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## WOOD RIVER TIMES

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## FIRE IN A MINE.

### BURNING OF THE SHOO FLY WORKS AT EUREKA.

Two Miners Ascend a Shaft Through Fire and Smoke, and Are Terribly Burned—Two Others Miraculously Saved.

Eureka (Nev.) Leader, May 22.]

The wildest rumors circulated in town yesterday over the fire in the Shoo Fly mine. The affair is not as bad as was first represented, as will be seen from the following account given by the Mining News to-day: The Shoo Fly shaft house is situated on the ridge south of the Jackson works, and about half a mile from the town of Ruby Hill. About 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning parties in New Town saw smoke and flames issuing from the building, and in a few moments the entire structure was ablaze. Shortly after two men were seen rushing wildly out of the burning building, their clothes on fire from head to foot.

It was but a few moments until the alarm was spread, and in a very short time at least 200 men were on the scene of the fire.

Those who first arrived found the two men who had passed through the fire—Peter Campbell and John Barton—most horribly burned, and with difficulty the fire in their clothing was extinguished. They were immediately brought to town and placed under medical care.

It was shortly discovered that all who were in the mine had not escaped, and then began a vigorous work to rescue, if possible, the men imprisoned in the shaft. Upon inquiring it was found that four men were at work in the mine: Angus McAuley, Lock Fraser, Peter Campbell and John Barton. Barton and Campbell had climbed the ladders at the first alarm and had fought their way through the flames. McAuley and Fraser were still in the shaft.

The perpendicular shaft of the two compartments is 100 feet in depth; a winze 68 feet west of the shaft runs down 100 feet, and there are two small drifts running from the winze. The shaft-house was a small frame structure, and was soon burned to the ground. There was no water near the shaft—the water company's pipes being about 100 yards away—but the eager crowd that assembled smothered the fire with earth and snow, carried from a distance. Very soon the water pipe was tapped, and 100 men formed a bucket line to the shaft, and by working with a will, in a brief space of time extinguished the fire on the surface.

As soon as the shaft could be reached a lusty "hallo!" was shouted down, but no answer was received. The smoke and gas was issuing from the shaft in a perfect cloud, and it was the general verdict that the imprisoned miners could not have survived. Nevertheless the crowd on the surface worked with untiring energy. Bucket after bucket of water was dashed down the shaft, which was smouldering for a depth of thirty or forty feet. The debris was cleared away and a windlass carried from an adjoining mine was quickly erected.

It was some time before the shaft could be sufficiently cleared of smoke to permit of a descent. A candle was first lowered at a considerable depth, and continued to burn, when a brave and resolute bystander, John McIver, volunteered to attempt the hazardous undertaking of descending the shaft through the smoke and gas. A rope was made fast about his body, and amid breathless suspense he was lowered away. There was a dead silence for a few moments, when a faint shout from below announced, "They are all right!" It was re-echoed by a hundred voices on the surface, and a cheer went up from the crowd that made the old hills ring. The first man raised to the surface was Angus McAuley. He was drawn over the brink by his brother John, who up to a moment before had given him up as perished, and the meeting can be better imagined than described. Lock Fraser was soon on the surface, and the two men were at once surrounded by a crowd of congratulating friends, who were filled with wonder at their miraculous escape.

Our reporter interviewed Lock Fraser, and received the following account of the situation below the surface:

Campbell and Barton were working in a short drift at the bottom of the shaft, about 100 feet from the surface. Fraser was near the bottom of winze. McAuley first discovered the fire while at the bottom of the shaft, and immediately notified Campbell and Barton. He then started down the winze to notify Fraser. Barton and Campbell started up the ladder, Barton considerably in advance, and they fought their way through the fire. McAuley, on returning to the shaft, started up the ladder-way, and after going about 20 or 30 feet found that escape was impossible, and returned just in time to escape being killed by the bucket, which fell to the bottom, and by pieces of falling timber. The two men took refuge in the first drift in the winze, and were driven to the next below, and at last were crowded by the smoke into the bottom of the winze, 200 feet from the surface, where they remained. Their candles continued to burn, and Fraser says they could have remained at the bottom much longer than they did. He says they were not greatly frightened, for the reason that the fire could not last long, and that a large force of men would be at work on the top. They had resolved, however, that if the worst came to the worst, and they found that the smoke would drive them out of this last resort, they would make again for the shaft, and they reasoned that if the men on the surface had cleared the top, they could strike a draft of air in the shaft. Fraser had started to the shaft to reconnoitre, and had just reached it when McIver was lowered. He says that they could hear the hammer blows of the men on the surface rigging the windlass, and this renewed their hopes greatly. They were confined in the mine something over an hour, and the experience of the two men crammed into that brief space of time can readily be imagined.

The cause of the fire is something of a mystery, but it is thought that it caught from a spark from the forge. Foreman McAuley was at the Bowman mine when the fire began, and there was no one on the surface at the time.

From Supt. Ben Levy we learn that the loss to the Shoo Fly Company will not be very great—probably approximating \$500.

John Barton has only been in the camp a few weeks, coming here from Dayton, where he has a wife and two children. He is very seriously burned, and although it cannot yet be determined as to the culmination of his injuries, it is feared that they are dangerous. His face and head were terribly burned, and the flesh fairly dropped from his hands. He has also a very severe burn on his left hip. Barton is an industrious and respected man and has many friends.

Peter Campbell, the other victim of the sad affair, is a young man lately arrived from Morey, and this unfortunate shift was the second he has worked in the camp. He is a highly-respected, industrious young man, and his accident will be sad news to his numerous friends. He has a married sister living in Morey, and also one in Grantsville. His burns, though not as bad as Barton's, are extremely bad; his face, head and hands suffered the worst.

Just before we go to press we learn that Peter Campbell's burns are not so serious as at first supposed, and his chances for recovery are good.

**Barbarous Russia.**  
John Natkar, a Russian Jew, who recently landed at Castle Garden, furnishes an example of the barbarities inflicted upon his race in the land of the Czar. He was a clothier, residing in the vicinity of Kiev. Last October the peasants became very abusive and set fire to and destroyed one of his outhouses. He complained ineffectually to the police. On the 3d of January a band of moujiks visited his residence for the purpose of plunder. What followed is written in his own language, as written out:

"They dragged me out of bed and beat and kicked me badly. They wanted to get my money, and asked me for it. When I pleaded poverty they took me out into the garden, clad as I was in my nightshirt, and putting a rope around my neck, hung me up to the limb of a tree. When I was half suffocated they let me down again and asked me if I would disclose the place where the money was hidden. Again I refused, upon which, without further ado, one of them forced open my mouth, and while the others held me, cut out my tongue with a pair of shears. They all ran away, while I almost bled to death. I subsequently recovered in the hospital and furnished the police with the names and description of my assailants, who were, however, released on the trial."

In connection with this atrocity the curious fact is revealed that the victim was not permitted to give his evidence against his assailants, because the Russian code requires oral testimony in order to convict parties accused of assault. As Natkar's tongue had been cut out he was incapacitated as a witness, and upon this technical plea the ruffians escaped conviction and punishment. But it may well be doubted whether justice would have been done even if Natkar could have obtained the admission of his story in evidence.—Virginia (Nev.) Chronicle.

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