

# NINE MEN DEAD

## Latest Reports of the Frightful Accident.

### HOLDING THE INQUEST

Statements of Witnesses Before Acting Coroner Muldoon.

### NAMES OF THE UNFORTUNATE

Bodies Mangled Beyond Recognition—The Shaft and Cage Were in Good Condition—Theories Advanced.

BUTTE, Nov. 4.—Nine men dead. This is the awful toll of last night's horrible accident in the Anaconda mine. Many a home was wrapped in gloom this morning when husbands, fathers, sons or brothers failed to come off shift at the usual time. It was perhaps one fortunate thing that most of the men killed were unmarried, and the families small, which is different from the situation of those killed at the burning of the mine two years ago. Yet while the suffering may not be quite so acute as though all the dead left wives and children, there were nevertheless relatives and friends to mourn the loss of every man.

Few of the survivors can remember much about that fearful ride on the cage. It was just midnight and the miners employed at the 900-foot level stopped work for lunch. Eighteen of them, perhaps a greater number, got in the cage to ride to the surface for their luncheon, a ride that to many of them was to be a ride to death. As nearly as the survivors can remember, 18 men were on the cage when it started on the upper deck and nine on the lower deck.

"I was on the upper deck," said Jerry Harrington, in telling of the fearful ride to a STANDARD reporter this afternoon. "I don't remember just how far up we had got, but I think it was between the 300 and 400-foot level when I felt a terrible jar. I don't know what it was. I was at the side of the cage with young Jimmie O'Donnell in front of me and a big, tall man, who I supposed was Louis Larsen behind me. I remember young O'Donnell throwing his hand around in my face and he disappeared. The man behind me, who I thought at the time was Larsen, also disappeared. I was thrown down myself. My left leg fell over the side of the cage and between the wall plates. I was holding on with my right hand. I grabbed the bar with my left hand also. I could feel myself being gradually drawn over into the shaft. For an instant I saw death right in front of me. By a superhuman effort I willed myself out of the shaft and safely into the cage. The boat was torn from my leg and hung to my foot by the toes only when I reached the surface."

Harrington told the story as he lay in a cot at the Sisters' hospital this afternoon. It had been thought that his leg was broken, but it is found that the leg is only bruised and sore and skinned, and his recovery will only be a matter of a few days. Another reason that is given why a timber could not have caused the accident is that a timber would undoubtedly have cleaned every man off the upper deck.

### NAMES OF THE DEAD.

The Unfortunate Victims of the Awful Disaster.

The theory that a timber struck the cage and caused the accident is not credited by those who are acquainted with the mine. There is no timbering in the shaft that could cause such an accident. The wall plates are smooth. It is thought as the most reasonable theory that young O'Donnell lost his presence of mind and staggered over the side of the cage. He was crushed down into the lower deck. This caused the cage to sway and the men to lose their balance, and while they were struggling for life, knocked each other off. The theory that a loose timber could have caused the accident is disproven by the fact that the cage stands unbroken and with scarcely a jam of any description in it.

The names of the dead are as follows:

- PATRICK MULLIGAN,
- JAMES O'DONNELL,
- JAMES G. SULLIVAN,
- JOHN RITCHIE,
- CHARLES M. EVANS,
- MICHAEL McAVOY,
- WILLIAM MARTIN,
- JAMES ROACH,
- DENNIS SHAUGHNESSY.

JOHN RITCHIE, the man who was found between Mike O'Donnell's feet on the lower deck, was carried into the drying room at about 4 o'clock this morning. He and Jerry Harrington were removed to the Sisters' hospital. Ritchie had been in his room but a few minutes when he died. His body was not mangled so far as external evidences went, but apparently the body had been crushed and internal injuries caused his death. Ritchie was unmarried. He boarded at No. East Woolman street. He came to Butte about a week ago from Utah. He had worked at the Anaconda only a shift and a half when he was killed. He was 23 or 24 years old and unmarried. He has a step-father, mother, two brothers and a sister living at Plattsburg or Saranac in New York state. Telegrams were sent them to-day, but no answers had been received this afternoon. An examination of Ritchie's body showed a hole through one foot and a terrible black bruise on the chest over the heart.

JAMES G. SULLIVAN, another of the killed, lived in a two-room house in Dublin gulch, where his widow to-day was crying for the husband who had worked in his room but a few minutes when he died. His body was not mangled so far as external evidences went, but apparently the body had been crushed and internal injuries caused his death. Sullivan was unmarried, but had no children. He has lived in Butte about two years, removing to this place from Ironwood, Mich., where he has a brother living. Sullivan was born in Ireland. He worked in the Anaconda since it reopened. Previous to that he had worked in the Green Mountain.

