

shaft on the North back deep, one of 900,000 gallons capacity is at the face of the South deep as shown on the plan. The first two are connected as noted above, by a 7" pipe laid up the North Main deep, the lower pumping into the upper from two 14 x 8½ x 33, three hundred gallon Cameron pumps: the upper then discharges vertically up the shaft to the surface through one 300 gallon Cameron pump. The lodgement at the face of the South Deep contains a 1,000 gallon duplex pump, which discharges vertically 430 feet through a borehole into International Mine, from whence it flows by gravity to the sea. Another borehole driven from the surface, 519 feet in depth, contains the steam and the exhaust pipes one within the other. Steam is supplied by the boilers at International Mine, located on the surface almost directly overhead.

The underground workings of Dominion No. 1 cover an area of 560 acres, and had produced from this area while under the management of the Dominion Coal Company, approximately 3,400,000 tons up to the time of the fire.

Inflamable gas is met with in very small quantities in the workings, but an efficient amount of ventilation is maintained by a powerful 24 feet Dixon fan, which circulates 114,000 cubic feet of air per minute with one inch water gauge.

A water service is maintained for boiler supply and other purposes on the surface through a 6" pipe leading from a small stream distant about a mile from the Colliery. An efficient supply is kept up by a 250 gallon 14 x 8 x 12 Knowles pump. The stream is dammed, and forms a reservoir capacity of 7,000,000 gallons on the edge of which is located the boiler, pump and pump-house.

About 3.30 in the morning of Thursday, March the 19th, 1903, a workman returning from work discovered fire in a cross-cut between the Back and Main North Deeps near No. 3 Landing, about 1,200 feet from the shaft bottom and about 147 feet below sea level. The opinion is that it was started on the back deep side of the stopping by a workman carelessly throwing away the lighted wick from his lamp, or, contrary to all rules and regulations, kindling a fire in order to warm tea. This back deep is used as a travelling road, and the stopping in question was the same as all others built in the cross-cuts in the pillar between the Back and Main North Deep. It was composed, as most of them are, of hemlock boards lined with brattice cloth: the average width of this particular cross-cut was 12 feet. Some loose boards were lying alongside, and it is probable that some rubbish had also collected, as is generally the case in the waste places of mines. On account of the location, the fire was an exceedingly difficult and dangerous one to deal with. Alongside of it to the North was an old and abandoned section, where some time previously a bad crush had