

DROPPED FAR INTO THE EARTH.

The bottom dropped out of one of the St. Paul road's plants up in the Cascade mountains. Eight miles west of Cle-Elum, near Nelson's siding of the Northern Pacific, the new road had established a location camp and was boring for coal. Ten men, an engine, boiler-house and complete drilling plant were set down in the mountain fastness, and a search for a good coal-bearing vein of rock was started. The plan was to utilize such a vein, if found, to furnish fuel for the mountain-climbing engines of the line, and save haulage of material from lower down on the grade.

But the bottom dropped out of things, and at present the St. Paul engineers are trying to figure out where their drilling plant, boiler, boiler-house and part of the engine equipment have gone to. All that is visible where they formerly stood is a rough, irregular hole, filled with bubbling black water that seems to be too plentiful to pump out.

WHIRLPOOL THROWS UP COAL.

That a large area of country in the town of Rock Creek is underlaid with coal the people there now feel certain. For a year or more the big eddy in the Chippewa river at Savastapool has been washing out chunks of coal and depositing them on the sandbars below. Farmers have picked them up and used them for fuel. Not long ago an engineer of the Milwaukee road examined this coal and pronounced it finer than that used by the engines. The Milwaukee railroad is now planning to have a diver investigate the big eddy in the Chippewa river and determine, if possible, whether the coal found there is simply a flood deposit or a natural vein. The coal find has caused considerable excitement, and real estate in Rock Creek is liable to take an upward bound in price.

DISCHARGED MINERS REINSTATED.

After an all-day session at Brazil, Ind., the executive boards of the operators and miners agreed to reinstate the two men who were discharged by the mine boss at the Crawford Coal Company's mine No. 9 for firing their shots at 11 o'clock in the morning. The two men declared that the mine boss told them in the morning that the mine would work only a half day, and that after they had gotten their shots ready for firing at noon the boss told them the mine would work the rest of the day. The men claimed that the hole where the shots had been placed was wet, and that if they had waited until after the men quit work in the evening to fire them the powder would have been spoiled, so they discharged them at 11 o'clock.

MINE ON FIRE FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS.

It was discovered last Wednesday that the fire in Anchor colliery of the Reading Company, at Pottsville, Pa., which started thirty-seven years ago, is still burning as fiercely as ever. When the fire got beyond control of the fire fighters the mine was closed and filled with water.

Recently it was decided to pump out the water in the hope that the fire had been extinguished, but when much of the water had been taken out it was found that the fire was still burning.

RUTLAND SHAFT DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Last Thursday morning all the buildings connected with the coal shaft at Rutland, Ill., including boiler building and hoisting engine room were destroyed by fire. The loss is complete, being fully \$20,000, on which there is no insurance. Mrs. E. Haikes is the owner of the property, which

will be rebuilt as soon as possible. The fire occurred early in the morning while no one was in the mine, and is believed to have been incendiary.

MINE INSPECTOR DUNLAP RESIGNS.

The state mine inspectors met in the city yesterday. John Dunlap of Centralia, tendered his resignation as inspector for the Ninth district, having been tendered a more profitable position with a mining company. It is understood that Mr. Dunlap goes with the Chicago & Carterville Coal Company of Herrin, Ill. The vacancy will be filled by the governor.

COMMISSIONERS AND SECRETARIES.

The Association of Commissioners and Secretaries of Coal Operators' Associations will meet in the Auditorium Annex Tuesday morning, October 2. The meetings of this association have been interrupted by the failure to agree at Indianapolis last spring and the subsequent idleness of the coal mines, which entailed upon the members an unusual amount of work. They will now be resumed and the meeting this week is expected to be of considerable interest.

Wright & Bentley have purchased for development 300 acres of coal and timber lands along the Kentucky-Virginia border.

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