JAMES ROACH, another of the dead, lived in Walkerville at the extremity of West Daly street. He leaves a wife and one child. He was about 35 years old and has lived for years in Walkerville, being employed in the Anaconda since the mine reopened a few days ago.

MICHAEL McAVOY, another man whose crushed remains are at Sherman's undertaking rooms, was about 40 years old, unmarried, and roomed at the Cotter house. He worked in Butte about four years ago, but went away and recently returned at the opening of the Anaconda company's mines. He has sisters and nieces living in this city and a brother in Boulder.

PATRICK MULLIGAN, another of the killed, is an out-timer in Butte. He is not married and boards at Mulligan's boarding house in Centerville. Recently he

worked in the Cosur d'Alones and then in Granite, returning to Butte when it was announced that the mines would open.

WILLIAM MARTIN, one of the men killed in the accident, was 31 years old. He boarded at Joe Calloway's hotel in Centerville and leaves a wife and two children. Last night was the first shift he had worked.

CHARLES EVANS was the other man killed. He was about 30 years old, unmarried, and lived at No. 403 East Galeus street.

### MOMENTS OF HORROR.

Mike O'Donnell the Only Survivor on the Lower Deck of the Cage.

Equally as terrible an experience as Harrington's was that of Mike O'Donnell, brother of Jimmy O'Donnell, the first man to fall off. The brothers worked side by side in the same level, Jimmy a lad of 21, and his brother about 28 years of age. Mike got on the lower deck. He remembers the jar. He remembers men falling right and left of him off the cage and down into the shaft. It was the most terrible experience of his life. He was the only one who remained on the cage. He held on like grim death. Gazing about him the awful fact dawned upon him that he stood alone on the lower deck. Where eight comrades had stood beside him now all seemed to have been swept away, and only a groan or two informed him that there was even a mangled form on the deck to keep him company on the remainder of the ride to the surface. O'Donnell did not know whether he was alive or dead when he reached the surface. Between his feet lay the form of James Ritchie, not quite dead, while another mangled form had also been carried up.

O'Donnell was dazed for a long time. He inquired for his brother. He wasn't quite sure whether his brother was on the same cage or not. The men on the various levels were all brought to the surface in order that it might be learned whether he was missing. Mike O'Donnell scanned each face that stepped from the cage at each ascent, endeavoring to find his brother among the living. The cage arose with the last load. "That is all the men, sir," was the report given.

O'Donnell walked away, convinced that his brother was dead.

James O'Donnell lives at No. 329 East Broadway. His mother was distracted on learning of the calamity early this morning, 18 men had way to the Anaconda mine, screaming as she went. O'Donnell's body, when recovered, was found to be terribly crushed. His arms and legs were mangled and his face crushed beyond recognition.

### TERRIBLY MUTILATED.

Bodies Torn Into Pieces—Limbs Missing—An Awful Spectacle.

Early this morning, the bodies were taken from the mine and removed to Sherman's undertaking rooms. The bodies with the exception of that of Ritchie, who died in the hospital, were crushed beyond recognition. There is not a single skull that is not crushed, and several arms and legs are torn off. One body has an arm torn out, leg jerked away at the knee and the head torn off. The undertakers at Sherman's have been busy all day, getting the bodies together as well as possible, but in some cases only a horrible pile of crushed bones and mangled flesh could be collected. About the undertaking rooms, have been gathered all day crowds of the friends of the dead men and curious sight-seers. All have been refused admittance. But at 10 o'clock to-night the doors were opened and the public allowed to view the remains. The bodies will be on exhibition all of tomorrow. The funeral of Martin will take place to-morrow, and perhaps one or two other funerals at the same time. Most of the funerals will probably be delayed until after to-morrow. All the bodies are at Sherman's except that of Sullivan, which was removed this evening to the late home in Dublin gulch. All work has been suspended in the mines of the Anaconda company. The flag over the Anaconda hoist is at half mast. A force of men has been pumping the water from the sump and searching for pieces of the mangled bodies. A thigh, torn from the side half way to the knee, was found. From the wall plates of the shaft was scraped a horrid of flesh, skull, brains and bones. These were taken to the undertaking rooms. All the funerals of the dead men will be defrayed by the Anaconda company.

