

THE AVONDALE MINE.

The Breaker Rebuilt—Work to be Resumed on Monday.

From the Scranton (Penn.) Republican, April 2.

On the morning of the 6th of September last the fearful news flashed over the wires that the Avondale mine breaker was on fire, and that 212 men were imprisoned therein. The history of that dreadful affair is fresh in the minds of all, and particularly in those of the bereaved relatives and friends of the 108 men and boys found dead in the mines, and of those of the two brave men who lost their lives in the vain effort to release their imprisoned companions. On Monday next, seven months after the calamity happened, the mine will again commence work. A new breaker and all necessary buildings and machinery have just been completed at an expense of about \$80,000. It is pronounced by good judges the best breaker in the Wyoming Valley. Four months ago the work was commenced of driving an opening to the much-talked-of-at-the-time Union mine. It will perhaps be remembered that it was freely said by many that an opening to the abandoned portion of said mine could have been driven in a few days, although it appeared in evidence on the inquest that the nearest point to said mine was six hundred feet. On Thursday last a hole was driven through to said Union mine, after 626 feet of boring from the Avondale side, and from thirty to forty feet on the Union side. The mine was struck at the bottom of a plane, where were several feet in depth of water, which, of course, immediately ran into Avondale. It is said that the daily accumulation of water from this source can easily be removed with two donkey pumps. This opening has cost the company about \$4,000. With this opening, probably such another calamity can never again occur. In addition to this precaution, however, the company have sunk, at an expense of over \$3,000, an air shaft ninety-six feet in depth, to the old rock tunnel, the opening being 150 feet from the mouth of the shaft. But they have introduced still another means of safety. In future the mine is to be ventilated with a fan instead of a furnace. All these repairs and improvements have been done under the eye of Mr. HENRY J. PHILLIPS, Mining Engineer of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. On Monday next, when the mine will recommence work, the management expect to raise from 125 to 150 car-loads of coal, and to increase it when in full operation a few weeks hence to 400 cars per day. From the foregoing some idea may be formed of the loss to the Company by the disaster, but there are other losses, if any one desires to look at the matter from a money point of view. There are the expenses of putting out the fire, of the search, (which caused a stoppage of work for a week at all the mines of the Company, and a consequent loss of production,) and the profit on the 60,000 tons of coal which Avondale would have produced in the seven months which have elapsed. But how infinitely trivial is this money estimate when compared with the loss of human life which the affair entailed! Who can compute the value of that?

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