

FIRE IN A COAL MINE.

Terrible Fire in the Pine Ridge Colliery —Thirty Men in the Mine—Their Mi- raculous Escape—Great Excitement in the Vicinity.

WILKESBARRIE, Aug. 28.—Late this afternoon a fire broke out in the Pine Ridge Colliery, about two and a half miles above this place. The fire caught at the entrance of the mine, and burned with fearful rapidity. There are thirty men at the bottom of the mine, who cannot possibly escape unless the flames are subdued. Fire engines are being sent from this place and Scranton to play upon the burning shaft.

The wildest excitement prevails throughout the country, from the fact of there being so many men without a possibility of escape, unless the flames are extinguished.

The fire broke out at 3:45 o'clock this afternoon. It originated from an explosion of fire-damp. Frequent explosions from this cause have occurred within the last year or so in this mine. About a year and a half ago it took fire and burned furiously for several weeks, but was finally extinguished by being smothered out.

This remedy cannot be applied now, however, as it would be certain death to the men inside. At one time this evening the air-shaft and the breaker were on fire, but a heavy thunder storm providentially came up as the fire caught and extinguished it. The fire is now confined to the coal in the main entrance to the mine. The Superintendent expresses the opinion that they will be able to overcome the fire, but another explosion is feared.

The excitement increases and all efforts within human power are being made to save the lives of those who are hundreds of feet below awaiting their terrible doom.

The superintendent of the burning mine has just reached here, (11 o'clock at night,) and reports that all the men have just been rescued alive. Their joy at deliverance surpasses description. The mine is still burning in the vein, but will be smothered out in a few days; though it is feared that by the closing of the mouth of the mine the fire-damp will accumulate and explode by coming in contact with burning coal.

The explosion would be terrible.

The New York Times

Published: August 29, 1869

Copyright © The New York Times