

Fate Of Five Men In Flooded Mine Uncertain

Water Enters Timber Shaft Following Heavy Rain Tuesday and Lives of 250 Men Are Endangered---Fifteen Imprisoned In Underground Works, Ten Rescued and Mine Officials Direct Frantic Search for Five Remaining.

At the hour of The Enterprise going to press, 2:30 Thursday afternoon, five miners are still imprisoned in the Spruce mine at Eveleth which was flooded by Tuesday morning's rainstorm, endangering the lives of 250 miners and for a time cutting off from avenues of exit 15 men working on the upper levels, who in order to reach the surface were compelled to go to the lower levels. Ten of the men were rescued late Tuesday night and forces of men have been frantically working since 10:30 o'clock Tuesday morning to reach them and the five men who are still imprisoned. Mine officials are hopeful that the five men not yet accounted for will be rescued alive, but many experienced miners believe they have been drowned and that their bodies may not be recovered for days. The names of the five cannot be learned from the mine office. It is said that three are Italians and two are Austrians. The men are known only by their numbers, and in the confusion and excitement following the flooding of the mine little effort has apparently been made to identify them.

Special police patrol the grounds about the shaft, where according to reports received here a considerable crowd of people has gathered and all sorts of wild stories are afloat. The mine officials are exhausting every effort to reach the imprisoned men and it is expected to penetrate with a diamond drill to the point where it is hoped to find them alive at a late hour this afternoon, Thursday. The missing men were working in one of the upper levels, and it is hoped they made their way to a dry and will there be rescued. The flood has obstructed the rescue work considerably by leaving the drifts filled with debris.

During Wednesday night and in the rescue of the ten men brought out dynamite was used in clearing it away. The diamond drill being

used yesterday morning was put in service with the hope that the portion of the mine in which the men are employed might be penetrated and fresh air conveyed to the missing men if they are there imprisoned. Superintendent Mitchell of the Oliver with the rescue corps and all the officials are on the ground and are leaving nothing undone that will facilitate the work of rescue.

Mine Flooded Suddenly

The flooding of the mine was the direct result of Tuesday morning's heavy rain storm when the precipitation is said to have been if anything heavier at Eveleth than it was in Virginia. A small creek running near the mine soon overflowed its banks and water began rushing in through the timber shaft. Before the shift bosses Andrew Anderson and Joseph Cook fairly realized what was happening the lower level was flooded. To the presence of mind of these two men is undoubtedly due the fact that all the men on the lower levels were not drowned like rats in a trap. The men were hurriedly marshaled and following the lead of Cook safely escaped through the main shaft. Ten of the 15 men left in the mine were working in another drift and it was impossible to warn them of the danger. The ten men rescued reported that they were working but a short distance from the five men left in the mine and were cut off from the drift by the water. The five remaining behind, however, were working on a somewhat higher level and the hope for their safety is held out that the water did not reach them.

Other Mines Drowned Out

Several underground mines were drowned out in Tuesday's storm at various points on the range and while there was considerably property damage no loss of life has yet been reported.

Five Men Rescued From Flooded Mine

EVELETH, Minn., July 18.—The five men who were entombed in Spruce Mine No. 1 Wednesday as a result of a cloudburst were rescued last night.

After the rescuers had been apprised definitely of the location of the imprisoned men and of the fact that they were alive, by the tapping of the miners on a pipe which had been drilled down to the level where they had taken refuge, a passage soon was opened to them, and they were brought to the surface. While they had suffered greatly from bad air and hunger, it is believed that all will recover.

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