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NINE MEN DEAD

Latest Reports of the Frightful Accident

HOLDING THE INQUEST

Statements of Witnesses Before Acting Coroner Muldoon.

NAMES OF THE UNFORTUNATE

Bodies Mangled Beyond Recognition—The Shaft and Cage Were in Good Condition—Theories Advanced.

BUTTE, Nov. 4.—Nine is no dead. That is the awful total of last night's terrible accident in the Anaconda mines. Many a home was wrapped in gloom this morning when husbands, fathers, sons or brothers failed to come off shift at the usual time. It was perhaps one fortunate thing that most of the men killed were unmarried, and the families small, which is different from the situation of those killed at the burning of the mine two years ago. Yet while the suffering may not be quite so acute as though all the dead left wives and children, there were nevertheless, relatives and friends to mourn the loss of every one.

It is impossible to adequately remember much about the fearful ride on the cage. It was just midnight and the miners employed at the 950-foot level stopped work for lunch. Eighteen of them, perhaps a greater number, got in the cage to ride to the surface for their luncheon, a ride that to many of them was to be their last. Seven were already on the stations and nine on the upper deck and nine on the lower deck.

"I was on the upper deck," said Jerry Harrington, in telling of the fearful ride to a STANDARD reporter this afternoon, "and don't remember how I got up with the cage, but I think it was between the 300 and 400-foot level when I felt a terrible jar. I can't know what it was. I was at the edge of the cage with young Jimmie O'Donnell in front of me and a big, tall man, who I supposed was Louis Larsen behind me. I remember young O'Donnell throwing his head around in my face and saying, 'Oh, Jerry, I am killed,' and then, what I thought at the time was Larsen, also disappeared. I was thrown down myself. My left leg fell over the side of the cage and between the wall plates. I was holding on with my right hand. I grabbed the bar with my left hand and pulled myself back upon the cage. Practically down over into the shaft, and an instant I saw death right in front of me. By a superhuman effort I pulled myself out of the shaft and safely into the cage. The boot was torn from my leg and, clung to my foot by the toes only when I reached the surface."

Harrington told the story as he lay in a cot in the hospital. He said he supposed it had been thought that the leg was broken, but it is found that the leg is only bruised and sore and skinned, and his recovery will only be a matter of a few days. Another reason that is given why a timber could not have caused the accident is that a timber would undoubtedly have cleaned every man off the upper deck.

NAMES OF THE DEAD.

The Unfortunate Victims of the Awful Disaster.

The theory that a timber struck the cage and caused the accident is not credited by those who are acquainted with the mine. There is no timbering in the shaft that could cause such an accident. The wall plates are smooth. It is thought as the most reasonable theory that prying open the doors of the cage, one man was snapped over the side of the cage, but was crushed down into the lower deck. This caused the cage to sway and the men to lose their balance, and while they were struggling for life, knocked each other off. The theory that a loose timber could have caused the accident is disproven by the fact that the cage stands perfectly level with scarcely a jam of any description in it.

The names of the dead are as follows:

PATRICK MULLIGAN,
JAMES O'DONNELL,
JAMES SULLIVAN,
JOHN RITCHIE,
CHARLES M. EVANS,
MICHAEL MCAVOY,
WILLIAM MARTIN,
JAMES DOAGH,
DENNIS MCLAUGHNESSY.

JOHN RITCHIE, the man who was found between White O'Donnell's feet on the lower deck, was carried into the dieing room at about 2 o'clock this morning. He and Jerry Harrington were removed to the Dawes hospital. Ritchie had been in his room but a few minutes when he died. He was conscious and knew that his external injuries caused his death, but apparently the body had been crushed and internal injuries caused his death. Ritchie was unmarried. He boarded at No. 9 East Woolman street. He came to Butte about a week ago from Utah. He had worked at the Anaconda only a few days. Ritchie was about 30 years old and single. He has a stepbrother, mother, two brothers and a sister living at Plattsburg or Rochester in New York state. Telegrams were sent them today, but no answers had been received this afternoon. An examination of Ritchie's body showed that his skull was fractured, and that a piece struck through the sheet over the brain.

