

A Dreadful Mine Explosion.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 22.—A special from Newburg, W. Va., sent after midnight gives the following particulars of the coal mine explosion. From present appearances at least thirty-five lives, and in all probability ten more, have been sacrificed, many of the dead being our most respected citizens. About the hour named while the day shift of miners were at work in the mine, which is located near the outskirts of the town, the air was suddenly rent with a most tremendous explosion, the force of which knocked men down in the streets half a mile away, shattering windows and doors all over the town, and even crushed the stout sides of frame houses for a long distance around the mouth of the Orrel mines, while from the deep shaft of the colliery a dense cloud of mingled smoke and vapor arose 200 feet in the air. A rush was made for the mouth of the mine. In a moment hundreds of citizens congregated about the shaft, their faces filled with consternation and alarm. The shock was heard ten miles away.

It is now supposed that 37 men are imprisoned, and the prevailing opinion is that all are dead, although a few miners express the hope that some of them may have escaped the effects of the explosion and have been able to reach a place free from the fatal black damp which always follows an explosion of this kind. The scene about the mouth of the mine at midnight was one calculated to bring tears to the strongest eyes; the fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters of the dead men filling the air with their lamentations, while hoping against fate that their loved ones may be restored to them.

The Orrel coal company was formed in 1856, when the Hiscock & Rushler coal company was bought out. The superintendent is Lawrence Henry, who was appointed at the time the mine changed hands. The slope where the accident occurred, is but two years old, and is about a mile from the other outlets to the mine. For twenty-five years the company has averaged 250 tons of coal per day, and was the principal industry of this place, affording employment to about 250 men. The company has a large force of men divided into suitable reliefs at work at the mine.

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