

## THIRTY-FIVE LOST IN A MINE.

KEMMERER, Wyoming, Feb. 26.—Thirty-five men have undoubtedly perished in the fire which was discovered last evening in No. 6 Level of the Diamondville Coal Mine No. 1. Only one man in this level, John Anderson, was able to reach the main shaft and make his escape, so quickly did the fire spread through the level.

Fire was discovered in the sixth level of the mine late last evening. No one knows how it started. The night shift of thirty-six men, all foreigners except two, had been at work several hours, and for a time were unaware of their danger. They were scattered along the workings, some distance back from the main lead. John Anderson was the nearest man to the opening of the level into the shaft. He gave an alarm, which was passed down the tunnel, and then, placing a heavy overcoat over his head, began a desperate battle with the smoke, fire, and deadly fumes of gas, to reach the main lead, where escape might be possible.

By this time the outside men of the colliery had learned of the fire and several went down in the hope of rescuing the imprisoned miners. At the opening of the level where the flames were at work they found Anderson completely exhausted. He was carried to the open air and soon revived, although he was severely burned about the body. Anderson explained the situation in which his companions were placed, and every effort was made to reach the imprisoned men.

The level was "plugged" at its opening in order to check the draught throughout the workings and thus kill the fire. Bands of men went down the shaft repeatedly and tried to face the flames, which were eating their way through the level, but were invariably compelled to retreat.

There was no let-up in the efforts to get into the level, however, and this despite the almost absolute certainty that none of the imprisoned men can now be alive.

Nearly all the mines at Diamondville are owned by the Oregon Short Line Railroad. The output of Mine No. 1 is about 175,000 tons of coal per year. More than 700 miners are employed.

Although Anderson sounded an alarm to his fellow-workmen, he was not the first to discover the fire, a boy driver, James Hetson, being the first to realize that the mine was burning. He was on another level. He bravely ran and told many men who were inside. Richard Fern, fifteen years old, also ran through levels 7 and 8 and notified the men, and many were saved through his courageous action.

It was just fourteen months ago to-day since a fire occurred in this same mine. It was desperately fought and overcome by brave men, headed by Superintendent Thomas Sneddon. That fire was far greater than this, but this one has cost a great many more lives.

The scenes at the mouth of the mine during the night and to-day were heartrending. Relatives and friends of the entombed miners rushed to the mine, frantically waving their hands and crying to the mine officials and miners to save their dear ones. Many of the women and children were slightly injured in the crowd and by falling over obstacles in the darkness.

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