

THE SCOFIELD MINE DISASTER

EPH ROWE'S EXPERIENCE.

The story of the experiences of Ephraim Rowe, of Spanish fork is of unusual interest even here at this time. Young Rowe was a driver in the mine, and was working in the sixth raise of mine Number One. He says: "I never heard a sound. I was stooping over and putting in sprags. The first thing I knew my horse fell over and I felt the gust of wind. I went with the wind along the raise for a distance of fully 300 feet. I was not overcome yet, but crawled along and shouted back to Sam Wycherly, who I knew was following me in the dark. He shouted that Roger Davis was under the trip. I replied that we had better get out, and we went fully 1,200 feet on our hands and knees, and came to another trip at the bottom of the raise. I got out into the main entry where I got fresh air. It occurred to me to go back for my uncle, Owen Rowe, whom it now appears, was on the main entry hunting me. My uncle was working beyond the eight raise in the main entry. I then became unconscious and remained so until three o'clock or after yesterday afternoon, having known nothing for almost thirty hours. Had I been there ten minutes longer, I would have died. The consciousness of an explosion came so suddenly that I can't really tell how I did feel, only a current of fresh air. My horse was found dead today. I had worked there for eight years, and many is the time that I have looked purposely for gas in the mine, but never was there any. Poor Davis, we could not have saved him, and my greatest regret today is that the public in reading this statement might form the conclusion that we left him there to perish."

Young Rowe's face is badly scratched, and this, with some slight soreness, is the only injury he sustained his escape being regarded as truly remarkable. Owen Rowe, the uncle of the young man, was working at the end of the main entry in Number One mine, and describes the sensation of the explosion when it came, as that of the drum of the ear falling inward. He describes his first thought as being that of the safety of his nephew, and after running down the main entry toward the mouth of the mine, came upon the young man lying unconscious, and assisted him to the open air. The thing all came so quickly, says Mr. Rowe, that to attempt any description of it would be fruitless. He had nothing to add that is not contained in the interview with his nephew. These two men are among the very few who got out of the mine alive, and in no other part of the two properties did one man escape, except the two boys in the sixth raise and the men who were in the main entry proper.

History of the Scofield Mine Disaster

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