

A CRASH IN A COAL MINE.

THE THREE VEINS OF THE DIAMOND COLLIERY AT SCRANTON CAVE IN WITH A TERRIFIC CRASH—THE MINERS ESCAPE—FOUR HUNDRED MEN AND BOYS THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times.

SCRANTON, Oct. 10.—A destructive caving in of the extensive Diamond Coal Mine is causing much consternation on the Hyde Park side of this city, and threatens to disturb the Catholic cemetery, under which a portion of the subterranean chambers extend. The crash was announced several days ago by a series of rumbling sounds in the roof of the mine, which reached the ears of the workmen in the deep and distant chambers like peals of thunder, and warned them of the coming danger. These signals, indicating the unsettled condition of the overhanging rock, became so loud and constant that on Wednesday morning the men were forbidden to enter the quivering mine except to remove their tools. This task was attended with some peril. The mine has three working veins, the lowest of which is 350 feet deep. About 90 feet of rock separated the upper and middle veins, and a similar partition existed between the middle and lower, before the caving in occurred. When the men entered for their tools they found all three veins in a dangerous condition, and in the bottom one the pressure was so great upon the props that the iron 'I' rails, on which they rested, were in many instances bent, and nearly reached the roof. The men could feel the rails moving beneath their feet under the great strain. Many became alarmed and turned back; others removed their tools to what they considered a safe place, but which subsequently proved unsafe.

The crash occurred about 1 o'clock this morning. A gang of workmen who had been on the watch describe it as terrible in its effects. The three veins caved in simultaneously, with a roar that was deafening. This sound was repeated a number of times, like thunder-claps, while, in the midst of the din, a succession of short, sharp reports, like those of a rifle, kept up a regular fusillade. The caving in covers an immense area, and will cripple the mine for many months. The plane by which coal was lowered from the middle of the bottom vein, to be hoisted through the main shaft, was crushed, together with its engines and hoisting gear, and about 300 feet of the main gangway road filled with rock. The effect on the surface is ludicrous. Fortunately, there are only a few dwellings within the scope of the caved mine, but it is feared it will affect the graves in the Catholic burying-ground. A large spring near the gate of the latter has dried up, and a buckwheat field close by has been gaping all day, and looks badly cut up. The mine is still in convulsions, and will not settle for several days. A large flood of water, walled into some old workings, may possibly be released, and if it is will flood the entire colliery. The disaster throws about 400 men and boys out of employment.

The Diamond Mine is the first ever sunk in this section by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Company, and its coal is the best in the valley.

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