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SCRANTON, Penn., Aug. 8.—The Capouse Washery of the Scranton Coal Company, a branch of the Ontario and Western Coal Department, was completely destroyed this afternoon by a fire of unknown origin. The loss is about \$35,000, uninsured.

The company officials allege that the place was set afire during the noon hour, when the workmen were away at dinner, and when only one man was about the plant.

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W. H. Truesdale, President of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, said yesterday that the Dodge breaker, at the anthracite mines of the company, near Scranton, was opened yesterday morning. There was not a full force of men, but coal was being mined.

"The situation is improving at the mines daily," he continued. "Every day a few men come back, but there is no stampede to work. The stampede will come later."

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**The New York Times**

Published: August 9, 1902

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