One of the bodies taken from the sump was so terribly mangled that recognition was a difficult matter. At first Louis Larson was supposed to be the dead man, but Larson turned up this afternoon and claimed that he was not dead. Then the body was identified to be that of John Nostrum, but friends of Nostrum this evening claim that he is still alive. Late this evening the body was identified as that of Dennis Shaughnessy, by J. J. Harrington, who runs a boarding house at No. 411 Anaconda hill. Shaughnessy boarded at his house. Harrington says that Shaughnessy came to Butte a few weeks ago last Sunday from British Columbia, and secured employment at the Anaconda. He has not shown up since the accident, and Harrington after viewing the remains at Sherman's morgue, positively identified the body as that of Shaughnessy. The latter was unmarried and about 28 or 29 years old. He was born in County Cork. He has a brother in British Columbia.

### THE ENGINEER'S STORY.

He Thought Something Was Wrong, But Received No Signal.

Much credit is due the engineer, James McNichols, for the coolness he displayed at the critical moment.

"A few minutes before midnight," he said, "I gave the station tender the signal to send the men up to supper. He got some men at the 1,000-foot level and then some more at the 900. He gave the signal to hoist which was obeyed. When the cage got between the 300 and 400-foot levels I noticed that the cable turned upside-down, and said to the brakeman that the cage must have caught in the shaft. I stopped the engine and I waited for a signal. None came. I waited a moment, then hoisted the cage a few feet and stopped again. I noticed the bell rope wiggle, and taking this for an attempt at a signal, I hoisted the cage to the surface."

The men who were employed in the mine and who stood in knots about the streets all day say that the cage was not struck by any timber, for the shaft is perfectly smooth. They have only one way of accounting for the disaster, which is that young O'Donnell lost his self-possession, fell off the upper deck and down into the lower deck. The men on the lower deck crowded closely together, as they were unable to maintain their balance and fell off one after the other. Some think that too many men crowded onto the cage. The rules are that only nine shall get on each deck. At such a time, however, the men all seem anxious to be the first to the surface and crowd into the first cage regardless of safety. Some think that 20 men were on the cage. John and William Lyon, D. Sullivan, H. Hurley, John McGraw, T. Sullivan, W. Shaughnessy, M. O'Donnell and Charles Lane are known to have been on the cage besides those killed and injured, which would make 19 all together. Mining Inspector Hogan

gives it as his opinion that one man must have fallen off first and was caught between the south wall plate and the lower cage. This, he thinks, caused the cage to dip to such an angle as to throw the men out. Mr. Hogan made an inspection of the mine this morning and says he found a guide at the bottom of the shaft. He thinks the breaking of the guide was due to the jolt.

Marcellus Daly, upon hearing the sad news, immediately started for the mine and upon his arrival personally directed the movements of the men. Mr. Daly was greatly grieved over the distressing accident, expressing the deepest sympathy for the men and their bereaved families. The men will not be buried by the Miners' union. The funerals will be held separately, times to be agreed upon by the families and friends of the deceased.

### CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.

What Was Told By Witnesses Who Were in the Cage.

The inquest over the remains of the men who met such a horrible death in the shaft of the Anaconda mine last night was begun before Judge Muldoon this afternoon.

Dr. Holyoke was the first witness. He stated that he was called about 12 o'clock last night to go up to the Anaconda mine and examine several men reported to have been injured there. In consultation with Drs. Monroe and Johnston, I examined Ritchie and found him to be suffering from a profound shock, due to some internal injury which afterwards proved to be a rupture of the spleen and other internal injuries.

Dr. Johnston was sworn and in substance corroborated the foregoing testimony. He added, however, that when he first saw Ritchie he did not think it advisable to have him removed from where he had been placed in the drying room. On his second visit to the mine at half past three, he decided to have the injured man taken to the hospital. But before the hospital was reached Ritchie died. Looked at two or three of the bodies as they were brought to the surface and determined that their death was caused by falling a long distance. Their skulls were crushed, their bones broken and their bodies horribly mangled.

John O'Neil; I am a shift boss in the Anaconda and have charge of the 900-foot level. As near as I can ascertain the accident is due to a man falling from the top cage. When he fell it must have jarred the others off who were standing on the bottom deck. I examined the shaft afterwards and found about four feet of the guide broken at a spot where the jarring probably occurred. The men falling off no doubt caused this break in the guide. I went up to the surface at 10 minutes before 12 and everything was all right then.

