where They Were at Work Reached by an Exploring Party.

Before daylight Tuesday morning, the inactivity which had reigned around the South Wilkes-Barre shaft, where the eight victims of Monday's disaster are still imprisoned, had given place to the bustle and hard work of active efforts. Upon the return of the exploring party that had gone down the Stanton mine at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning, a consultation of officials was held, which was long and earnest. From early on Monday evening the fact had been recognized that the only way to save the colliery from utter destruction, was to drown it out, but this had been delayed in the hope that the men ought to be reached and possibly rescued alive.

But the report of the exploring party, whose work will be found given below, seemed to make manifest that the men could not by any possibility be in the vicinity where the fire raged and he alive, and it was therefore resolved to take measures at once to save the colliery. For this purpose it became necessary to pour water into the new shaft. The shaft is 900 feet deep, reaching to the Baltimore vein, and it would have to be filled until the water reached the opening of the Hillman vein 300 feet from the bottom.

This determination having been come to no time was lost in putting it in practice. The Parrish street main of the Crystal Spring Water Company was tapped, and a line of four inch iron pipe laid to the mouth of the shaft. This sent a goodly volume of water down the dark pit. A line of hose was then run to the fire plug at the corner of Parrish and High streets, and another stream of water poured into the shaft from this. Steamer No. 3 from Rolling Mill Hill was also called into requisition, and attaching to the plug close by the Van Leer house a line of hose was laid across the railway and up Parrish street hill to the shaft, sending a powerful stream of water to join the others. All day long these three streams poured a torrent of water down the shaft, but at this rate it is estimated it will take several days for the water to reach and extinguish the fire.

All day long, too, the two fans were kept working at their full speed throwing out dense volumes of smoke and steam, which rolled up the valley, filling the air with the smell of burning timber. The heavy clouds smoke bespoke clearly enough how fiercely the fire was still raging below.

THE EXPLOING PARTY'S WORK.

The party that went down the Stanton mine at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning succeeded in reaching further than they had dared to hope. The party was only small in number, but it was headed by Mine Inspector Williams, Supt. Scott and the inside foreman of the Stanton and Hollenback mines and composed of a few experienced men. They pushed on until they reached the opening of the rock tunnel where the first party who attempted the exploration was driven back by thick volumes of smoke and gases. They found things in much better shape. The change in the air currents had largely cleared the tunnel of smoke which had been drawn through the workings towards the old shaft. They succeeded in penetrating through the tunnel although the smoke was still heavy and the air hot and suffocating. With no little difficulty they pushed along until finally

THE VERY SPOT

where the unfortunate men were at work when the fire broke out was reached. Up to this time it had been thought possible that they might be found in this vicinity still holding on to life through some of the many devices known to miners. But they met with a bitter disappointment. Not a trace of the men could be discovered, but one remarkable thing was noted. Their tools had all been put carefully away and their dinner cans were gone. There was no evidence of any hasty departure; it looked as though they had merely quitted work at the end of their day's toil. The conclusion arrived at in the minds of many was that the unfortunate men, not realizing the full extent of the danger, had started leisurely out thinking to pass the fire before it had gained any great headway. If they had done this and proceeded back along the tunnel their fate was certain. They must have been overcome by the thick smoke and fallen and died on the way. The exploring party made an effort to push further forward, but could make no headway against the suffocating heat and smoke and returned once more to the surface. The news they brought was a sad blow to the many anxious hearts that had been waiting for their return, hoping to hear good news.

IS THERE ANY HOPE LEFT?

Crushing as was the blow the news brought, it did not altogether dispel hope. The first idea that the men might have made their way into the workings of the Stanton and be wandering about there, was revived but as the day wore on this was given up. Then it began to be talked around that there was some communication between the place where the men were at work and the workings of the upper seam, and that they might possibly have found their way through there. Whether or not any such passage existed could not be absolutely learned. There was also the air course which the exploring party had been unable to reach and it was thought that possibly the enclosed men might have been able to hold on to life in there, though the explorers found the smoke too thick to allow them to search it. All these ideas were canvassed among the

NO HOPE REMAINING.

