

## ALL IN THE MINE DEAD.

### Coal Creek, Tenn., Disaster Worse than First Reported.

Victims of the Fraterville mine explosion at Coal Creek, Tenn., number between 175 and 225. Not less than 175 miners were killed and the figure may reach the higher number. The hopes of friends and relatives that many of the men in the pit escaped were doomed to disappointment. No one, so far as known, escaped alive, except one man, who was blown from the pit, and it is said he will probably die. The rescuers found the mine a veritable death chamber.

No disaster in the history of coal mining in the United States has been so absolute as this, none so fraught with the utter helplessness of human aid against an overpowering catastrophe, none in which all attempt at rescue was so impotent. Added to the horrors of the explosion and the crash of falling walls, the subtle and deadly fumes of gas encircled and stifled even a call for help and probably within five minutes of the explosion the 225 persons in the workings below were either gasping out their last breaths or already dead.

The scenes at the pit mouth were heartrending. Wives and mothers, wild with grief, begged the mine workers to go into the burning pit and rescue their husbands and sons. Never has there been seen such despair, such utter hopelessness when the truth became apparent that not one was left. There was none of the overmastering excitement of suspense, none of the hoping against hope that the husband and the father might yet be returned; all was abject misery, heart-broken torment, the silent and torturing throbbing of hearts whose ache is too deep for tears.