

HORRIBLE.

Ten Men Are Dashed to Pieces at the Bottom of the Shaft.

Indicator Failed to Respond—Engineer Thought He Had Not Yet Reached the Surface—The Human Freight Carried to the Derrick Above.

HOUGHTON, Mich., May 15.—Ten men were dashed to pieces in the Red Jacket perpendicular shaft of the Calumet and Hecla mine at noon Sunday. The miners were coming up in the cage to dinner, and the engineer hoisted the cage against the timbers of the shaft. The coupling pin broke, and the men and cage were dashed downward over three thousand feet to the bottom.

The men were aboard a skip used in hoisting rock, and when the load of human freight reached the surface, the engineer did not stop in time, but went to the top of the derrick, when it broke loose and fell with a crash to the bottom of the shaft. There is no way of reaching the bottom nor getting the dead men out except by going through another shaft half a mile away, so that it was nearly three hours before the true state of affairs could be ascertained, and it will be towards morning before the bodies can be brought to the surface. It is necessary to hoist them five hundred and fifty feet by ropes to reach the level of the next shaft, and then carry them nearly half a mile through the drifts and then hoist them by the man car. The wife of Pope was standing in the shaft house with her husband's dinner when the terrible accident occurred.

Twelve went down Sunday morning, but one of them was attacked by sickness, and was sent up, accompanied by one of his comrades.

The coroner and a jury are now making a thorough investigation.

Sunday work in the mines is only done in the line of repairs to machinery and timbering up the walls of the shaft, to admit miners to drill and blast week days. The ten men killed Sunday went down in the morning to timber, and had worked all forenoon. When noon came they stepped into the skip to be hoisted 3,150 feet to the surface to get their dinner. The time in being hoisted is only a minute by the powerful engines used. Ernest Tullin, a very reliable engineer, says his indicator showed 750 feet more to hoist. It must have failed to respond. The cage went crushing against the roof of the shaft house. There was a crashing of timbers. Something must give way. The coupling pin to the wire cable broke, and some of the miners must have been crushed. Then the bucket fell with lightning velocity over three thousand feet to the bottom of the shaft.