

ALL THE MEN KILLED.

Forty-eight Victims of the Explosion at Roslyn Mine.

Fourteen Bodies Had Been Recovered Up to Midnight.

A Dangerous Slope to Work—This the Second Accident.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.)

ROSLYN, Wash., May 11.—The first accident of any note at the coal mines in this place occurred at about 1.30 yesterday afternoon, just after the afternoon shift had gone on. A driver had just come out of the slope when a tremendous explosion occurred. The shock upset his car, knocked mules and driver down and bruised a man standing one hundred feet away. The report was heard all over the town a mile away.

The mouth of the slope was surrounded by an anxious crowd, which grew in size every minute. Hard rain was pouring down, but the crowd heeded not. The number of men in the slope was not actually known, but was from forty-four to fifty. There was scarcely a possibility from the first that one of them had escaped death.

A sad feature of the disaster was that a large proportion of the victims left large families, and as they had not had over two days' work per week during the past year many of them are in straitened circumstances.

The scenes about the mouth of the slope after the explosion were sad in the extreme. Men, women and children, white and black, stood about in a dazed condition, and their pitiful lamentations added to the horror of the occasion.

The slope in which the explosion occurred is a couple of thousand feet in length. Several levels have been worked in the slope, and it is conjectured that the explosion occurred at some point on the fourth or fifth level. For the past two months more or less danger has been connected with the work in this part of the slope on account of the unusual generation of gas, and the management is credited with having exercised the usual precautions.

Two air courses were in process of construction in the supposed vicinity of the explosion with the intention of joining, and it is presumed that when the two courses met the explosion occurred.

Persons who were at the opening of the slope pronounce the concussion as terrible, it being sufficient to throw a coal car some distance from a point where it was standing near the entrance.

Great volumes of after-damp and smoke rolled from the entrance, making the approach dangerous. As soon as it was possible to enter men set to work, but progress was impeded by smoke and damp, which the tunnel continued to emit.

At 4.30 o'clock the first bodies were reached, being those of John Bone and John Campbell. After that the work progressed more rapidly, and at 6 o'clock two other bodies were brought out, and at 7.30 two more, all terribly burned and mutilated.

Those whose bodies were recovered up to that time were: Tom Brennan, Tom Rees, A. Pollard, John Bowen, H. Campbell and William Hague.

As progress was made the frightful execution of the explosion became more manifest. Timbers were torn out for hundreds of feet and the whole interior was fearfully wrecked.

It was thought a fire was started in the lower level, and arrangements were made to turn on water as soon as the fact is developed. Air fans were worked to their full capacity. All miners in camp able to work volunteered their services in the search for bodies, and men worked constantly in shifts.

At midnight fourteen bodies had been recovered and all identified. The work of recovery was very slow on account of the large body of gas. It was then almost certain that every man in the mine was killed and that the number of dead would reach forty-eight.

The Roslyn Mine is one of the largest in the State, supplying the Western Division of the Northern Pacific and Union Pacific roads with coal, and has a capacity of 20,000 tons a day.

This is the second gas explosion that has occurred in the slope within the past two months. The first resulted in the death of a negro driver, to whose carelessness the accident was attributed at the time. Ex-Supt. Ronald, who was in the employ of the Company then, said the slope work was dangerous to an unusual degree, and recommended extraordinary precautions.

It is stated that Acting Supt. Harrison has been very careful with the work and cautioned the men to observe that their lamps were in proper shape when entering places posted as dangerous.