

WHITE ASH MINE HORROR.

Worse Than First Reported—Twenty-five Dead Bodies Rescued.

Story of the Appalling Disaster—How and Where It Happened—Heart-rending Scenes.

The NEW MEXICAN of last evening gave all probable particulars of the shocking and appalling disaster at the White Ash coal mine, three miles south of Cerrillos, a little before noon yesterday. Additional details secured by this paper during the night and day increase rather than diminish the magnitude of the horror. The following is the awful death roll.

MIKE RYAN.
ALFANDRA KELLY.
JOHN DONAHUE.
MABION ELLINGWORTH.
WM. ELLINGWORTH.
SAM HARDY.
SAM JAMES.
J. T. MCARTY.
JULIUS DESERRANT and two sons.
AUGUST LEPLAT.
GEORGE SPRIGHT.
WM. JONES.
JOHN EATHORN.
ROY PHILLIPS.
RICHARD DING.
LOUIS BECK.
A. RAFFETTE.
TOM WHITE.
DAN SWENEY.
STEVE GRUGRIBIC.
JOHN FLICK.
HENRY HARBON.
UNKNOWN.

Forteen of the dead men had families dependent upon them.

THE PITIFUL STORY.
It was Ash Wednesday. Some of the men who usually worked in the White Ash mine consequently laid off. It thus happened that the force was not so large as on other days, but those best informed on the subject concur in the opinion that fully 100 men were employed in the mine when the explosion occurred. The bread and butter winner for a wife and little ones must work regardless of feast days and danger.

The White Ash is a notable mine. Its annual output is immense. It is worked from a slope about 3,400 feet in depth on an incline of probably 25 degrees and extends east and west. From this main entry seven levels have been run right and left and from these many rooms have been opened. The main slope is the intake for fresh air and the outlet is the old Union mine adjoining, where the fan is located. The air is divided at the bottom of the main slope and thence passes upward through the right and left levels.

WHERE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.
The terrific explosion occurred in the fourth level on the north or left side of the main slope and is supposed to have originated in room 8, which had been worked out, and the presumption is that John Donghine, the mine foreman (now dead), sent men into that abandoned room to pull up the track. The conjecture further is that the room, having been idle for several months, was full of gas, and when the men went in, probably with naked lamps, the same was fired and the deadly explosion instantly followed. All the men working on this level were quickly prostrated, and the poisonous after damp, rushing rapidly upward through the air course, soon overcame the men working on the third level on the left.

MEN IN THIRD AND FOURTH LEVELS.
There were forty-two men employed in the third and fourth levels on the left. Of these eleven were rescued alive, seven are unaccounted for and twenty-five are known to be dead. Those who were most active in the work of rescuing the victims believe that the seven men unaccounted for succeeded in getting out alive and were not noticed in the excitement of the hour. The supposition is that all the bodies have been taken out.

The men working in the second level, just above the levels mentioned, narrowly escaped. When the explosion occurred one of the men there exclaimed, "a keg of powder has exploded." The presence of noxious gases from below soon dispelled this delusion and before the men could escape several were rendered unconscious by the damp and had to be carried out. Fortunately the warning came in time to prevent the death of any one on this level. The men at work in the levels on the right were not in immediate danger as the explosion was a local affair and the air supply on the right was not much disturbed. They all hurried to the main slope—the only means of egress—and plunged through the dense darkness and accumulating gases to the surface in safety.

RESCUES AT WORK.
The news of the explosion spread like wild fire. Soon hundreds of people from Cerrillos, Madrid, Waldo and neighboring settlements were on the scene. Among the singing and excited crowd were the weeping wives and children of the entombed miners. The scene was so pathetic, so suffused with genuine grief, so mutually heartrending that strong men wept. But sorrow and tears were quickly brushed aside. The necessity of prompt action was realized. A hundred or more hardy miners rushed to the rescue of their entombed fellows at the peril of their lives. This work was continued with unremitting zeal and energy from noon until 10 o'clock at night, when the last

body was rescued. Every man knew that when he ventured into the deadly fourth level on the left he hazarded his life. Yet no one hesitated. The level was full of poisonous gas except about two feet above the floor and it was necessary for the rescuers to crawl in on their hands and knees and thus dig up and drag out their dead comrades. Several of the rescuers were themselves brought out unconscious two and three times, and still insisted upon going back. These men are heroes whatever their names may be.

