

## BLACK HAWK FIRE CAUSES ONE DEATH

Salt Lake, Feb. 6.—Additional light shed upon the fire in the property of the Black Hawk Coal company at Black Hawk, in Carbon county, which broke out early last Sunday morning, indicates that one man, at least, perished in the mine. Officials of the company, who have made a complete investigation of the fire, aided by experts, also have reached the conclusion that the fire was of incendiary origin. As the result of this conclusion, every effort will be made to apprehend the guilty person, or persons. Whether or not the man who is supposed to have perished in the mine was connected with the firing of the mine, if it was set on fire purposely, is a matter of conjecture.

The belief that the fire was of incendiary origin is strengthened by many facts. There had been no work done in the mine since Saturday evening and, in addition, the mine had been thoroughly wet down. In fact, it is said that in no mine in Utah have greater precautions been taken to prevent accidents by fire or otherwise. At the same time, the officials are at a complete loss for an explanation as to why any person or persons should wish to perpetrate such an act.

It was announced yesterday that if the fire has practically burned itself out, as is believed, the damage to the company will be slight.

The Black Hawk mine, one of the best properties of the United States Smelting, Refining & Mining company, is situated about 1000 feet above the town of Black Hawk and is reached by a 5700-foot tramway. The fire was noticed at 4 o'clock last Sunday morning by the night boss. Preceding the observance of the fire a man was seen coming along the drift from the direction of the point where the fire started. When he ascertained that he had been seen, he turned back and entered the mine. He did not come out, so far as known, and is believed to have perished.

The fire was first seen at a point 750 feet in the drift. There is a door at this point to cut off the air, and as soon as the blaze was located the door and drift were closed as securely as possible, in order to cut off the draft. Later there was a slight explosion, caused, presumably, by oxygen gas, but little damage was done. Following the explosion, the mine was more securely closed than before, and advices received yesterday afternoon were to the effect that the temperature was rapidly going down. In view of this fact, it is believed that the fire is practically out, and the officials expect to reopen the mine and resume work within a week.

For some time past 250 men have been employed in the Black Hawk property, and the daily output has been approximately 1200 tons.

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