JAMES O. SULLIVAN, another man killed, lived in a two-room house in Bobtown gulch, where his widow to-day was crying for the husband who had worked his last shift. Sullivan was 42 years old and married, but no children. He has lived in Butte about two years, removing here from Walkerville. Sullivan was born in Ireland. He worked in the Anaconda since it reopened. Previous to that he had worked in the Green Mountain.

JAMES DOAGH, another of the dead, lived in Walkerville, in the extremity of West Galena street. He leaves a wife and two children, also about 40 years old. He has lived for years in Walkerville, being employed in the Anaconda since the mine reopened a few days ago.

MICHAEL MCAVOY, another man whose crushed remains are at Sherman's undertaking rooms, was about 42 years old, unmarried, and a native of Cavan county, Ireland. He worked in these mines four years ago, but left them to go to Helena, where at the opening of the Anaconda company's mines. He has sisters and nieces living in this city and a brother in Boulder.

PATRICK MULLIGAN, another of the killed, is an old miner in Butte. He is not married and boards at Mullin's boarding house on Centerville. Recently he worked in the Coney d'Alene and then in Granite, returned to Butte when it was announced that the mines would work.

WILLIAM MARTIN, one of the men killed in the accident, was 31 years old. He boarded at Joe Calloway's hotel. He was married and leaves a wife and two children. Last night was the first shift he had worked.

CHARLES EVANS was the other man killed. He was about 30 years old, unmarried, and lived at No. 603 Idaho avenue.

MOMENTS OF HORROR.

Mike Dennett the Only Survivor on the Lower Deck of the Cage.

Equally as terrible an experience as Harrington's was that of Mike O'Donnell, brother of Jimmy O'Donnell, the first man to fall off. The brothers worked side by side in the same level, Jimmy a lad of 21, and his brother about 28 years of age. Mike got on the lower deck. He remembers the jar. He remembers men falling right and left of him off the cage and down into the shaft. It was the most horrible experience of his life. Instinctively he grasped the bar right, he says, and held on. He felt the men who were almost into the awful fate clinging around him that he stood alone on the lower deck. When eight comrades had passed beside him now all seemed to have been swept away, and only a groan or two informed him that there was even a struggling one of the victims left on the cage or on the remainder of the ride to the surface. O'Donnell did not know whether he was alive or dead when he reached the surface. Between his fast by the form of James Ritchie, not quite dead, while another mangled form had also been carried up.

O'Donnell was dazed for a long time. He remembers the cage coming up, but is quite sure whether his brother was on the same cage or not. The men on the various levels were all brought to the surface in order that it might be learned who were missing. Mike O'Donnell scanned each face that stepped from the cage, but his brother was not discovered, and his brother among the living. The cage arose with the last load. "This is all the men, sir," was the report given.

O'Donnell walked away, convinced that his brother was dead.

James O'Donnell lives at No. 329 East Broadway. His mother was divorced from his father, and when he left home this morning, and on half way to the Anaconda mine, screaming as she went. O'Donnell's body, when recovered, was found to be terribly crushed. His arms and legs were twisted and his face crushed beyond recognition.

TERRIBLY MUTILATED.

Bodies Torn Into Pieces—Limbs Missing—An Awful Spectacle.