PRESERVE OF MIND.
It is recorded that a common miner named Beck working in the third level saved the lives of a number of his companions by urging them to jump into a pool of water and then he threw water over them and himself with his hands until the rescuers reached them. Doubtless they owe their lives to his presence of mind.

CONDITIONS OF THE MINE.
Some of the bodies brought out were so badly burned and bruised that they were hardly recognizable. Others came out with faces as calm and serene as if they were asleep. In these cases death was evidently due to the after damp. Every time a fresh body was brought out and turned over to the tender hands of the weeping wife, children and friends awaiting for it the coldest-hearted spectator turned his head away. It was a pitiful sight to witness. When the last body was brought out, about 10 o'clock, the crowd had nearly all dispersed. The sadly bereaved ones had gone to their desolate homes with their precious dead.

COFFINS ORDERED.
Undertaker Gable received an order by wire this morning for thirty coffins. Fortunately only twenty-five will probably be needed. Mr. Gable at once arranged to fill the ghastly order and personally went to Cerrillos to look after the bodies of the dead. It is understood that the burial of the twenty-five victims of the disaster will take place in Cerrillos today and to-morrow afternoon.

CORONER'S DUTY.
A coroner's jury viewed the bodies this forenoon, but no evidence will be taken until to-morrow. Judgment as to the cause of the explosion is reserved until full information is obtained.

THEY ACTED PROMPTLY.
The assembly, in the matter of the White Ash mine sufferers, evidently went to-day on the principle that the quickest action gives the best results. Within an hour after the meeting of the two houses, the bill for the relief of the stricken community had been passed the assembly, the bill for the relief of the cause as presented by Speaker Dams and the many other friends it had in the governor, makes an appropriation of \$5,000, to be distributed by a committee consisting of Archbishop Chapin, Speaker Dams and Councilman Perez.

INVESTIGATION ASKED FOR.
Mr. London this morning introduced and had passed by the house a resolution providing for a committee of three, two from the house and one from the council, to investigate the causes of the White Ash disaster. The committee is to make their report to the governor and is to serve without pay. The council is discussing the matter at 3 p. m.

THE COMPANY'S SIDE.
Supt. Duggins says the explosion occurred on the fourth level over which the manager line had been drawn. Two men it is alleged went over this line with open lamps contrary to orders.

ROOM OF THE RESCUED.
A late special from Cerrillos announces that eighteen of the persons rescued alive are so badly injured that they may die.

LAW PROTECTING COAL MINERS.
Chapter 654, United States Statutes at Large, an act for the protection of the lives of miners in territories, passed March 3, 1891, provides that in each organized and unorganized territory of the United States, wherein are located coal mines with aggregate annual output exceeding 1,000 tons, the president shall appoint a mine inspector; that said inspector shall be a practical miner or mining engineer and shall not be interested in any mine in such territory; that it shall be the duty of the mine inspector to make careful inspection of the coal mines operated in such territory and to report at least annually upon the condition thereof "with reference to the appliances for the safety of the miners, the number of shafts for ingress or egress, the character and condition of the machinery for ventilating such mines, and the quality of air supplied;" that "such reports shall be made to the governor of the territory in which such mines are located, and duplicates thereof forwarded to the secretary of the interior."

Section 4 provides that in case the said mine inspector shall report that any coal mine is not properly constructed or not furnished with proper machinery and appliances for the safety of the miners and other employees, it shall be the duty of the governor and the secretary of the interior to give notice to the owners or managers that said mine is unsafe, requiring them to provide additional machinery, slopes, entries, means of escape, ventilation, or other necessary appliances for the safety of the miners, and making it unlawful to operate such mine until such safety provisions are made.

