

MINERS FALL 1,500 FEET.

Fifteen Killed at Independence Mine in Cripple Creek.

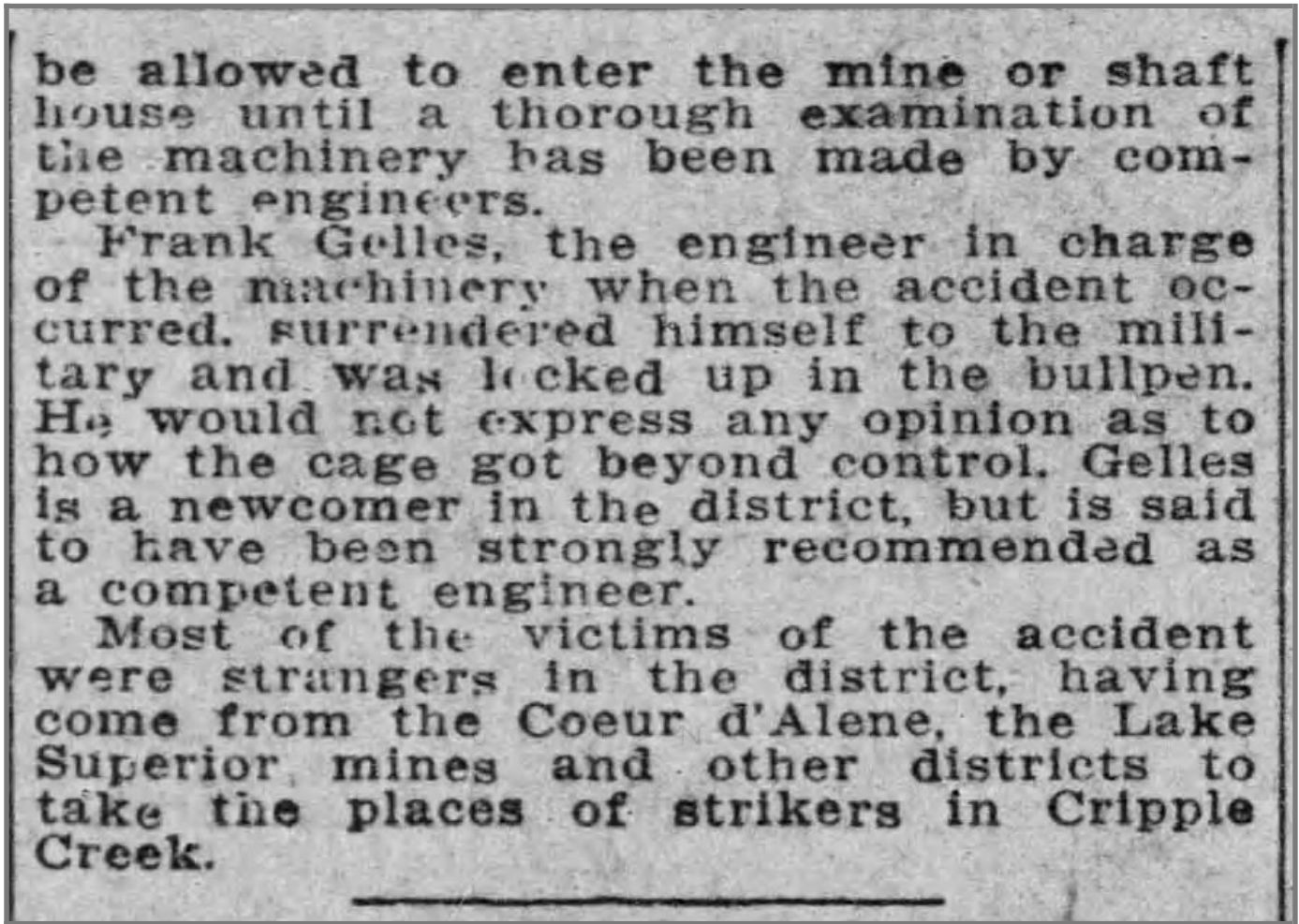
VICTOR, COL., Jan. 27.—As the result of an accident which occurred about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning in Stratton's Independence mine, located near the center of this city, fifteen men are dead and one other severely injured. The list of dead is as follows: W. R. Frazier, John Sebeck, Joe Smitherum, Edward Twiggen, L. A. Wagoner, H. A. Yeoman, Edward Smith, Joe Ovry, H. F. Brown, W. B. Collins, J. L. Steward, Frank Cochrane, L. P. Jackson, Harry Cogene and C. C. Staten.

In the main shaft of the mine sixteen men were being hoisted in the cage from the sixth, seventh and eighth levels. When the cage got to the surface in the shaft house the engineer, for some reason unexplained, was unable to stop the engine and the cage, with its load of human freight, was drawn up into the gallows frame, where it became lodged temporarily. The strain on the cable caused it to part, releasing the cage, which went down the shaft at terrific momentum. Two of the occupants of the cage, however, had become entangled with the timber rods near the top of the gallows frame and one of them, L. P. Jackson, was crushed to death by the sheave wheel falling upon him. The other, James Bullbek, had a marvelous escape from death, but received painful injuries. He was rescued from his perilous position by men in the shaft house.

The shift boss and a number of miners went down into the mine through another compartment of the shafts and found that all the fourteen men who started with the cage on its wild flight of 1,500 feet to the bottom of the shaft were dead.

Their arms and bodies were torn, their heads crushed and their clothing stripped from their bodies. From the 700-foot level to the bottom the shaft is spattered with blood, with here and there pieces of flesh clinging to projections. At the bottom of the shaft stands twenty-five feet of water and into this the cage plunged. Some of the men were carried into the water with it.

A squad of military has taken charge of the property, and citizens will not



1904 Independence Mine hoist disaster
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