John McArthur: I was working on the 300-foot level at the time of the accident. Heard a noise in the shaft room soon after the cage had passed the 300-foot station on its journey to the surface. Knew there was something wrong, but could not learn what it was until I arrived on top.

W. Lyons: I was working at the 1,000-foot level last night. About 12 o'clock I got aboard the cage in company with a number of other men to go to the surface for supper. On the way up, the cage stopped at the 900-foot level, where some eight or nine men got on board. The accident occurred somewhere between the 300 and 400-foot levels. I was standing on the top cage, when I felt a violent shaking and jarring. After that I cannot account for anything. I saw a man dropping out of the top deck and grabbed his shirt in order to hold him in. He did not speak and I do not know who he was. I was standing in the center of the cage, and the man fell straight to the wall plate. And that is the last I saw of him.

P. Hurley: I am a miner and work in the Anaconda mine. I was on the 900-foot level and about 12 o'clock we came out to the station to get up on top for supper. We waited a minute or two when the cage came up from the 1,000. The top deck was partly loaded with men, and their number was increased by a few more, perhaps five or six getting on from the 900 level. The men on the top deck were struck with a timber or any other obstruction in the shaft. After a careful examination no marks were discovered upon it, which, had it come in contact with any protruding timber, the cage would have been more or less damaged. It seemed to be the impression among the jury that the accident was due to one of the men on the cage leaning too far out, and after being struck by the timbers dragged the other men to their death some 700 feet below.

The court adjourned until 7 o'clock and in the meantime the jury inspected the cage and shaft at the mine.

Immediately on adjoining carriages were taken and the jury, accompanied by Judge Muldoon, repaired to the Anaconda mine. The cage was inspected with a view to determining whether it had been struck with a timber or any other obstruction in the shaft. After a careful examination no marks were discovered upon it, which, had it come in contact with any protruding timber, the cage would have been more or less damaged. It seemed to be the impression among the jury that the accident was due to one of the men on the cage leaning too far out, and after being struck by the timbers dragged the other men to their death some 700 feet below.

### EVENING SESSION.

Testimony of Miners Who Were on the Cage—The Guides in Good Condition.

The first witness called at the convening of the jury at 7 o'clock was Mike O'Donnell. He stated that he was working on the 900-foot level of the Anaconda mine when the cage came up from the 1,000-foot level. "There were three men got on the top deck," said O'Donnell, "I couldn't say how many got on the bottom deck. When the jarring occurred I couldn't see anything and didn't know what was the matter and didn't find out until we reached the surface. When the cage was ascending the shaft I was standing next to Mr. Coyle and my brother was close by him."

James Coyle was the next witness. He said: "I got on the top deck when the cage came up to the 900-foot level. I don't know where we were in the shaft when the jarring took place. Something hit me on the side of the face which felt like a hand. I didn't think there was anything wrong until we reached the surface and when I heard groans coming from the second deck and a man saying, 'Oh I am killed.'"

and rang three slow bells for the car to ascend. I afterwards went down to the 1,000 where I saw pieces of flesh and hats of the men that were killed. I cannot say how many men got on at the 900-foot level."

Frank Fangan, carpenter at the mine, stated that he started in about the 12th of last month to make any repairs necessary in the shaft. "We started in," he said, "at the surface and took out all the old lag poles, and new chairs were put in from the surface down to the bottom. All the old or defective guides were replaced by new ones. The shaft was in good condition through its entire length."

James McNichols said: "I am the engineer at the Anaconda mine and was on duty when the accident occurred. I went on shift at 10:30 and everything went along all right until I gave the signal about two minutes of 12 to send the shaft up to supper. After the cage left the 900-foot level and was between the 300 and 400 levels I noticed a slight vibration of the cable and stopped the engine as soon as I could and remarked to the brakeman, 'I believe there is something wrong.' After waiting half a minute or so I noticed a slight wriggling of the bell wire. I again remarked to the brakeman, 'I guess it is all right, I will move the cage up.' I started the engine and moved the cage up a few feet further, when I stopped again. The cage was then hoisted slowly to the surface when a man told me that all the men on the bottom deck were lost but four. We then made preparations to ascertain the nature of the injuries of the men who had fallen off."

The inquest at this point adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The funeral of James O'Donnell will be held at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon from No. 329 East Broadway. Members of the Butte Workingmen's union are instructed to report at the Miners' Union hall at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, to attend the funeral of Charles Evans.

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