

# CAGE FELL AND KILLED 15 MEN

**Stratton's Independence  
Gold Mine at Cripple  
Creek the Scene of a Ter-  
rible Accident.**

Victor, Colo., Jan. 26.—As a result of an accident that occurred about 3 o'clock this morning at Stratton's Independence mine, located near the center of the city, 15 men are dead and one other severely injured.

In the main shaft 16 men were being hoisted in a cage from the sixth, seventh and eighth levels.

When the cage reached the surface the engineer was unable to stop the engine and the cage was drawn up into the gallows frame, where it became lodged temporarily. The strain on the cable finally caused it to part and the cage being released shot down the shaft with terrific speed. Two of the occupants, L. P. Jackson and James Bullbek, had become entangled in the timber rods near the top of the gallows frame. Jackson was crushed to death by the shieve wheel falling upon him, while Bullbek had a marvelous escape from death, but received painful injuries and was rescued from his perilous position.

The other 14 men were hurled to death down the 1,500-foot shaft. As soon as possible the shift boss and a number of miners went down into the mine through another compartment of the shaft. They found all 14 dead, the bodies being scattered at different points. Their arms and bodies had been torn, their heads crushed and the clothing stripped from the victims.

From the mill foot level to the bottom the shaft was spattered with blood, while here and there were found pieces of flesh clinging to projections.

At the bottom of the shaft stands 25 feet of water and into this the cage plunged, carrying some of the men into the water with it.

1904 Independence Mine hoist disaster  
NEWS

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