

SIX DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER; LOST IN A MINE

Joseph Fhinol, the Lost Miner,
Found by a Searching Party
This Morning.

STORY OF HIS WANDERINGS

Had Given Up All Hopes of Ever Being Found—Thought He Saw Lights of Searching Party and Then Imagined They Were Ghosts—Nearly Famished from Lack of Food—Six Days in Darkness—Had Despaired and Was Ready to Die.

Joe Fhinol, who was lost in the underground caverns of the O. S. Johnson mine, since last Saturday, was found this morning weak and exhausted after his six days' abstinence from food or drink. John Nosdrawski, a miner, and his laborer, found the missing man this morning about 6.30 o'clock as they were going into their chamber. The news of Fhinol's rescue apparently from the jaws of death, quickly spread, and as the emaciated and tattered miner, supported on either side by his rescuers, stepped from the carriage as it reached the surface, a hearty cheer arose from the throats of the half a hundred or more miners who had gathered about the surface preparatory to descending into the dark abyss below where they delve in the depth of mother earth for their daily bread.

As the lost miner stepped from the mine cage and the bright warm rays of the sunlight struck his eyes, he involuntarily turned away so as to shield them from the light which was the first he had seen since he was lowered into the mine on Saturday last. His eyes had become accustomed to the inky blackness of the mine and to be suddenly transposed into the light of day blinded him for a time and he stumbled and would have fallen but for the two sturdy miners who supported him on either side.

He was taken to the mine office and stimulants given him and Dr. W. H. McGreevy summoned. After an hour's rest he was able with a little assistance to walk to his boarding house on Madison avenue, about five hundred yards from the mine.

The doctor examined the man and pronounced him to be in good condition after his long fast, and says that no evil effects will result if his instruction as to diet and nourishment are carried out. In speaking to a Times reporter at the mine office the doctor said that Fhinol's heart and pulse were quite regular, although a little erratic. He might be able to withstand the ravages of hunger for several days yet before he would succumb. The want of water would be the worst thing to fear in such a case. The length of time a man might survive without food would depend, the doctor said, on the amount of adipose tissue on the body. As long as that was not consumed no fatal effects would result, but when the tissue or fat was all exhausted, organic trouble would commence and the person suffering from the want of food and drink would probably die. There is no rule, he said, by which one is able to tell how long a man may live without food, some men could probably live 40 or 50 days where others would die in three or four days. It would all depend on the amount of tissue or fat on the body. When this gives out and there is nothing left to keep the combustion of the body going and the person doing without food would die.

In this case there was considerable tissue on the body, and the man possessed a constitution like iron, thus accounting for his being able to walk from the mine carriage to the office and thence to his boarding house.

THE LOST MINER'S STORY.

The reporter, with the aid of an interpreter, interviewed Fhinol. He said: "I left my boarding house Saturday morning and went to the mine. I was a greenhorn and didn't know anything about the mine, having worked there only one day. When I got inside I started to walk to where I worked and lost my way. I wandered around all day trying to find my way out, but couldn't do so. How far I walked I don't know. I walked and walked, but it was no use, and I guess I must have gotten into an old working. I don't know how long I was in there. After what appeared to be ten or twelve hours, I sat down and ate my lunch, which I had in my dinner pail. Shortly afterwards my lamp went out and as I had no light I wandered around in the dark. Having been in the mine only once before I became greatly afraid and the big rats and the cracking of the coal increased my fear. I knew friends would search for me and I tried to find my way to the main road, but I couldn't. When no one found me after what appeared to me to be a lifetime I gave up hope and thought that I would never be found. I didn't have anything to eat for five days and what water I drank was sulphur water, and that made me sick. A number of times I thought I heard men calling and saw lights. I called back and ran towards the lights, but they did not hear me and then the lights would disappear. Then I thought they were ghosts and became afraid. I slept but little and was walking around all the time. Just as I was giving up all hopes I found the wire which runs the engine (motor) and knew that that would lead me out to the foot. I groped my way along the road until found this morning."

Fhinol was found about a quarter of a mile from his chamber on the main road in No. 3 vein. Since Saturday when Fhinol was lost, men and dogs have been in the mine day and night with fish horns and all kinds of noise-making devices. On Monday 200 men were searching for the missing man. The Johnson is an old mine and is considerably worked out. The old workings are many and extend in all directions. It is a very easy matter to get lost there; in fact the searching parties had to make chalk marks on the props as they proceeded so as to find their way out. An idea of how easy it would be for anyone to get lost may be gained from a similar incident that befell the mine surveyor a few months ago. He was lost in the mine for several hours

and only found his way out by the aid of a compass.

Fhinol, who is 17 years of age, left his boarding house on Saturday last and went to work. That was the last seen of him until this morning. When after two days' search the missing man was not found his countrymen began to suspect foul play and the theory was meeting with quite general credence.

The mine officials were of the opinion that the man was not in the mine, but his countrymen insisted that he was and refused to work on Monday or Tuesday, so they could search for him. In their efforts to find trace of the man the mine officials used every effort to help the searchers and the finding of him this morning relieved a great load of worry from their minds.

Fhinol's brother, Adam, who resides in Wilkes-Barre, came to Dunmore Monday and offered a reward of \$50 for the finding of his brother. He returned to his home last night quite firm in the belief that his brother would never be found. He was immediately telegraphed for this morning when the missing miner was found.