

**SUTRO TUNNEL AFIRE,  
BIG MINES IN PERIL**

**Flames Rage Thirty Hours  
in \$6,000,000 Bore That  
Drains Comstock Lode.**

**NINETEEN MINERS RESCUED**

**Desperate Fight Underground to Stop  
Fire—Comstock Stock Prices Cut  
in Half in San Francisco.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

VIRGINIA CITY, Nev., Jan. 28.—Flames have been raging in the \$6,000,000 Sutro tunnel, which drains all the Comstock mines for more than 30 hours. Unless they are quenched soon the great bore will be choked and all the mines will be flooded and made idle for months, causing the loss of millions of dollars. All the miners in the district are on hand, fighting the flames underground in shifts. Nineteen of them have been overcome in this dangerous work and have been rescued with difficulty. Of these seven may die.

The Sutro tunnel, with its laterals, is 12 miles long and is large enough, in addition to its drain, for a trolley line, which has been operated for the workmen in the various mines. It carries off all the water in the various workings, tapping them between the 1,000 and 2,000-foot levels. It was planned by Adolph Sutro, afterward Mayor of San Francisco, and was completed thirty years ago, being regarded as one of the greatest engineering feats of the time. It relieved the necessity for huge pumps in the mines, and its value has been incalculable.

The fire started at the junction of the Savage and South laterals, four miles from the mouth of the tunnel, at 7 o'clock last night. It burned back east to the combination lateral, a distance of 2,000 feet, and the upcast of the combination drew the flames into the 3,800-foot shaft, where hundreds of feet of the timber used in the construction was destroyed. Water was poured down on the flames, and the fire was stopped in the shaft.

## 1909 Miners rescued from the Sutro Tunnel fire

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