All Attempts to Rescue the Men Abandoned.

Meanwhile the work of flooding the colliery is going on as rapidly as possible. Yesterday morning two more of the city steamers, No. 2 and 3 were called out. One took its station on Main street, a short distance below Dana, and attaching to a fire plug forced a stream up the hill to the new shaft. The other was stationed in rear of the houses facing Main street, in the location of the old canal bed and pumped water from the culvert built there some years ago. A donkey pump was also set up in rear of the Vulcan shops and a two inch iron pipe laid up to the shaft. Through this a stream of water was forced from the creek that runs past the Vulcan works. By these means three more strong streams of water were sent down the shaft and there is now a regular cascade pouring down the pit. At noon the water was sounded and was found to be 28 feet deep.

A stream has also been sent to the scene of the fire from the Stanton mine. A line of three-inch pipe has been laid up the plane connecting the two collieries and through this one of the Stanton pumps is forcing a heavy stream of water. This water must come directly in contact with the fire and is no doubt the cause of the volumes of steam that are mixed with the smoke issuing from the upcast of the fan at South Wilkes-Barre.

Mine Inspector Williams was seen Wednesday evening by the NEWS-DEALER reporter and gave it as his opinion that the unfortunate men had attempted to make their way out through the gangways and rock tunnel and had been overcome by the smoke and perished there. He pointed out on a map of the workings the exact spot where the explorers had reached, and thought that the bodies of the men were lying somewhere in the gangway between that spot and the rock tunnel.

Speaking of the cause of the disaster he said that he could not see that there had been any negligence or want of reasonable care and prudence on the part of the management. Of course, now that it had happened, many ways could be seen in which a very little precaution could have avoided it, but this fearful disaster could not be foreseen, and it appeared to him that the mine had been operated with all reasonable precautions. He also stated further that from the moment that the magnitude of the disaster had been realized the company had done everything that human power could do to save the men. They had given every assistance he could ask for, never thought of labor or expense, and in fact done everything that could be done. He had not a fault to find.

THE FATAL MINE.

The Ventilation Stopped—Still Pouring Water Down.

Thursday morning the ventilation at the South Wilkes-Barre mine was suddenly stopped owing, it is believed, to a fall in some part of the working. The officials ordered the fan to be slowed down, keeping it running merely at sufficient speed to keep the shaft clear. Soon after smoke and steam began escaping in thick volumes from No. 3 shaft. This is a good feature in showing that the air current is not drawing the fire into the Stanton.

The stoppage of the ventilation, however, brought a new danger to the colliery in the accumulation of gas in the workings and all day yesterday the officials were on the qui vive for an explosion which they knew might occur at any moment. Several small detonations were heard early in the morning caused either by explosions or heavy fall of roof.

THE BURNING MINE.

Pouring Down More Water—A Violent Explosion in the Shaft.

All day Friday the cascade of water pouring down the shaft of the South Wilkes-Barre colliery kept up its steady flow, and by evening the water was over 100 feet deep in the shaft. Having utilized all the water supply, within reach, the company yesterday started a large force of men at work laying a six inch iron pipe from the Stanton mine. They went across Rolling Mill Hill, a distance of three-quarters of a mile. Last evening they kept up the work by the light of torches and lanterns, and before morning another powerful stream will be helping to drown out the burning mine. The water used will be a part of that raised from the Stanton by the powerful pump there.

Several explosions have already been heard on the surface, and a violent one took place yesterday morning, causing serious damage. The carriage had been lowered down to take soundings of the depth of water and was near the bottom when the explosion occurred. The carriage was shattered and jammed in the timbers of the shaft in such a manner as to be immovable. It will prove an awkward obstacle when the mine comes to be re-opened.

There were no other new incidents connected with the disaster yesterday.