

MINERS' FEARFUL FATE

Sleepy Hollow and Americus Mines in Colorado Flooded.

THIRTEEN OF THE MEN DROWNED

Owners of the Different Mines Could Not Agree on the Expense of Drainage and the Water Was Allowed to Accumulate in an Old and Unused Shaft - The Work of Rescue.

Denver, Aug. 29.—News was received this evening from Central City to the effect that 13 men employed in the Sleepy Hollow and Americus mines, situated midway between Black Hawk and Central City, lost their lives by an overflow of water. As yet none of the details of the disastrous occurrence can be learned, but it seems that in these mines heavy underground flows of water are occasionally encountered.

The men at work were on the night shift. The theory advanced at this writing seems to be that they were drilling a hole when the body of water came rushing in upon them. There were 11 men at work in the Sleepy Hollow mine and two in the Americus. They are all supposed to be drowned.

Another theory is that there might have been a break down in the pumps.

Denver, Aug. 29.—A special to the News from Central City says: The accidental flooding of the Americus and Sleepy Hollow mines at this place caused the death, it is believed, of 13 miners. Every effort is being made to rescue the unfortunate men but little hope is entertained.

A little after 3 p. m. the water in the lower workings of the Fisk mine, east of the main shaft, broke through the old workings, which have not been worked for a number of years. Coursing eastward it struck the Americus, where two Italian miners, whose names have not been learned, were at work in the lower part of the shaft. They were both drowned. In its course the water diverted to the Sleepy Hollow mine, the easterly portion of the Fisk vein. Fourteen men were working in the Sleepy Hollow, three of whom escaped.

A courier was sent to adjacent mines and all their workmen escaped. The sounding of the whistle gave the first signal of the disaster and soon the shaft building of the Sleepy Hollow was so packed with families and friends of the imprisoned miners and those anxious to render assistance that it was almost impossible for the work of attempting to rescue to proceed. Deputy Sheriff W. W. Williams finally arrived on the ground, the building was cleared and practical miners offered their services in lowering the bucket.

The farthest depth attained was 330 feet, accumulated gas forced up by the rising water being such that a candle would not burn at a greater depth. Extra water buckets were sent for and brought to the mine, where they are now working with a view of lowering the water.

The managers of the property were on the ground and were very assiduous in their efforts to relieve the men. The two in the Americus are without doubt drowned. Those in the Sleepy Hollow, unless they can be found in some of the stopes, have met death in a similar manner.

Ever since the closing down of the pumps in the incline shaft of the new Gregory Mining company the waters in that shaft have been rising gradually, the owners of the Fisk mine having been driven out of the lower to the upper workings. This was due to the inability of the owners of the Fisk and Sleepy Hollow to agree on a plan to pro rate the drainage.

1895 Sleepy Hollow Gold Mine flood NEWS2

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