

HUNDRED MEN IN MINE

BUT MOST OF THEM ESCAPE

DILLON, Mont.—The 10 men entombed in the Pittsburg mine at Gilmore are Jack Kennett, O. L. Johnson, John Dogan, Ed Kenney, Harry Hall, Nicholas Spiler, Fred Blake, Ed Nunnely, William Rodison and Ed Moran. One hundred men were working in the mine at the time of the explosion, but all except those on the 400-foot level escaped.

MINE INSPECTOR BELL

DISCUSSES DISASTER

R. N. Bell, Idaho state mines inspector, when told of the explosion in the Pittsburg-Idaho mine at Gilmore, said that, in his opinion, it would be impossible to trap men in the property for any length of time, as it has several outlets.

There are three outlets at the 400-foot level, Bell said, and double outlets from the bottom level.

The mines inspector visited the Gilmore-Idaho property 60 days ago. The mine was working a double shift of 40 each at that time.

When told of the accident Bell said that he would attempt to get into communication with the superintendent of the mine, but because of lack of funds in his department he cannot go to the scene of the explosion. Telegraphic communications with the town of Gilmore are cut off from the outside world at 6 o'clock each afternoon, and the telephone line running into the town from Armstead, Mont., 25 miles distant, closes at the same hour.

The Gilmore-Idaho mine is 600 feet deep. It has been worked for the last 15 years and is considered one of the best lead and silver producing properties in the state. About 30 cars of crude ore are shipped from the property each month.

1917 ten men trapped in Pittsburgh-Idaho mine rescued



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COAL FATALITY
IDAHO
PITTSBURG-IDAHO MINE
JANUARY 3, 1917

Thomas D. Thomas, age 41 and married, employed as a miner, was suffocated in an attempt to escape through a man way, when the lower levels of the mine were filled with white fumes resulting from the burning of 15 gallons of gasoline in a small pump station at the 600-foot level. Another miner, in attempting to draw a five-gallon can of gasoline from a faucet in the pump station, for use in a small hoist at another point, carelessly carried a lighted carbide lamp in his cap and ignited the fumes from the gasoline, which filled the mine with white smoke and gas for several hours, endangering the lives of a number of other men on the same level, who, however, were rescued a few hours later without serious injury; and if Thomas had stayed with his companions, as he was persuaded to do, he would doubtless have come through safely, as there was very little to burn in the station, which was in a hardrock chamber with little timbering. The mine cleared itself in about 12 hours by the assistance of outside rescue service, which succeeded in driving the air current in one direction.