

CAGE IN A MINE SHAFT IS DEATH TRAP FOR ELEVEN.

Cable Breaks and Miners
Plunge 275 Feet to
Their Doom.

SEVEN ARE INJURED;
NONE LIKELY TO DIE.

Jones & Laughlin Rolling Mill
Mine at Negaunee, Mich.,
Is Scene of Disaster.

EXCITED RELATIVES GATHER

Cable Was Recently Tested and
No Defects Were Dis-
covered.

SPECIAL TO THE PITTSBURGH POST.
MARQUETTE, Mich., Sept. 20.—The Jones & Laughlin Company's rolling mill at Negaunee was to-day the scene of one of the greatest disasters in the history of mining in the Lake Superior mining region. While a cage filled with men was descending the shaft the steel hoisting cable broke and the car with its load of human freight was plunged with frightful rapidity to the bottom of the mine a distance of 700 feet. Eleven men were killed outright, all being dashed to their deaths, and seven others were so horribly injured that they cannot live. The victims were being lowered into the workings, where they were shortly to begin their day's labor. Not a man in the cage escaped death or injury. What caused the cable to part is a mystery. It had been carefully inspected yesterday, in accordance with the rules, and had hoisted cars of ore several times.

The Dead.

CHARLES KENT, underground captain
ALFRED J. WILLS.
JOSEPH RODDA.
MATT LIND.
JOHN AHO.
JOHN CHERL.
THOMAS BLIGHT.
ANTONIO CURTO.
JOHN JOHNSON.
TWO UNIDENTIFIED BODIES.

The Injured.

SAM STEVENS.
JOHN MAKKI.
JOHN KELVISTO.
ALFRED JEWELL.
GEORGE SEBASTONO.
THOMAS ROBERTS.
EMIL MUHONEN.

Drops With a Thud.

The cage was making its first descent when the brake on the hoisting drum gave way. The other men sprang to the assistance of the man at the brake wheel, but their combined efforts did not avail, and the wire cable continued to unreel. The cage shot down 200 feet before a kink in the rushing cable caused it to part. Then it dropped with a thud to the bottom of the shaft, the safety catches failing to operate. The surging of the cable in its mad flight tore out part of the engine house and ripped out several sheaves about the shaft house.

Workmen at the bottom of the mine immediately set about removing the dead. The fall had hurled the bodies together and they lay in one mass, from which seven, still breathing, were taken. They are fatally hurt.

Relatives Wait for Dead.

Thousands of persons soon congregated about the mine shaft. In the crowd were wives and children of the 200 men employed in the mine. Each thought that her loved one was in the cage. It was fully two hours before the cable was adjusted so that the cage could be raised to the surface and the dead turned over to relatives. Then all the miners came from underground and many anxious wives and mothers were relieved of suspense. Their joy, added to the sorrow of those bereaved, made the scene awful. Priests and preachers moved among the people, consoling them and begging them to be calm, but it was hours before a semblance of quiet came to the excited miners and their families.

Get No Word of Disaster.

Inquiry in Pittsburgh last night brought out the fact that the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company officials knew nothing of the disaster at the Negaunee mine. The company has only a portion of the mine, operating it jointly with other interests. Details are expected to-day.