Early this morning, the bodies were taken from the sump and removed to Sherman's undertaking rooms. The bodies with the exception of that of Ritchie, who died in the hospital, were so crushed beyond recognition. There is not a single skull that is not crushed, and several arms and legs are torn off. One body has an arm torn off, leg jerked away at the knee and the head torn off. The undertakers at Sherman's have been busy all day, getting the bodies together as well as possible. Many of the bodies are only a mass of mangled flesh and bones and not a full skull could be collected. About the undertaking rooms have been gathered all day crowds of the friends of the dead men and curious sight-seers. All have been refused admittance, but at 10 o'clock to-night the doors were opened and the public permitted to view the remains. The bodies will be on exhibition all of to-morrow. The funeral of Martin will take place to-morrow, and perhaps one or two other funerals at the same time. Most of the funerals will probably be delayed until after to-morrow. All the bodies are at Sherman's except that of Sullivan, which was removed this evening to his late residence on Centerville. It has been suspected in the mines of the Anaconda company. The flag over the Anaconda hoist is at half mast. A force of men has been pumping the water from the sump and searching for parts of the mangled bodies. A thigh, torn from the body of Martin, was found this morning from the wall plates of the shaft and also around a bushel of flesh, skull, bones and bones. These were taken to the undertaking rooms. All the funeral expenses of the dead men will be defrayed by the Anaconda company.

One of the bodies taken from the sump was so terribly mangled that recognition was impossible. Sherman, the undertaker, was supposed to be the dead man, but Larsen turned up this afternoon and declared that he was not dead. Then the body was identified as be that of John Noonan, but friends of Noonan this evening claim that he is still alive. Late this evening the body was identified as that of Dutch Stang-inney, by J. Hasbrouck, foreman of the Anaconda mine. No. 41 Anaconda hill. Stanginney boarded at his house. Harrington says that Stanginney came to Butte two weeks ago last Sunday from British Columbia, and secured employment at the Anaconda. He has not known up since the accident, and Harrington after viewing the remains of Nicholson's mangled body identified the same as those of Stanginney. He was unmarried and about 30 or 34 years old. He was born in County Cork. He has a brother in British Columbia.

THE ENGINEER'S STORY.

He Thought Something Was Wrong, But Received no Signal.

Much credit is due the engineer, James McNichols, for the coolness he displayed at the critical moments.

"A few minutes before midnight," he said, "I gave the engineer the signal to send the cage up to supper. He answered me at the 1,000-foot level and then some more at the 900. He gave the signal to hoist which was obeyed. When the cage got between the 300 and 400-foot levels I noticed that the cable turned rapidly, and said to myself that I knew that the cage must have caught in the shaft. I immediately gave the engineer the signal for a signal. None came. I waited a moment, then hoisted the cage a few feet and signaled again. I pulled the bell rope wiggle, and taking this for an attempt at a signal, I hoisted the cage to the surface.

"The men who were employed in the mine and who stood in the station above assert all day say that the cage was not struck by any timber, for the shaft is perfectly smooth. They have only one way of accounting for the disaster, which is that young O'Donnell lost his self possession, fell off the upper deck and slowly the side to the lower deck. The men on the lower deck were thrown off and the cage was then released from the engineer's station and fell off also after the other. Some think not one, many or more fell into the cage. The rules are that only nine shall get on each deck. At times, however, the men all seem anxious to be the first to the surface and crowd into the first cage regardless of the rules. At the time of the accident there were on the cage, Jones and William Leon, D. Sullivan, M. Harter, John McGlone, T. Sullivan, W. Shaughnessy, M. O'Donnell and Charles Lane are known to have been on the upper deck. Those killed and injured, which would make 18 all together. Mining Inspector Hogan gives it as his opinion that one man must have fallen off first and was caught between the south wall plate and the lower cage. This, he thinks, caused the cage to dip to such an angle as to throw the men off the lower deck. The mangled condition of the men this morning and there be found a piece of a guide at the bottom of the shaft. He thinks the breaking of the guide was due to the fall.

Marcus Daly, upon hearing the sad news, immediately started for the mine and upon his arrival personally took the movements of the men. He also had a consultation with the engineering corps of the mines and their bereaved families. The men will not be buried by the Miners' union. The funerals will be held separately, there to be agreed upon by the families and friends of the deceased.

CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.

What Was Told By ——some Who Were to the Cage.

