

HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN BELIEVED DEAD IN SPECULATOR MINE DESTROYED BY FIRE

Butte Is Wrestling With Worst Mining Disaster in History of Montana---Gas and Smoke Fill Workings, Suffocating Men---Rescuers Battling Bravely

Butte, Mont., June 9.—With 35 known dead and 123 men missing as the result of a fire which broke out in the Speculator mine of the North Butte, last night, Butte is today wrestling with the worst mining disaster in its history. The fire broke out in the lower level of the Speculator mine at 11:45 last night as the result of a broken power cable that carried electricity to the underground pumps. Lower levels of the mine quickly filled with smoke and gas. There were 415 men employed on the night shift of this mine; of these 213 escaped through levels connecting with other mines. The gas spread to the Diamond mine and took a further toll of life in that property.

Helmet men, mine rescue crews and safety first squads from all the mines in Butte are at work this morning seeking to penetrate the gas-filled workings of the Speculator, the Diamond and High Ore mines, in the hope of finding the larger body of miners for whom hope of rescue is not yet given up. At eight o'clock this morning helmet men were preparing to make a thorough exploration of the lower High Ore workings. This property adjoins the Speculator and the only expectation that the missing Speculator men are still alive is that they fled to this mine. Even if alive, it is believed that these men are helpless because of the smoke and gas. Officials at the High Ore believe that if the 123 missing miners are not found to have made their way to the High Ore workings, they are doomed. Physicians and nurses had during the night been summoned to the Speculator and all adjoining mines and scores of men were treated. Many have been taken to the hospitals.

Scores of men were rescued in a semi-conscious condition. The names of the fourteen known dead are: Michael Conway, Peter Sheridan, George Thomas, Kelly Roberts, George Jenich, Jefferson Perry, Richard Vogel, Alfred Shafford, J. Brady, William Ramsey, Chris Vokenovich, Con O'Neil, John McGinnis, Anthony Ivich.

The Speculator is a mining property of the North Butte company. It is

connected with the Granite mountain shaft, which has an electric hoist capable of raising seven tons at a speed of 3,000 feet a minute. The Speculator is 2,800 feet deep. This mine is also connected with the High Ore mine, the Diamond mine, and the Tuolumne in which it is thought some of the Speculator miners sought refuge.

The following summary is an estimate of the situation at 9 o'clock at the Speculator mine:

Known dead, 35.
Known saved, 213.
Not reported, 107.
Of the men not reported to the timekeeper, it is believed that at least 60 were saved through other mines and failed to observe the order to report themselves. Men are constantly being rescued in groups of from two to twelve.

Butte, Mont., June 9.—One hundred and fifty men are reported dead and no hope is held out for the recovery of 200 others trapped under ground by a fire in the Speculator copper mine here, early today. Out of 425 men in the mine at the time the fire broke out, more than two-thirds are unaccounted for. Fourteen bodies have been recovered.

The fire, which started on the 2,400-foot level, got quickly to the other galleries, cutting off all escape from the men below. Dense smoke, which poured from the shaft in great clouds, retarded rescue work. Miners from adjoining properties, ordered from under ground as a precaution, went to work as rescuing gangs, aiding national guardsmen who had been called to the scene. Because of the smoke and the danger, they were able to do little until the arrival of safety first cars from Be Lodge and Colorado Springs, which were sent for at the outbreak of the fire.

Warning of danger came in time to permit men on the upper levels to escape. They immediately formed rescue parties and attempted to go down the shaft to the men below, who are, it is thought, entombed. Their efforts were fruitless, and little could be done until the arrival of the bureau of mines safety first cars, which carry gas and smoke proof helmets. One hour after the outbreak of the fire, L. D. Frink, superintendent, M. D. Comers, foreman, N. D. Brawley, general manager of the Granite shaft, owned by the North Butte company, had made a survey of the situation. They said they could account only for 231 out of 421 who were in the shaft when the fire started.

John Coffemeten and John Boyce, who were the first two men to be taken from the shaft alive, told a thrilling tale of sustaining their lives by cutting the air hose and sucking the air by turns until the rescue party arrived. They were on the 700-foot level at the outbreak of the fire.

According to miners who escaped from the shaft, the fire started from the flames of a carbide lamp. The men were ordered to report to the timekeeper as they emerged from the mine. 211 men had so reported soon after the rescue work started, out of the 415 who went down in the night shift.

Two men who were working on the

700-foot level reported that four had perished on that level, they alone being saved.

All the ambulances in Butte and all persons in the city were summoned to the scene of the accident immediately to co-operate with the national guardsmen and rescue parties composed of miners. Every safety first crew in the district has also been summoned and it is estimated that within a few hours 220 safety first men, trained to mine rescue work, will be at the Speculator and Granite Mountain shafts.

The Speculator is a tramway mine and runs through the Granite Mountain. Men equipped with safety first helmets to withstand the effects of smoke and fumes, entered the Speculator shaft first, but were compelled to retire soon after.

RESCUERS ARE SENT

Pittsburg, June 9.—Officers of the bureau of mines today received word from the district engineer at Butte that probably one hundred had perished in the accident at the Speculator mine.

Rescue car No. 5, which has been at Billings, Mont., has been called to the scene, as has car No. 2, which is in Colorado. The mining interests at Butte are credited with having one of the best rescue organizations in the country, and with the assistance of trained crews from the federal cars, are relied upon to hurry the work of rescue at the mine.

PRISONERS OF TEUTONS

Amsterdam, June 9.—The central powers hold nearly 3,000,000 prisoners of war, according to official figures published in German newspapers.

Germany has 1,690,731 prisoners, including 17,474 officers; Austria, Hungary, 1,092,055; Bulgaria, 67,332; and Turkey, 239,083, a total of 2,874,271 prisoners, of whom 27,620 are officers. This total is made up of the following nationalities, showing the total number and prisoners in Germany, respectively:

Russian	2,080,699	1,212,007
French	368,607	367,124
Serbian	154,630	25,879
Italian	98,017
Rumanian	79,033	10,157
British	45,241	33,129
Belgian	42,241	42,435
Montenegrin	5,607

The British prisoners of war not in Germany are divided between Bulgaria and Turkey.

REDMOND'S BROTHER KILLED
London, June 9.—It was unofficially reported here that William H. K. Redmond, member of parliament for the east division of Clare, and a brother of John Redmond, leader of the Irish in the house of commons, had been killed on the battle front in France.

GOVERNMENT IS UPHELD

Paris, June 9.—After a two day session during which Admiral Lacaze, minister of marine, and the conduct of the navy were under fire, especially of the marine merchant losses, the chamber of deputies voted last night confidence in the government by 319 to 178. The bulk of the attack in the closing session centered on the alleged laxity of measures taken to combat submarines, including reproaches that the budget did not provide sufficiently for anti-submarine measures.

Premier Ribot, in defense of the government declared that the submarine war had surprised the navies of all the allies. He did not deny the peril and asked for increased credits to meet this new form of warfare.

"There is much to do," he said, "including the rejuvenation of the navy department of submarine defense."

While the debate was proceeding in the chamber the senate unanimously adopted a bill revising the budget of the minister of the navy, so as to include more ample credits for anti-submarine measures.

ESTHERAZY IS PREMIER

Amsterdam, June 9, via London.—A Budapest dispatch says that King Charles has entrusted the formation of a new cabinet to Count Moritz Esterhazy.