

of Public Works

# Lives Lost in Gold King Mine

## Fire Causes a Disaster at Colorado Mine in Which Many Fredericton People Are Interested---Six Men Dead---Many in a Critical Condition.

Silverton, Col., June 8—Six men are dead, eight in a critical condition from breathing foul air and thirty more are temporarily confined to their homes by gas poisoning, suffered in the Gold King mine at Gladstone.

Thursday night fire destroyed the engine house of the mine, and also the shaft house. The two buildings were near the doors of the main shaft, and to prevent the spread of the flames and smoke to the workings of the mine, these doors were closed temporarily. The men working in the night shift were informed of the conditions on the surface and instructed to withdraw. When the flames had been extinguished three men failed to come out of the mine. Efforts to rescue them were made. The first men to enter the mine returned in haste and informed those in waiting that the mine was filled with foul air.

Two rescue parties were formed and the men started into the mine in groups of five, by means of the electric elevator, which was still working. The movement of the elevator had cleared the atmosphere in the elevator shafts, so that but little discomfort was felt. Soon after a score or more of rescuers had entered the mine and some of those last in appeared at the

foot of the elevator shaft carrying the unconscious miners who had succumbed to the noxious air. Later a party reached the surface bringing the dead bodies of Victor Erackson and the almost lifeless one of John Sumston and Otto Johnson, the three men whose absence caused the necessity for the rescue work. The others who perished or were injured were of the rescuing parties.

There is a considerable quantity of Gold King stock held in this city, just how much could not be learned this afternoon after the receipt of the above despatch.

Not long ago the holders of Gold King stock got an offer from John T. Budd of Boston to take an option on at least 50 per cent of the holdings of each stock holder on the grounds that the mine was not producing the dividends which it should.

Mr. Budd with a competent mining expert has since visited the property and was so pleased with the outlook, that he has decided it is said, to take up his options.

There was a time when Gold King stock used to sell at 260 but a reorganization of the company took place, some properties were added and a new issue of stock sent out at \$1 par value.