

**November 23, 1889**  
**Anaconda Mine**  
**Butte MT**  
**Fire**  
**6 Victims**

SUFFOCATED IN THE ANACONDA FIRE.	Date.	Name of Mine.
Henry Page .....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda
Tim Kellerer.....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda
Edward Dolan.....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda
Matt. Sullivan. ....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda
Pat Murphy .....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda
Pat Lyons* .....	Nov. 23, 1889	Anaconda

\* Died two weeks after being taken out of the mine.

**DEATHS AT ANACONDA By SUFFOCATION.**

As reported before, the awful catastrophe at the Anaconda cannot be called an accident, where men volunteered to descend the burning mine for powder, and when one failed to come up, others followed to try and rescue their dead comrades. They were persuaded not to go, as no man could retain life for two minutes; but being actuated by feelings of love and respect for those whose lives were already sacrificed, deliberately walked into the arms of death, until the number of dead men amounted to six. No hopes were entertained of their recovery until the 6th of December, when it was thought the fire had been extinguished. At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 7th the shafts at Anaconda and St. Lawrence were uncovered, which showed no signs of smoke, and it was generally believed that the fire was at an end, and that the bodies would soon be recovered.

Shortly after the shafts were opened, a dog was sent down the Anaconda mine to the 800 foot level, and allowed to remain 10 minutes before being hauled to the surface. On reaching the 40 foot station it was heard to breathe once or twice, when it fell back dead. Thirty minutes later another dog was sent to the 500 foot level, and after remaining 10 minutes came up alive; but it was doubtful if he could recover; but after suffering much pain he got up and walked gently away. The general impression was that no fire existed in the mine, and orders were given to remove the bulkheads at the 600 foot level of the St. Lawrence mine.

I left the mine at 6 p. m. on the 7th inst. with every hope of the bodies being recovered before the morning of the 8th, but on my return to the mine, the condition changed, and the fire had broken out afresh, and the mine was again sealed and steam pumped into it from three sets of boilers. The sealing of the mine may cause the smoke and carbonic acid gas to suffocate the existing fire, but I am persuaded that the pumping of steam into the mine will not be of any benefit whatever, as the steam will most certainly condense itself into water long before reaching the fire, as the temperature of the mine cannot, according to the test made, be over 80 degrees. This may be surprising to many, but when there are probably hundreds of ways for air to get into the mine, it would naturally keep the mine cool, and condense the steam. When the fire first broke out, I suggested the propriety of pumping water into the 400 level and letting the water fall into the 500 foot level, where the fire occurred, which would saturate the dirt and timbers from the 400 foot level down, thus preventing the fire from spreading, or burning upwards to the 400 foot level. My next suggestion was the forcing of carbonic acid gas into the mine, which would exclude all air from the fire, and extinguish the entire burning.

These suggestions were made, believing it to be to the best interest of all parties concerned; and although they may not meet with the approbation of the superintendent or any of the agents connected with the concern, time will prove that the injection of steam will prove valueless and useless, and if no other method is adopted, the fire will never cease to burn until the last piece of timber is burned in the mine.

The entombed miners, Page, Kellerer, Dolan, Sullivan and Murphy, will probably be a long time in the mine before they can be taken out, and it is doubtful if all of their remains will ever be taken out. The bodies will never be recognized, especially the two who fell down the shaft a distance of 600 or 700 feet, and should they ever be taken out it will be hard to identify them, even by their apparel, and when they are presented to their friends for interment the question will be, who are they? This is about the greatest catastrophe that ever occurred in a Montana mine, and one long to be remembered by every resident of Butte, where nearly every household presented the appearance of mourning. Pat Lyons, the man rescued from the mine alive, was so seriously injured that after remaining the long period of two weeks between life and death was compelled to render up all that was mortal to join the immortal.

November 26, 1889

# FIRE IN A COPPER MINE.

**A Number of Miners Imprisoned—Heroic but Fatal Attempt at Rescue.**

BUTTE, Mont., Nov. 25.—Fire is raging in the Anaconda copper mine. It broke out Saturday morning in the cross-cut of the St. Lawrence mine. The draft sucked the sparks and embers into the Anaconda, and a perilous blaze soon developed in the 800-foot level of the latter. A number of men were at work and it is believed that nearly all have perished. Besides these, four men lost their lives in trying to effect a rescue.

Those known to be dead are: Harry Page, who fell in making the ascent; Patrick Murray, who was at 800-foot station, but could not be rescued; Tim Keeler, who fell during the ascent; Jerry Sullivan, who was one of the rescuing party and became overpowered while rescuing others at 800-foot station and could not reach the cage when the signal was given. Besides those named Jack Lyons will die, and a dozen others are under the doctors' care. It is practically certain that as many as nine were killed.

The shaft of the Anaconda is bulkheaded and no smoke or gas issues from it. All the levels of the St. Lawrence are bulkheaded so that no draught of air can get in. As the fire has no air to fan it, it is believed that the carbonic acid gas which will necessarily be generated in the confined space will eventually put it out.

## The Perry Chief.

PERRY, IOWA.

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### Montana Copper Mines on Fire.

Fire caught in the cross-cut on the 500-foot level of the St. Lawrence, Mont., copper mine, and the miners who tried to drown out the flames were driven away by the heat and smoke. As the fire occurred between the change of shifts only a few men were down. There was a quantity of powder in the lower levels and to save the mine from disaster by an explosion several men volunteered to remove it. While engaged in doing this, four men named Keler, Lyons, Murphy and Page were overcome by gas and smoke and perished. Other men went down to save them, but had to leave them, having a narrow escape themselves. The fire communicated to the Anaconda mine from the St. Lawrence, and the former is burning. It is timbered all the way from the 500-foot level up, and the result of the burning of these timbers will be a cave-in of the most disastrous proportions. The latest report is that there are nine men unaccounted for. The Anaconda mines constitute the greatest system of copper mines in the world, and the capital is estimated at \$20,000,000.