

## A TERRIBLE MINE DISASTER.

Over three hundred men are presumed to be dead as a result of a fire and explosion in the St. Paul Coal Company's mine at Cherry, Ill. on Saturday, 13th. inst. Five of the dead belonged to a party who went down the shaft in an attempt to rescue the entrapped miners.

The fire originated in the underground stables of the colliery, when a miner threw a lighted torch into a bundle of hay. A few moments later the hay burst into a blaze. Two men threw the blazing mass into a cart and made for the main shaft, about 150 feet away, but before they could reach it there was a loud explosion, and the shaft was filled with smoke and flames. Those who were near the shaft made a rush for the cage and were hauled to safety.

At the entrance of the shaft a scene was enacted such as is seen only at a disaster of this kind. Hundreds of screaming women, weeping children, and frantic but helpless men crowded about the place. The few survivors declared that there was no hope for those still in the mine. Almost two hundred of the men imprisoned, they said, were in the third vein, the only entrance to which was from the second vein, almost 500 feet from the main shaft of the pit.

When the extent of the fire was realized, the officials saw that ordinary measures were ineffectual. The fire had burned away the timbers of the shaft, and the flames soon reached the escape shaft. A few minutes later the fan which supplied air to the shaft collapsed. The flames swept on to the mouth of the pit, where they were carried to the surface, forcing back all who ventured near. The officials knew that the fire must be eating its way back into the shaft, and then the measure of sealing the mouth of the pit was adopted. The air shaft and the hoisting shaft were accordingly sealed over with planking and sand at the instance of the state mining authorities.

On Monday morning the cap was taken off the hoisting shaft in the hope that the sealing up of the mine would extinguish the fire. Rescuers supplied with oxygen helmets and other paraphernalia used in rescue work, entered the mine, but only added to the general horror of the situation by declaring that the mine was still on fire and caving in at many places. They were unable to penetrate more than a few feet from the main shaft in the second vein. Their equipment was useless in the smoke and gas choked chambers.

Officers of the local Miner's Union notified Pres.

Lewis, of the Mine Worker's Union, that 310 lives had been lost in the district.

The Cherry mine is seven miles north of Spring Valley on a branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway. The mine is owned by the St. Paul Coal Co. Nearly all the miners are Austrians and Italians. Cherry has a mining population of three thousand.

*Priestleys*  
**Mohairs**

— and —

**Lustres**

**are Excellent**

**Wearing Qualities,**

**WILL NOT COOKE**

**== WITH RAIN ==**

**Best for**

**SPRING AND**

**SHIRT WA.**

**All Ladies who wish to look well  
wear Priestleys Dress Goods.  
Greenshields Limited, Sole  
Montreal, Canada**

## COAL MINERS.

Lessons by Post.

Many Students in N. S.

Syllabus FREE.

**The UNIVERSAL MINING SCHOOL,**

(308), CARDIFF, Gt. Britain.

**DOMINION BRIDGE CO., LTD., MONTREAL, P. Q.**

**BRIDGES**

**TURNABLES, ROOF TRUSSES**

**STEEL BUILDINGS**

**ELECTRIC & HAND POWER CRANES**

**Structural METAL WORK of all kinds**

**BEAMS, CHANNELS, ANGLES, PLATES, ETC., IN STOCK**