The inquest over the remains of the men who met such a horrible death in the shaft of the Anaconda mine last night was begun before Judge Muldoon this afternoon.

Dr. Holbrake was the first witness. He stated that he was called about 12 o'clock last night to go up to the Anaconda mine and examine several men reported to have been injured there. In consultation with Drs. Monroe and Johnston he examined Ritchie and found him to be suffering from a profound shock, due to some internal injury which afterwards proved to be a rupture of the spleen and other internal injuries.

Dr. Johnston was then sworn and in substance corroborated the foregoing testimony. He added, however, that when he first saw Ritchie he did not think it advisable to have him removed from where he had been placed in the dying room. On his second visit to the mine at half past three, he decided to have the patient taken to the hospital. When he first looked at the body of Ritchie, Dr. Johnston looked at two or three of the bodies as they were brought to the surface and determined that their death was caused by falling a long distance. Their skulls were crushed, their bones broken and their bodies horribly mangled.

Dr. Monroe said he had been in the Anaconda and have charge of the 950-foot level. As near as I can ascertain the accident is due to a man falling from the top cage. When he fell it must have jarred the others off who were standing on the bottom deck. I examined the shaft afterwards and found about four feet of the guide broken at a spot where the cage would be when it was at the 950-foot level. The accident occurred somewhere between the 300 and 400-foot levels. I was standing on the top cage, when I felt a violent shaking and jarring. After that I cannot account for anything. I saw a man drop-ping through the air, and I grabbed the chain in order to hold him by. He did not speak and I do not know who he was. I was standing in the corner of the cage, and the man that fell struck the wall plate. And that is the last I saw of him.

P. Burney: I am a miner and work in the Anaconda mine. I was on the 950-foot level and about 12 o'clock we came up to the station to get on the cage. The engineer. We waited a minute or two while the cage came up from the 1,000. The top deck was partly loaded with men, and their number was increased by a few more,—perhaps five or six getting on from the 950 level. The station tender rang the bell and the engineer started the cage with the four. I went on the bottom deck and enough more men were on with me to make a load. I don't know exactly how many of these there were, but probably eight or nine. When I was ready the cage was run to the top. We had gone quite a distance when the car seemed to strike something and was violently thrown from the track. I was standing near the edge of the cage and had hold of the front bar with my left hand. As soon as the jar occurred, I reached upward and grabbed the top bar with my other hand. After the shaking up we rode smoothly to the surface, where I found that only three men were left on the lower deck with me. One of these, Mike O'Donnell, was lying on the floor of the cage. Of the others, one was standing in front of me and one behind me. We carried Burke into the dying room where he was made as comfortable as possible.

The court adjourned until 7 o'clock and in the meantime the jury inspected the cage and shaft at the mine.

Immediately after the evening carriages were taken up the court, accompanied by Judge Muldoon, repaired to the Anaconda mine. The cage was inspected with a view to determining whether it had been struck by timber or any other obstruction in the shaft. After a careful examination no marks were discovered upon it, which, had it come in contact with any protruding timber, the cage would have been more or less damaged. It seemed to be the impression among the jurymen that the accident was due to one of the men falling from the cage, and in his fall he knocked the guide, thus causing the other men to take their death some 700 feet below.

EVENING SESSION.

Testimony of Miners Who Were on the Cage—The Guides in Good Condition, Etc.

The first witness called at the convening of the jury at 7 o'clock was Mike O'Donnell. He stated that he was working on the 950-foot level and was at the station when the cage came up from the 1,000-foot level. "There were three men on the top deck," said O'Donnell, "I couldn't say how many got on the bottom deck. When the jarring occurred I couldn't see anything, but I didn't know what was the matter and didn't feel certain until we reached the surface. When the cage was ascending the shaft I was standing on the bottom deck and my brother was on the top deck."

James Coyle was the next witness. He stated that he was working on the 950-foot level. I didn't think there was anything wrong with the cage when the jarring took place. Something fell out on the side of the car which fell like a hand