

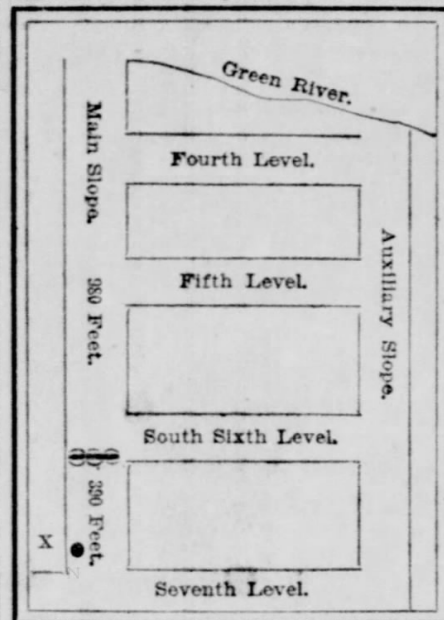
## THE FIRE SMOTHERED.

**Smoke Ceases to Pour From the  
Fated Franklin Mine.**

**BODIES MAY BE RECOVERED.**

**Fire Did Not Reach the Coal Veins—  
The Bodies in the Sixth Level—  
Warnings Were Ignored.**

The Franklin mine, in which are the bodies of George W. Smalley, John Glover, John Adams and James Stafford, is silent as death. Though a short time ago huge volumes of hot smoke poured from the main slope and went high in the air like an all-devouring monster, not the slightest trace of it can now be seen. Even the powerful fans have not been able to bring any smoke to the surface. This argues that either the fire is nearly out or a cave-in that works as a complete stop to ventilation, has taken place. It is not thought possible that the coal veins, which are 150 feet distant from both the sixth and seventh levels at their junction with the main



X Gas feeder where fire started; 330 three holes through wall separating main slope from one being driven up from seventh level. Auxiliary slope by which most of the 150 men escaped.

slope, have been or will be reached by fire, and therefore the prospects for the recovery of the bodies of the victims are materially increased. Assistant Superintendent Hawkins is inclined to the opinion that the fire is nearly smothered and that it is only a question of time when the main slope between the sixth level and the surface may be explored for the bodies.

Every one in Franklin mourns the loss of the brave fellows who went down the slope to death, but on the other hand no one has denied that their act was one of indiscretion. Smalley had been told by Machinist Caughrean and Paul Boyd, the gas tester, that death was below. Glover had been down and knew of the danger, while John Adams had been down with Machinist Caughrean, and in order to give the up-signal had been compelled to cut the wire insulation, it being simply impossible to reach the bell owing to the dense smoke.

It is true that they thought they were going to do good work in shutting a door on the sixth level between the main and auxiliary slopes, thus insuring air to the men supposed to be in the seventh level, but the dangers to be encountered in doing so forced themselves upon the people at the mouth of the slope. It is said in Franklin that in addition to those already named, many others tried to dissuade the courageous party from its undertaking.

At first it was thought that the victims were at the bottom of the main slope. Rescuers, however, reached that point through the south sixth level and failed to discover their bodies. It has naturally been inferred from this fact that the bodies are nearer the top of the slope. By referring to the accompanying diagram, a good idea may be obtained of the part of the mine especially connected with this case. It will be seen that it was 950 feet from the top of the slope to the sixth level and 390 from the seventh level up to the sixth. The wall that still remained and through which were three holes, one covered with boards being between the tracks, is shown in the diagram. Below will be noticed a dot that marks the gas feeder, which Johnson's lamp set on fire. Of course there was some refuse matter in the slope and also supporting timbers which on catching fire gave forth dense smoke. The natural outlet was through the three holes mentioned and the air current, which came down the main slope and turned into the south sixth level, carried with it the smoke. So long as the air current was more powerful than the smoke, just so long the drifting would be down the sixth level, but when the smoke overcame the downward air current, it would necessarily take the shortest way to the surface, up the main slope. Superintendent Corey and Assistant Superintendent Hawkins think that Smalley and his party ran into the smoke at the time it turned or commenced to turn from the south sixth level up the main slope. It will be recalled that when Hawkins came up the auxiliary slope from the seventh level and tried to reach the main slope through the south sixth, he had to wait for about five minutes, when there was a sudden clearing away of the smoke. This clearing is explained, not by a decrease in volume, but by a change in direction. Superintendent Corey returned to the city yesterday morning, leaving Assistant Superintendent Hawkins in charge. State Mine Inspector Edmunds remained in Franklin yesterday morning, but intended to come to the city some time during the day.