

# WERE CAGED LIKE RATS.

## TERRIBLE FATE OF NINE MINERS AT BUTTE CITY, MONT.

Dashed Down the Shaft to Death—First a Shock, a Warning Cry, and Then a Plunge—A Bruised, Bleeding Mass of Human Flesh Picked Up.

BUTTE CITY, Mont., Nov. 3.—The worst mining accident of the year occurred at the Anaconda mine early yesterday, when nine miners were killed. Midnight, the time to shift the gangs of men, had come, and a cage full of miners, returning from work, stepped out into the open air. Their places were at once taken by nineteen men, who were to take up the work the others had just abandoned, and the cage was started toward the depths below. The rope had been unwound but a couple of times from the slowly revolving windlass when there was a sudden snap, and then came a cry of horror from the shaft in which the cage had but a moment before disappeared. The rope had broken, and the cage, with its nineteen inmates, was precipitated to the bottom of the mine.

### Their Comrades Hastily Escape.

It was some time before any assistance could be sent them. The stuff down which the men had plunged was useless, and other ways of getting at the place where they had fallen were roundabout. Fortunately there was some help for the dead and dying men in the mine itself. A number of the miners who were through work and waiting to be relieved were at the bottom of the shaft, waiting for the cage to take them out. Amidst them, narrowly missing some, the cage dashed. It broke, and before their eyes were the mangled bodies of the companions whom they were awaiting.

### A Ghastly Sight.

There was little, however, that could be done. Of the nineteen men who made the fearful ride, nine were dead, their forms crushed out of all semblance to those of human beings, while the two who were yet breathing had no hope of recovery. The Anaconda mine is the largest in the territory. It employs 400 men, and was reopened, after a long closing, on Oct. 23.

