

nitro-compound, commonly called "powder" in Colorado, is not an accident, but the result of years of careful research under the management of the best talent obtainable. The result of this labor and research is a compound possessing great explosive force and at the same time one that can be utilized when handled with ordinary care. It is safe to assert, however, that no powder expert, who of all others appreciates the safety of nitro-powder, could be induced to work with the average Colorado miner. The above table and notes on the handling of explosives in the state, demonstrates either an ignorance or carelessness demanding careful consideration.

SHAFT ACCIDENTS.

The Anna Lee disaster at Victor, on January 4, 1896, caused by the caving in of the main working shaft and killing eight men, is a warning that should be heeded.

The Anna Lee had sunk a shaft upon and near the center of a pipe of ore, elliptical in form and many times larger than the shaft. This ore was removed and the working shaft was sustained by square setts, braced in all directions against the sides and ends to a depth of several hundred feet.

The investigation showed that this network of timber had been causing considerable trouble for some time prior to the accident; that the day before the accident another run of ground was threatened in one of the levels of the Portland, and the general superintendent was giving that his personal attention, considering it the more dangerous of the two; that the evening before the accident he had a conference with the superintendent of the Anna Lee, who reported same in bad condition, and at that time told him he could not leave the Portland to help him, and if in his judgment the place was unsafe, to pull the pump, take the men out and shut down. These same instructions were given the same evening by the general manager to the night foreman. The night foreman had but a short time prior been superintendent and had but recently been succeeded in that position by the superintendent then in

charge. He, therefore, felt loth to assume the responsibility of closing down the mine and concluded to carry out the instructions of the superintendent in cutting hitches and adding new timbers. He testified that a short time prior to the time for quitting shift there was a movement so alarming he left men on to report same to superintendent when he came in the morning, also his belief that the place was unsafe and he thought they ought to stop work, together with the general orders he had received from the general manager. The superintendent received this word, but descending shaft to see progress made by night shift, he found his orders executed and felt a few more braces would secure the ground. He accordingly placed his men to execute the work. The general manager was evidently uneasy and to satisfy himself went to the property and descended into the shaft. He left shaft about fifteen minutes prior to the accident, and testified that upon leaving the shaft house he felt confident from his talk with those in charge that the impending danger had been arrested.

MEN FALLING.

Accidents from falling from ladders are found to be caused by feet slipping, hands slipping, or ladders, ladder-ways or supports giving away. The records show five fatal and five non-fatal accidents. The fatal accidents are caused by improper construction of ladders, the same having no landings, and where landings exist, not placed so as to arrest the fall, but permit the unfortunate to go through to the bottom.

The fatal accident to James W. Curry, at the Gold Coin mine, Victor, was caused by faulty construction of ladder. The cribbing around collar of shaft had been raised preparatory to placing hoister. This necessitated overhauling the ladders and made ladders eighty feet long. Two new ladders were placed at top and connected with lower ones. These had been in use several days. Mr. Curry was descending, and when a few feet from top stopped to speak to some one. Taking hold of rung with both hands, he swung himself back to look up, the rung pulled off and he fell to bottom. An