DUTY OF COAL MINE MANAGERS.
The act further provides "that in all such coal mines the owners or managers shall provide at least two shafts, slopes

or other outlets, separated by natural strata of not less than 150 feet in breadth by which shafts, slopes or outlets distinct means of ingress and egress shall always be available to the persons employed in said mine. And in case of the failure of any coal mine to do so, provided it shall be the duty of the mine inspector to make report of such fact."

Section 5 provides "that the owners or managers of every coal mine at a depth of 100 feet or more shall provide an adequate amount of ventilation of not less than 3,500 cubic feet of pure air per minute for every fifty men at work in said mine, and in like proportion for a greater number, which air shall be forced through such mine to the face of every working place, so as to dilute and render harmless and expel therefrom noxious or poisonous gases, and all workings shall be kept clear of standing gas." Any mine owner or manager neglecting to comply with this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of \$500.

The act also provides that a metal speaking tube from the top to the bottom of the shaft or slope shall be provided in all cases, so that conversation may be carried on through the same; that an approved safety catch shall be provided and sufficient cover overhead on every carriage used in the mine to protect persons; that the mine inspector shall examine and pass upon the adequacy and safety of all such existing apparatus; that said mine inspector may at any time enter and examine any coal mine in his district; that the mine owner or manager shall, within ten days, make written report thereof to the mine inspector.

A STEP FOR SILVER.

Bimetallism Resolution Adopted in the House of Commons—Discussing a Great Problem.

London, Feb. 28.—The house of commons adopted Mr. Robert S. Everett's bimetallic resolution without division.

THE RESOLUTION.
In substance was that "this house regards with increasing apprehension the constant fluctuations and growing divergence in the relative value of gold and silver and hereby declares its deep concern for the serious evils resulting therefrom. It therefore urges upon the government the desirability of co-operating with other nations in an international congress to consider what measures can be taken to mitigate these evils."

Henry Chaplin, conservative, seconded the resolution. He presented the situation of India as proving the necessity of an international understanding on the subject. He urged the government to reopen the Indian mints provided the other powers reopen theirs, and to give every facility for promoting the increased use of silver in England short of changing her own standard.

SIR WILLIAM VERNON HARTOUST admitted that the question was a grave one, but denied that the distress in his bandy was due to the demotization of silver. He said that silver is a more precious metal than during the period when the equality of silver and gold existed, and he was as convinced of the value of bimetalism as Mr. Chaplin was of the value of monometallism. He reviewed the negotiations with the United States which led to the Brussels conference, and said the British refusal to discuss the proposal to open the mints of the various countries for the coinage of silver was the position adopted by the present government, and he hoped it would be adopted by every progressive government. The plan of the late government, however, had agreed to consider what measure could be taken to increase the use of silver in the currency between nations.

The statement, he said, that the failure of the conference was due to a premature declaration of Sir Charles Rivers Wilson was unfounded.

The resolution was abandoned owing to the opposition of the other delegates, and the result of the conference was that the great majority of the delegates agreed in favor of a monometallic currency and a gold standard.

In regard to the recent attitude of Germany, there appeared to be an idea that she had changed the opinion which she had held in favor of a gold standard, but he believed the recent declaration of Prince Hohenlohe did not amount to anything of the kind. The declaration, however, no doubt implied a desire upon the part of Germany to discuss with the other powers the means to mitigate the evils which had arisen from the depreciation in the value of silver. If Germany made proposals with that object in view her majesty's government would be ready to enter the discussion with her.

A FRIENDLY SMILE.
While at the same time, adhering to its own policy. No country was so deeply interested as England in maintaining the currency on a sound basis, and a continuity of this currency policy was a necessity.

As Mr. Everett's motion did not commit the government to an agreement in regard to bimetalism, and as the government did not limit the existence of the evils referred to, and as the resolution only invited the government to join in any communications on the subject, whether in the form of a conference or otherwise, with the great states of Europe, he would not oppose the motion. He was unwilling to place the currency of this country, upon which commerce depended, at the mercy of any foreign nation. He declined to place the cur-