

FIRE DAMP EXPLODES

**TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR
MEN KILLED IN THE HANNA
(WYOMING) MINE.**

**Scores of Others Injured and a Vast
Amount of Property Destroyed—The
Force of the Explosion Closed En-
trances to the Mine and Greatly De-
layed Work of Rescue—Faint Hope
for Those Still in the Mine.**

Omaha, Neb., July 1.—A special to the World-Herald from Hanna, Wyo., says:

Hanna was the scene of a terrible holocaust at 10:30 Tuesday, when an explosion of firedamp in Mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal company snuffed out the lives of 234 men, injured scores of others and caused the destruction of a vast amount of property.

The mine was not fired as was stated in the earlier reports, but the explosion was terrific and completely shattered the timbers of the main shaft and numerous entrances, filled the workings with debris and those of the miners that were not killed outright by the explosion were buried alive. The explosion was heard for many miles around and attracted people from the adjoining settlements.

Huge timbers and railroad iron were hurled from the mouth of the shaft, a distance of 200 and 300 feet. Superintendent E. S. Brooks and a large force of men went at work with a will to remove the debris from the shaft and reach the entombed miners. Their progress into the mine was blocked by the foul gases and several times they were forced to return to the surface.

Forty-six Men Rescued.

All day the rescuing party worked, the force being increased from time to time by the arrival of ranchmen and others from nearby settlements and by those of a relief train sent out from Rawlins, which arrived at 10 o'clock in the afternoon. About 4 o'clock p. m. four men were taken out alive, and a half hour later they were followed by forty-two others. Many were unconscious and had to be carried from the workings. Some were injured, but none fatally. Several are in a serious condition, but it is believed all will recover.

Two hundred and eighty-two men went down in the mine at 7 o'clock and up until a late hour Tuesday night only forty-eight have been accounted for. Of this number two are dead. It was some time after the explosion occurred that the first man was brought to the surface. He was followed by others, until 1 o'clock when the last were brought out. The rescuers were unable to get further into the mine until additional openings had been made to permit fresh air to reach the lower levels and clear away gases. Horses and scrapers were put at work hauling debris away from the shaft and cars were pushed down the incline, loaded and hauled back up the tippie and dumped. The work is progressing slowly, owing to the narrow space in which the rescuers are compelled to operate, but by daylight the mine should be opened sufficiently to permit of deep explorations and the rescue of the dead bodies.

Faint Hope for Imprisoned Men.

Late last night a party of rescuers reached four mules that were alive and this caused hopes to arise in the breasts of the tired workers and the anxious women and children gathered about the shaft. It is faint hope, however, for experienced mine bosses and miners say that when the imprisoned men are reached all will be found dead. Some of the miners that escaped said they saw twenty dead bodies in Entry No. 17. They reported that many of the men were crazed by the explosion and ran hither and thither in the mine. Many of these could have escaped, but they laid down, buried their faces in their hands and gave up the fight. Of the 234 dead, about 175 were married and leave large families. About 100 were Finlanders, fifty were colored and the balance were Americans. Many physicians are here, but they can be of no service at present.

The Hanna mines are among the best on the Union Pacific system, being established in 1878. The town was named for Senator Mark Hanna, when he was a member of the Union Pacific Coal company. Mine No. 1 is practically a new property. It has twenty-six entries, fifteen miles of workings and a main incline shaft of one and one-half miles in length. The mine has been recognized as a dangerous property for some time on account of the large amount of gas, but the system of ventilation has been so good that an accident was not anticipated.