

ROSLYN, WASHINGTON MAY 13, 1892

*If you don't read the news
You don't get the news
If you want the news
Subscribe for the news*

Calamity

A terrible accident takes place. 45 Miners pass beyond life and death without a moment's warning.

The terrific explosion of gas in the slope here, on Tuesday, at 12:45 noon, was the worst accident with the exception of the Nanaimo horror, that ever occurred on the Pacific Coast. The slope has generally been considered dangerous by the miners here, that is, compared with other parts of the mine.

The explosion which occurred about six weeks ago in which a colored man by the name of Gregory was killed and several others badly burned, was a stern warning, that all possible precaution must be taken to avoid future clamation.

No correct or satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at as to the cause of the explosion. The supposition of some of the miners is that a drill hole filled with gas and water was struck, others think that the gas was ignited by a naked lamp in one of the entrances near the mouth, others are inclined to think that it was either fired by a blast or it may have been accidentally ignited by some miner. Probably the exact cause will never be known. Judge Gamble of Cle Elum was deputed to officiate in the absence of County Coroner Lyon. The jury sworn in were: H.B. Clark, W.A. Mohr, Lou Billings, J.C. Jackson, H.P. Fogh and a colored man by the name of Obie.

As soon as possible after the explosion, rescuing squads of twelve men were sent in to see if there was not some possible chance to rescue some of the men below.

So long as there was a shadow of a chance for anyone on the inside being alive, the men worked like tigers. But as soon as they saw that no one could possibly be living, they took no more chances but advanced only as fast as air could be forced down.

The first body recovered was that of Harry Campbell, second John Bone, they were recovered at 5:30 p.m. Between that time and 11:00 p.m. the bodies of David Reese, Benjamin Ostliff, Thomas Reese, William Hague, Thomas Brannen, Pres. Loving, Leslie Pollard, Thomas Holmes, George Moses, J.D. Lewis, John Mattoes, and Robert Spotts were recovered.

Joseph Cusworth Sr., English, leaves a wife and six children. He was an industrious hard working man and came to the camp from Colorado. His son Joseph, a young man about 21 years of age, steady and sober, also was killed.

The gas became so thick that they could advance no further and no more were taken out until after midnight Wednesday. Thursday at noon the bodies of Sidney Wright, Herman Diaster, Jack Hodgson, Frank Anney, Wm. Robertson, Geo. Brooks, and Joseph Browitt had been brought out. Between Thursday noon and 9:00 p.m. the bodies of Dan McClellan, John Foster, Michael Hale, Mitchel Ronald, John Lafferty, Winford Steele, Robert Graham, Jas. Hewitson, Jacob Weatherly, Jas. Morgan, P.H. Davis, Dom. Bianco, Wm. Penall, Joseph Cusworth Sr. and Joseph Cusworth Jr. were brought up.

Between 9 p.m. Thursday and 3 a.m. Friday the remaining nine bodies were taken out. They were Geo. Forsythe, Andrew Erlandson, Joseph Bennett, Richard Forsythe, Chas. Palmer, Scott Giles, Tovia Cooper, G.W. Williams and Elisha Jackson.

The City Hall was turned into a temporary Morgue.

A public mass meeting was held by the citizens on Wednesday at 7:30. It was well attended and a committee consisting of Frank A. Abernethy, J.M. Hoagland, and August Lindstrum was elected to take charge of the relief funds that have arrived. A relief committee was appointed to see that the funds are rightly apportioned among the widows and orphans of the deceased miners. On this are Jas. Lane, Wm. Rees, and Robt. Lumsden. A committee of five was chosen to look after the burial of the dead. They are Archibald Patrick, Evan Matthews, Chas. S. Bilger, H.P. Fogh, and Morgan Hughes.

Telegrams offering aid were received from the Mayors of Seattle, Tacoma, New Whatcom, North Yakima, Ellensburg, Spokane, Portland, Walla Walla, Puyallup and many sent helpers to assist in any way.

Winford Steele, the same who has been injured in the mines on four or five different occasions, leaves a wife and seven small children. Mrs. Steele is prostrated as she was also deprived of her brother Michael Hale.

Benjamin Ostliff was an Englishman and an old resident here. His life is insured in the United Order of Workmen for \$2000. He leaves six children.

Mitchell Ronald, a resident of Mine 3, was a brother of Supt. Alex Ronald. He leaves a wife and four small children. Jack Bone, a young man and an Odd Fellow, resided at Ronald. The body was sent to his home in Pennsylvania under auspices of I.O.O.F. Rev. G.W. Williams (colored) a hard working and true man, leaves a wife and two children. Sidney Wright was a brother of Jas. and Thos. Wright, a pioneer here, well known and popular, he leaves a wife and four small children, one but a week old.