

MINERS KILLED.

Awful Disaster in New Richland Mine

AT DAYTON, TENN.

Thirty-Five Men Lost Their Lives--Lighted Torch Ignited Gas.

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 28.—In an explosion yesterday afternoon at the New Richland mine of the Dayton Coal and Iron company, at Dayton, Tenn., probably thirty-five people were killed. Twenty-two bodies were taken from the mines last night. Soon after the explosion eight miners were taken from near the mouth of the mine badly burned, the most of them fatally.

The explosion occurred shortly after the men started to leave the mine for the day. Gas dust always accumulates in the mine at a point where there is a dip and the explosion occurred when the men reached this place. It is supposed that it was caused by a lighted torch carried by one of the miners.

The explosion loosened the slate in the roof of the mine and hundreds of tons fell into the passageways and it will be several days before it can be cleared away.

The work of the rescue began immediately after the explosion.

It is believed that all the thirty-five men in the mine perished. The bodies of the miners recovered are mutilated almost beyond recognition, some of them being without legs and arms. All the miners are men of family and as soon as the explosion was heard women and children rushed to the mine and begged for information about husbands and sons. The miners found near the entrance to the mine had nearly all their clothing burned off and their flesh was baked from head to foot. It is not thought that they can recover.

The Richland mine is situated on a spur of Waldens Ridge, and has been worked for many years. It is a companion of the Nelson mine belonging to the same company in which thirty-two miners lost their lives by an explosion in 1895.

The rescuing party hope by daylight to rescue the rest of the bodies.

1901 New Richland Mine explosion
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Chattanooga, May 28.—As far as known this morning the number killed in the explosion at Richland coal mines near Dayton, Tenn., yesterday is twenty-one.

There were twenty-eight men in the mine at the time of the explosion and every one was either killed or wounded. Rev. William Hale, who was seriously burned, may recover. One unidentified body is believed to be that of William Ross. At least five are so badly injured that they will die. Coffins for twenty-one bodies have been ordered from Chattanooga. The funerals of the victims will be held Sunday. The coroner will hold an inquest this afternoon and endeavor to fix the responsibility for the disaster. The town of Dayton is in mourning to-day and the grief of the friends of the victims is heartrending.

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