

A CORRECT REPORT OF THE ACCIDENT.

Wm. O. Creer had a well dug some six or seven years ago about 100 feet deep, and was walled up about twenty feet. A pump was on the well with a pipe running the full depth of the well.

Three or four years ago one of his horses fell in, lodging about two-thirds of the distance down and could not be gotten out. They commenced to fill up the well by putting in rotten straw and manure and dirt until it remained forty feet deep. About ten days before the accident of last week, Charles Hanks and Delbert Bowers (employees of Wm. O. Creer) commenced taking out the pipe. The Bowers boy went down and sawed the pipe off at the bottom, no foul air being in the well at that time. The afternoon of the accident Mr. Hank and Mr. Bowers concluded to try and take out the valve which was in the pipe below. Hanks let the Bowers boy down by a rope. A horse attached to the end of the rope. When Mr. Hanks thought he was to the bottom he asked him if he was alright and Del answered, "What." He repeated and no answer came. He run to the edge of the well and called, but no answer. Del was sitting with his back against the wall and his head drouped. Thinking he had fainted, and no help there, he went about a third of a mile, where Ralph Creer was to work getting out poles. They both returned on the same horse and when they got to the top of the well Ralph looked down and seeing the boy, Hanks said to Ralph, "I'll pull up the rope, tie it around and let you down. Ralph answered. "I don't like to go down, You go." My nerves are all unstrung, I can't go." Ralph gave no reply but threw off his hat, grabbed the rope and slid to the bottom, took hold of the boy's head and said: "Dell, Dell, what is the matter?" But no answer.

Ralph raised both hands even with his shoulders, never looking up and plunged forward on his face. It was an hour before Mr. Hanks could get more help. The theory of how the gas accumulated is that while working at it ten days before they put an attachment to the pipe below with a double purchase, thinking to raise the pipe, but only raised it a few inches. The foul air must have been between where the horse was and the water, that giving the foul air a chance to escape up the side of the pipe. It was a miracle that there was not five or six more, for as fast as they come they wanted to go down. One neighbor, coming along said it was black damp. The boys were in the well some three hours.