

MINERS PERISH IN DEATH TRAP

Explosion of Powder
Magazine Blows Bodies
Into Fragments.

SIXTY KILLED; HUNDRED HURT

Blast Occurs in 1,100-
Foot Level—Lamp
Causes Disaster.

Juneau, Alaska, Mar. 4.—By the explosion of a powder magazine in the Mexican shaft of the Treadwell mines 60 miners, caught like rats in a trap, at the 1,100-foot level, with no possible chance of escape, were blown to fragments and 100 others were seriously injured, many of whom it is feared may die.

Dead Are Unrecognizable.

The bodies of the dead were blown into unrecognizable masses of human flesh. The scene when a rescuing party descended to the level, was indescribable. The dead were lying around, piled one on the top of the other and the groans and screams of the injured were heartrending.

It is believed that more of the injured will succumb to their injuries. There is a deplorable lack of medical men and in the company hospitals, which are crowded to the limit, the mangled miners are suffering for want of medical attention.

Ten physicians and a dozen nurses have left here for the scene of the disaster, but many more physicians and nurses will be required to prevent death from lack of medical attention.

Lamp Causes Explosion.

The cause of the accident is not known at this time. It is believed, however, that the explosion is the result of a miner's lamp coming in contact with the powder magazine. Not a man in the portion of the mine where the explosion occurred escaped injury.

The scenes about the mouth of the mine are pitiful. The families of the miners are gathered about the entrance to the shaft and as the bodies are carried from the death trap, there is a wild rush to get near enough to make an effort at identification.

So badly are the bodies torn and mangled that the only possible means of identification in most cases has been by the clothing or property found in the pockets.

Mine's Output \$35,000,000.

The mine which is operated by the Treadwell Mining Company is associated with the Alaska Mining Company and is principally owned by the D. O. Mills estate. The Treadwell mines have been operated since 1882, since which time they have added to the world's wealth over \$35,000,000 in gold. The mines give employment to 1,400 men.