

A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

Twenty-Two Killed In The Coal Mine at Cumnock, Chatham County—In The Explosion of '95, 42 Were Killed.

SANFORD, N. C., May 23.—An explosion in the Cumnock coal mines yesterday afternoon killed or wounded all the laborers employed in the east head, including the contractor and superintendent.

The men were 460 feet under ground and preparations were being made for a blast. It is thought the explosion was caused by a laborer opening a safety lamp to light a fuse.

The bodies of eight white and twelve colored men have been taken out. The dead are: John Connolly, superintendent of the mines; James McCarthy, contractor; Joe Glass, Wesley Clegg, John Willet, Will Tysor, John Harkey, John Gatewood and Robert Gatewood, all white; Joe Frazier, Jim Marks, John Reeves, Will Reeves, John Palmer, Ollie Bynum, Peter Palmer, Jim Palmer, Daniel Goldston, Joe Taylor, Jerry Hubbard, Sam McIntyre, colored. Three of the white men had families.

The injured are Cartland Thomas, white, and Ike Harrelson, Baxter Allen, Jim Seymour, Dougald McIntyre, colored.

When the explosion occurred physicians were summoned from Sanford, Gulf and the neighborhood. The work of taking out dead bodies and rescuing the injured began at once. The first body, taken out at 10 o'clock, was that of Superintendent Connolly. The last body was removed at 3:30 this afternoon. The dead bodies are lying in boarding houses and around the mine. Coffins were ordered from Raleigh and Sanford and the dead men were sent to their various homes for interment. Mrs. Connolly, accompanying the remains of her husband and Contractor McCarthy, left for Pennsylvania. The damage to the mine property is very slight. It will be able to resume operations by Monday.

The mines are now operated at a depth of nearly five hundred feet and a distance of about a thousand feet east and west from the foot of the shaft. Seventy miners are employed, and the output is approximately 30,000 tons a year.

In December, 1895, an explosion of fire damp occurred in the Cumnock mines that resulted in the death of forty-two miners. Several others were maimed for life. A large part of the machinery was wrecked by that explosion. Damage suits to the amount of \$55,000 were begun against the mine owners by the relatives of the miners killed, and the mines were sold to avoid paying these claims. New machinery has since been put in, and the mine has been worked steadily for some time.

These mines were worked during the war and furnished coal to the Confederate men-of-war. This was known for many years as the Egypt mine, and is the only profitable coal mine in the State.

LATER.—One of the wounded has since died.