

The Search Abandoned.

The fire in the South Wilkes-Barre mine is still burning. Everything possible to rescue the eight men was done but had to be abandoned. Searching parties visited the mine but without finding any hope. It was first thought the men escaped by means of the tunnel. Exploring parties searched the place, but the only trace of them was the discovery of their tools, but nothing was discovered to give any indication as to the whereabouts of the bodies. Old miners are of the opinion that the men became bewildered and ran directly into the burning gas, taking various directions. After all efforts to rescue them proved unsuccessful the search was abandoned and the flooding process begun. The fans were kept working for the first three days but were then abandoned as it was feared they assisted in spreading the flames.

The steam fire engines are still pouring a flood of water into the burning mine, but they must fill the workings to a height of 340 feet before reaching the fire. To accomplish this it will take at least six or eight days.

Dense volumes of smoke are still ascending from the air shaft, and the destruction in the interior of the mine will be enormous. The last exploring party report that the fire is rapidly burning in the shaft, and has made a headway of over 700 feet from the starting point.

No new steps of any kind were taken yesterday. All exploration through the Stanton has been abandoned as useless and unprofitable and the fate of the eight men will not be finally ascertained until the fire is out, the water pumped from the workings and the mine re-opened and cleared out.

The fire will cause a loss of over \$100,000. The Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company has been particularly unfortunate of late. Only a month ago seven men lost their lives in the company's mine at Plymouth. Five of the men entombed are married and leave large families.