

The Kearsarge Disaster.

Last Friday the publication of the Times was withheld until a late hour in the afternoon in order to get authentic particulars in regard to the catastrophe at the Kearsarge from eye witnesses but of all those who went to Summit early in the morning none returned until evening, and such information as was obtainable, although had over the telephone from the scene of the disaster and correct in all essentials, was found to be inaccurate in regard to the details.

When the fire was discovered by Charley Bradshaw, the blacksmith, there were four miners at work in the winze 150 feet below the tunnel level. These men were John Tobin, Robert O'Donnell, James Powers and William Flemming. They knew nothing of the fire at the tunnel house, and after firing the round of shots, started for the surface. Tobin reached the tunnel floor and was overcome by the gas about 50 feet from the collar of the winze. O'Donnell reached within two sets of timbers of the tunnel level for there his candle stick was found stuck into a wall plate. He probably was overcome there and falling, carried Flemming and Powers with him to the bottom of the winze, for there their mangled bodies were later found. In the meantime Superintendent R. B. Turner accompanied by George Allen, Matt Oubye, Edward Laherty, Jack Hurley and Jack Cullen tried to rescue the unsuspecting workers in the winze through the Kearsarge connection in the Apex shaft. When they first went down the shaft there was no gas coming up, but before they reached the bulkhead entrance into the Kearsarge the gas came with a rush and four of the unfortunates fell over 100 feet into the sump below. The work of

rescuing began immediately, but it was not until 9 o'clock Friday night that the sump was sufficiently dewatered to permit the recovery of the bodies by the use of grappling irons. The eight bodies were brought to R. R. Herndon's undertaking rooms in this city and prepared for burial. The remains of Turner, Tobin, Flemming and Powers were sent to Butte Saturday morning. The remains of Allen and Laherty went to Butte Sunday.

There were three inquests held: One over the body of Tobin, one over the four found in the sump and the other over those in the winze. The juries found that they all came to their deaths from accidental causes due to inhaling gas from the burning building at the mouth of the Kearsarge mine. In the case of the four who lost their lives in the Apex shaft it was further found that they came to their death by voluntary acts in descending the Apex shaft. The members of the three juries were:

T. H. Teal, S. H. Ribble, Thos. Duncan, H. C. Ptomey, E. D. Hart, W. A. Stevenson, L. T. Kiser, F. B. Jackson, S. Wiles and R. A. Vickers.

Matt Aubye and Robert O'Donnell were buried Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Hillside cemetery in this city. The pall bearers were:

F. Walker, W. O. Thompson, John Bariter, John Lumby, Jack Lavelle, C. W. Gray, Matt Hurley, J. J. Casey, M. W. Tallman, John Cullen, John McGinness and G. F. Johnson.