

ALIVE, BUT BEYOND HELP

Another Fall of Quicksand Stops Work
in the Nanticoke Mine.

SIGNALING FOR AID IN VAIN

Sounds Made by the Imprisoned Men
Arouse Hope for a Time, but Tor-
rents of Sand and Water Drive
the Rescuers Away.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 21.—Soon after mid-
night the rescue party at work in the Nanti-
coke mine reached the first chamber in which
the imprisoned men could be. The air was
good there and plenty of it, but no one, dead
or alive, was found and the workers at once
attacked the obstructions which seal up the
six other chambers. About noon to day the
relief party then at work were spurred on to
greater efforts by hearing a signal which in-
dicated that there were living men behind
the wall of sand and coal confronting them.
This signal was a tapping upon an iron pipe
and on hearing it the rescuers, who had long
given up all hope of finding anything but the
dead bodies of their unfortunate companions,
instantly concluded that there is yet good
ground for the belief that at least a few of
the men may be rescued alive. It was the
opinion of some of the best miners that they
could not reach the men for some days, owing
to the extent of the obstructions, but others
were sanguine enough to expect that they
would reach the men within the next ten
hours.

NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION.

At the shaft this evening little was to be
observed of a different nature than what has
occurred on other days since the disaster
took place. At Morgantown, a mining vil-
lage a few miles from Nanticoke, all the
miners suspended work to-day and joined
the relief party at Nanticoke. Forty men
are now at work at the No. 1 slope, which
enters the fatal chamber, working in eight-
hour shifts. A hundred men are vigor-
ously digging away at the air-shaft and
are relieved every six hours. It is in reach-
ing the imprisoned men by this way that the
only hopes are entertained of ever saving
them. Fifty cars of rock and sand are sent
out of the slope every eight hours, but the
treacherous quicksand, mixed with culm,
keeps pouring in, so that it is impossible to
form an idea of the vastness of the work that
lies before the relief party. The fan is kept
running night and day, but experienced
mine bosses doubt whether there
is sufficient power to cause fresh
air to penetrate the vast obstruction filling
the gangway of No. 1 slope. In case the air
is cut off the imprisoned men are lost. It is
estimated by some persons that the relief
party will be able to reach the missing men
sometime during the night, but old and ex-
perienced miners and mine contractors are
of the opinion that it will take at least two
days to cut through the barrier.

WORK SUSPENDED FOR A TIME.

LATER:—About 9 o'clock this evening the work was suddenly interrupted by another fall of sand, rock and culm. The men were working on a steep incline, when a vast amount of debris came down on them with great velocity. They fled for their lives and several had very narrow escapes. The work for the time being is suspended, but the officials in charge are making strenuous preparations to overcome the difficulty and will have the work progressing again within an hour or two.

HOPE AGAIN GIVEN UP.

The fall of sand and culm this evening did not come from the surface, as was feared at first, but from an upper chamber. Three men James Turner, John Absalom and Josoph Warner, were caught in the fall and were extricated with great difficulty. They were not seriously hurt. The men who were at work are now afraid to re-enter the mine and there now appears to be no possible hope of rescuing the imprisoned men alive. It is believed that it will take several days to penetrate the mass of earth now obstructing the passages. The excitement around the mine is indescribable. Men, women and children who have hardly closed their eyes since Friday are nearly crazed by the fresh calamity. Screams and wails of anguish from the women rend the air, while the disheartened and exhausted miners sit around the mouth of the mine in sullen despair. Crowds of people for miles around, are coming to view the scene of desolation. The town of Nanticoke is a place of universal mourning and lamentation.

ALL WORK ABANDONED.

At 3:30 a. m. the officials decided to abandon any further attempts to rescue the imprisoned miners for the present. The work through the tunnel will be confined and it is thought that it will take two weeks to reach the bodies.