

MOST HORRIBLE DISASTER.

A "Dust Explosion" Instantly Kills Twenty-four Coal Miners in the Mine at King.

At 11:35 o'clock on Tuesday morning a frightful explosion occurred in the 6th level of the King coal mine, and in the twinkling of an eye every man but one employed in that entry lay a blackened and disfigured corpse. There were 25 men in the entry at the time and 24 were killed. By some miraculous chance Jim Carmosini escaped alive. He was working at the end of the level farthest from the exploded shot and nearest to the slope, and was seated upon a low box and bending over so that his face was protected. Although partially stunned by the terrific concussion and badly burned, he managed to get out to the slope, stumbling over the bodies of one or two less fortunate whom he passed on the way. It is believed that he may recover.

The explosion was in that part of the mine known as the south side of the 6th level, nearly 1,000 feet from the surface. Here Charley Antonelli had fired a shot that did the mischief. The air of this entry is reputed only fair at the best and was full of dust particles ready to be ignited, and the shot mentioned blew out into the entry instead of expending its force in breaking down the coal. It was an error of judgment on Antonelli's part which sacrificed his own life and 23 of

his companions.

The shock of the explosion was distinctly heard throughout the mine, where nearly 100 men were at work, and the alarmed miners quickly made their way to the surface. The shrill cry of the alarm whistle had already summoned the village people, and the wives, mothers, fathers and children stood about the air course below Marinella's and at the slope with agonized faces, anxious yet fearful to learn the truth. It was at first hoped that all might be brought out alive, but, alas! the fatal day had come to King. The scene at the surface was one that defies description, as the men who were safe appeared at the pit mouth, to pacify their loved ones and relieved to that extent the terrible anxiety.

The location of the accident was soon determined, and volunteers prepared to go at once to the rescue of their comrades, but it was 1:30 in the afternoon before the level could be entered on account of the bad air. A Mr. Ramer is given the credit of saving the life of Carmosini, the one miner who survives. John D. Churchill proved himself a hero on this occasion, never resting until the last body had been taken from the mine. Mrs. Wm. Griffin and Mrs. E. Griffin, threw open their house for the day and night; providing the rescuing parties with food and encouragement between their trips. The first body brought to the surface was that of Andrew Anderson, who had no relatives here, but many warm friends. The next was the remains of Charles K. DeRock, a single man. As fast as the bodies came up they were laid out side by side in the carpenter shop, where Chas. H. Merchant made a record list. Some were so burned and disfigured that identification was extremely difficult. It thus happened that Angelo Juliana was listed for one of the Antonelli brothers, and a long and fruitless search was made before the error could be corrected. The work of rescue was carried on nearly all night, and by yesterday morning twenty-four bodies were ranged in the shop, and the full extent of the horror was known.

As nearly as can be determined there were fifteen Italians, six Austrians, one Swede and two Americans among the dead. Many of them were married men, although their families are mostly in the old country. Only three of the dead had families at King: Robert Blythe leaves a wife, Stephen Condi leaves a wife and four children and Chas. Antonelli leaves a wife and two children.

The following is a carefully compiled list of the dead, prepared with the assistance of Dr. Mayne, C. H. Merchant and H. S. Wallace, and certainly very nearly accurate:

- Andrew Anderson, bradice man.
- Robert Blythe, fire boss.
- Angelo Dominico, coal digger.
- Charles K. DeRock, timber man.
- Peter Ross, timber man.
- John Toll, tracklayer.
- Frauk Pomerrolli, bradice man.
- Louie Maleringo, entry man.
- Charles Antonelli, coal digger.
- Peter Nordina, coal digger.
- Celeste Corozola, coal digger.
- Angelo Marino, coal digger.
- Joseph Donua, coal digger.
- Michael Richi, coal digger.
- Donatto de French, entry man.
- Stephen Conti, coal digger.
- Antone Pretti, coal digger.
- Antonio Antonelli, coal digger.
- Thomas K. Ross, coal digger.
- Michael Antenelli, coal digger.
- Angelo Juliani, coal digger.
- Joseph Schrioda, coal digger.
- Antonio Jackilina, coal digger.
- Joseph Diajackamo, entryman, known as Joseph James.



E. L. Thayer Saloon Token

